



A STUDY ON VICTIMS OF EVE TEASING AND ITS IMPACT ON THEIR AGGRESSION LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

This paper intends to throw light on the impact of eve-teasing on an individual’s aggression level and gender difference in aggression levels. The study was carried out by administering two scales. The Buss Perry Aggression Questionnaire developed in 1992 was used to assess the levels of physical and verbal aggression among the participants and self-developed self-exploratory eve-teasing victim identification was used to identify the frequency of eve-teasing victimization and the participants’ reaction. In total, 80 participants between the ages of 18 and 23 were selected for the study through purposive sampling. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics(mean) and inferential statistics (Pearson’s correlation coefficient).

From the study, it can be inferred that no significant correlation was found between physical aggression level and the frequency of eve-teasing victimization among the participants. Another finding of this study was that there exists a gender difference in the levels of aggression. Further, it was also inferred that a weak positive correlation exists between physical aggression levels and the frequency of victimization among girls.

Keywords: Eve-teasing, Aggression, and Victimization.

Introduction

Crime and criminal tendencies

Crime is an act that is against the law or considered illegal in that particular region (Lynch, 2015) ^[1], but it may not be considered to be illegal in another region. So, the crime is very subjective concerning geography. According to psychology, there is a huge range of factors that can lead to an individual becoming a criminal, it mainly mentions how the environment the child is brought up in will influence the criminal tendencies in adulthood. So, giving the best environment for the child to grow with good ethics and moral value is very important. ^[2]

Eve teasing is a form of behaviour where a person makes unwanted sexual remarks or physically harasses a fellow person. (“The Tribune - Magazine section - Saturday Extra,” 2011). ^[3]

Both men and women can take place of the victim. Some of the examples of eve teasing are staring, verbal threats, teasing, taunting, pinching, fondling, obscene gestures, singing lewd songs, rubbing against the person. (Talboys et al., 2017c). ^[4]

Factors that may increase the risk of eve-teasing

A four-factor theory of sexual harassment explains why a person would want to involve in such acts. Maybe not always but sometimes when we understand the core of the problem, we will introspect, understand who we are, identify our problems, understand our action, change our behaviour, and lay down a plan to fight against it, and in this way, we are battling our problems and also making this society a better place to live in. (O’Hare & O’Donohue, 1998). ^[5]

As mind and body are interconnected, they work together in a symphony. Because of this, we can see what a person feels inside out in their actions. Generally, we know emotions like anger, sadness, happiness, surprise and disgust. We experience them every single day and it can come in a varied combinations and quantity. (“Emotion,” 2019) ^[6].

Impact of eve-teasing on the victims

Whenever a person goes through stress (mental/physical etc.), there will be a tension build up in the person, and every person will tend to relieve his/her stress, get involved in certain kind of behaviour, or develops a defense mechanism to combat it.

Coping mechanism: It’s a way a person reacts to problems, which happens consciously. (“Coping Mechanisms,” 2018).^[7]

Defense mechanism: It’s a way a person behaves unconsciously to avoid unpleasant feelings (“Defence Mechanisms,” 2018).^[8]

Review of Literature

Eve teasing most of the time is considered to be as an act of humiliation of a woman, where the female figure is treated like an easy to become a victim even before victimizing and hence victimizes them. This shows the deep-rooted patriarchy in minds. This is not the main reason for eve-teasing. The main reason according to psychology is, individuals, become perpetrators of eve-teasing



for sex, love, other physical desires, indifferent parents, disappointment by the unbecoming attitude of the teachers- as a result of which there is stress build up in them, and to vent it out they get involved in eve-teasing. (Ghosh, D.,2011).^[9]

According to the survey conducted, among the 36 (40.4%) interview participants who reported eve-teasing, 61.1% reported feelings of anger, 47.2% reported feelings of shame or humiliation, and more than one third reported feelings of fear, worry, or tension (Tallboys et al., 2017)^[10].

According to Logistic regression analyses, Children who were physically maltreated were more likely to exhibit clinical levels of aggressive behaviour than children who were not physically maltreated (Holmes, Yoon, Voith, Kobulsky, & Steigerwald, 2015b)^[11]. Correlation study done indicated a positive correlation between aggression and factors like sexual abuse, physical abuse, failure in academics, peers influence etc., in aggression model for risk factors of aggression. Boys are more physically and verbally aggressive than girls, but girls use more of indirect aggression (M. K. Sharma & Marimuthu, 2014).^[12]

Frustration leads to aggression and vice versa, it's like a loop (Alia-Klein et al., 2020).^[13]

Several models link trauma exposure to aggression. Some theoretical frameworks linking trauma to aggression specify that the over-attribution of hostile mental states contributes to the development of aggressive behaviour whereas other theories suggest that an inhibition of mental state reasoning leads to aggressive behaviour (Abate, Marshall, Sharp, & Venta, 2017).^[14]

Need Of the Study

As humans grow, they start experiencing the real world and its associated problems. These problems can be easily solved sometimes, but sometimes not that easy to do so. As already discussed before, eve-teasing can have a lot of effects on the victim, just like any other criminal activity. Just like other rights protect citizens, equal importance needs to be given to women's dignity. So, by doing this study, we will be obtaining statistics regarding the aggression levels among the victims aged between eighteen and twenty-three years old. By doing so, we can get an idea about the impact of eve-teasing on victim's aggression level, which can be used to create awareness among people as to how traumatic the experience could be on a victim and how important it is to understand the situation at the micro level to curb eve-teasing entirely.

