

Eve Teasing: A Societal Epidemic in India

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ABSTRACT:

Eve teasing is a typical societal crime. In most of the societies of our country, equality is considered as the main goal, and therefore, even the smallest step in this regard is a giant leap. 'Eve-teasing' is a word of Indian origin which is used mainly in the Indian sub-continent and refers to a "mild" form of sexual harassment of women. Even our Indian movies (Mainly Bollywood or South Indian Movies) used to portray eve-teasing as an "acceptable" mode of entertainment for young men of the society. It is prevalent almost in every nook and corner of the world, but in India, especially in the cities; almost all women are its victim at some point in their life. Wherever you may go, be it the mall, the bus stand, the railway station, the theatre, colleges, schools, if you are a woman you hardly can escape from this social curse. Therefore, in this paper, I will study the various laws which are prevalent in our country to stop this evil and will also

analyze the various forms and consequences of eve teasing and will try to provide certain remedial measures which can ultimately curb this societal evil from its grassroots.

KEYWORDS:

Eve Teasing; Equality; Sexual Harassment; Entertainment; Human Rights; Discrimination; Gender-Based Violence; Eve Teasers

1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is experienced by women of all ages and social classes, all races, religions and nationalities, all over the world. It is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men. It is the most pervasive violation of human rights in the world today. Its forms are both subtle and blatant and its impact on development is profound. But it is so deeply embedded in cultures around the world that it is almost invisible. Violence

against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of full advancement of women. The United Nations Declaration on Violence against Women provides a basis for defining gender-based violence. According to Article 1 of the Declaration, violence against women is to be understood as:¹

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life".

The experience² or threat of violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, in all socio-economic and

¹ Eve teasing as a form of violence against women: A case study of District Srinagar, Kashmir by Chesfeeda Akhtar, available on http://www.academicjournals.org/article/article1379757549_Akhtar.pdf, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 9.20 P.M

² Id.

educational classes, cutting across boundaries of wealth, race, religion and culture; thus violating and impairing women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Every form of violence threatens all women and limits their ability to make choices about their lives.

Equality is the goal in most societies, even the smallest step is a giant leap in this regard. Eve-teasing is a word of Indian origin even though it is in the English language. It is used only in the Indian sub-continent and refers to a "mild" form of sexual harassment.³ Sexual harassment by strangers, as with any type of harassment, has been a notoriously difficult crime to prove, as perpetrators often devise ingenious ways to harass women, even though Eve teasing usually occurs in public spaces, streets, and public transport. Some feminist writers claim that this behaviour is a kind of "little rape".⁴

³ Eve-teasing as Sexual Harassment in India: Manifestation of the Patriarchal Mind-set, available on <http://ijd.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.26/prod.1293> last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.32 P.M

⁴ Eve Teasing, available on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eve_teasing last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 7.31 P.M

1.1 What is Eve Teasing?

The term 'Eve teasing' is used to refer to sexual harassment of women in public places such as the streets, public transportation, parks, beaches, and cinema halls. This type of a public harassment by a lone man or gangs of women includes such as verbal assaults such as making passes or unwelcome sexual jokes: nonverbal assaults such as showing obscene gestures, winking, whistling, and staring; and physical assaults such as pinching, fondling and rubbing against women in public places. In addition, several instances of eve teasing have been followed by more violent assaults such as rape and murder.⁵

Eve teasing acts as a control on most women by censoring their general mobility in and accessibility to public spaces, thereby affecting their sense of personhood and security. It heightens feelings of dependency on men for protection even though some women may be economically or emotionally independent. It often adds to the traumas experienced in other spaces, be it other work

⁵ Sexual harassment during eve teasing, available on <http://www.lawteacher.net/english-legal-system/essays/sexual-harassment-during-eve-teasing.php>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 7.50 P.M

places or in the domestic sphere, making the experience of male violence a rather seamless and everyday affair. Women too internalize the idea that eve teasing is normal, harmless and often deserved.⁶

1.2 Who are Eve Teasers?⁷

Eve teasers may be any person on the street, in front of schools and colleges, in the buses, trains, lifts, shopping mall, anywhere teases girls in any form of vocabulary, gesture, or directly physical assault. Among the eve teasers from rich to poor, being illiterate to educated, being young to middle age men are included in this heinous act. Generally, eve teasers are school students, college students, university students, jobless young man, rickshaw pullers, street traders, bus drivers, bus conductors, labors, security guards etc are involved in eve-teasing.

1.2 The Truth about Eve Teasing⁸

⁶ Sexual harassment by Pratiksha Baxi, available on <http://www.india-seminar.com/2001/505/505%20pratiksha%20baxi.htm>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.20 P.M

⁷ EVE TEASING, TEARS OF THE GIRLS: Bangladesh Open University towards Women Empowerment, available on http://www.wojde.org/FileUpload/bs295854/File/01_24.pdf, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 9 P.M

1.3 No girl has been spared from being a victim of eve teasing. This is the harsh reality in India, essentially so in any of the 4000 odd cities and towns in India. Eve teasing is a deplorable act that injects shame, fear, disgust and helplessness in the victim. Being subjected to many instances of eve teasing is an inseparable part of every girl's life causing much avoidable mental agony to her. This in turn adversely affects her family and her friends. This truth stares at the face of a girl much before she reaches adolescence. Eve teasing is a common incident, be it in buses, shopping arcades, cinema halls, shopping malls, pubs, restaurants, auto/bus-terminals, railway booking counters and every other conceivable place; but the one place where it happens with alarming frequency is on the road.

1.4 Depiction in popular culture⁹

⁸ Eve Teasing - A Pedagogy- The truth about eve teasing, available on <http://www.banwasi.com/html/ete1.html> last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.25 P.M

⁹ Supra Note 5

Some depictions in Indian cinema shows mild teasing as a part of flirtatious beginnings of a courtship, along with the usual accompaniment of song and dance routines, which invariably results in the heroine submitting to the hero's advances towards the end of the song. Young men tend to emulate the example, depicted so flawlessly on screen and which gave rise to the term roadside Romeo, which even made it a film version in 'Roadside Romeo' (2007). It also has been popularly depicted that when a girl is teased in this way, the hero will come and beat the guy up, such as in the Telugu films 'Madhumasam' and 'Magadheera' and also in the Hindi films like 'Wanted' etc. Nowadays, this issue is also featured in Indian television soaps like 'Savdhaan India', 'Crime Patrol' etc.

2. HISTORY OF EVE TEASING¹⁰

The problem first received public and media attention in the 1970s. In the following decades, more and more women started going to college and working independently, meaning that they were often no longer accompanied by a male escort as had been the norm in traditional society. In response, the problem grew to alarming

¹⁰ Ibid.

proportions, despite this not being the case in other cultures where women go and come as they please. Soon the Indian government had to take remedial measures, both judicial and law enforcement, to curb the practice. Efforts were made to sensitize the police about the issue, and police started rounding up Eve teasers. The deployment of plain-clothed female police officers for the purpose has been particularly effective. Other measures taken in various states by the police were setting up of dedicated women's helplines in