Methodology

Aim: To study the impact of eve-teasing on the aggression levels of a victim

Objectives

- To find out if eve-teasing influences the aggression level among the victims of eve teasing.
- To find out if there is gender difference among the victims of eve-teasing for aggression level.

Research Design: Empirical research design.

Hypotheses

- There is a significant influence of eve-teasing on the level of aggression among the victims.
- There is a significant gender difference among the victims of eve-teasing on the levels of aggression.

Variables

Independent variable: Eve teasing

Dependent variable: Aggression

Sampling:

Population

The Purposive Sampling technique was used to select the sample. Overall, a total of 80 individuals were chosen as the sample. Among them, 40 were males and 40 were female.

Sample size

The sample size was 80, which consisted of

- 40 males and 40 females under the age category 18-23 years



Sampling method:The sampling method used was random non-probability sampling: Purposive sampling method.

Data Collection Tools

• Aggression Questionnaire by Arnold Buss & Marks Perry,1991

The Buss–Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BP-AQ) is a 29-item, four-factor instrument rated on a 5-point Likert scale, that measures physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility. The total score for aggression is the sum of these scale scores. Higher scores indicate a higher aggressive level.

• A self-exploratory eve-teasing scale to identify victims of eve-teasing: It is a self-developed questionnaire that contains questions related to the frequency of eve-teasing and other aspects.

Scoring:(4-point Likert scale)

Data collection method and analysis

The data was collected using google forms and was analysed using XY scatter plot, mean, and inferential statistical methods such as Pearson Correlation and multiple linear regression on SPSS software.

Discussion

The study aimed to find the impact of eve-teasing on the aggression levels of the victim. The objectives of the study were to find out if eve-teasing has an influence on the aggression level among the victims of eve-teasing and to find out if there is gender difference among the victims of eve-teasing for aggression level. The hypotheses stated there is an impact of eve-teasing on the aggression levels of the victim and also there exists a gender difference.

The sample consisted of 80 individuals, between the ages of 18 and 23, who were selected using the purposive sampling method. The Buss Perry Aggression Scale developed by Arnold H. Buss and Mark Perry was used to assess the aggression levels in the victims. It had 29 questions each with a 5-point Likert score. To identify the victims of eve-teasing and the frequency of victimization, a self-developed self-exploratory questionnaire was given, which consisted of 5 questions and was scored using a 4-point Likert scale.

To test hypotheses 1, which states that there is an impact of eve-teasing on the aggression levels of the victims, an XY scatter graph was plotted in an excel sheet, multiple linear regression was performed and Pearson Correlation was found using the data that was obtained, separately for girls and boys.

To test hypotheses 2, which states that there exists a gender difference in the aggression levels in the victims of eve-teasing, the mean values of girls’ and boys’ physical aggression levels were compared.

Analysis of hypotheses 1

The Pearson correlation values between the dependent variable (PA) and independent variables are very weak, therefore they are not significantly positive or negative. Hence, their relationship cannot be defined.

Multiple linear regression was calculated to predict (Physical Aggression) based on all four independent variables. A regression equation was found ($F(4,33) = .162, p < .956$), with an R^2 of .019. Participants predicted physical aggression was equal to $.340 - .008(\text{no. of times experienced in 2021}) - .035(\text{no. of times experienced in past six months}) + .008(\text{no. of times a person reacted at the scene of victimization}) - .007(\text{no. of times a person reacted without confronting the perpetrator})$. The object of measurement increased .008 (Physical aggression) for each (no. of times experienced in 2021), -.035 for each (no. of times experienced in past six months), .008 for each (no. of times a person reacted at the scene of victimization) and -.007 for each (no. of times a person reacted without confronting the perpetrator).

The Pearson correlation values between the dependent variable (PA) and independent variables are very weak, therefore they are not significantly positive or negative. Hence, their relationship cannot be defined.

Multiple linear regression was calculated to predict (Physical Aggression) based on all four independent variables. A regression equation was found ($F(4,33) = 2.885, p < .037$), with an R^2 of .259. Participants predicted physical aggression was equal to $.154 - .044(\text{no. of times experienced in 2021}) - .098(\text{no. of times experienced in past six months}) + .039(\text{no. of times a person reacted at the scene of victimization}) + .045(\text{no. of times a person reacted without confronting the perpetrator})$. The object of measurement increased -.044 (Physical aggression) for each (no. of times experienced in 2021), .098 for each (no. of times experienced in past six months), .039 for each (no. of times a person reacted at the scene of victimization) and .045 for each (no. of times a person reacted without confronting the perpetrator).



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Analysis of hypotheses 2

It was found out that boys had higher aggression levels compared to girls but whether it was due to eve-teasing is not evident.

Aggressive behaviour arises in the brain through interplay between subcortical structures in the amygdala and the hypothalamus in which emotions are born and the prefrontal cognitive centres where emotions are perceived and controlled. Neuroimaging techniques in adult males have shown that testosterone activates the amygdala enhancing its emotional activity and its resistance to prefrontal restraining control (“Testosterone and Aggressive Behaviour in Man,” 2012).^[37]

The lockdown would have influenced the frequency of eve-teasing, and hence there might be a slight deviation from the results that would have been obtained if there was no lockdown.

Various other factors influence the aggression levels in an individual; hence it would be better if all the variables associated with aggression levels are interrelated for a more accurate result.

The way an individual reacts to a situation varies from person to person, and also it is situation specific, so this factor also can have an influence on the aggression levels.

By collecting more data, which is region-specific, culture-specific- can give a more accurate result.

Limitations

The practical constraint of time has prevented the study to be conducted for a wider population.

The study cannot be generalized as the sample collected was from a very small population.

The self-exploratory questionnaire was self-developed.

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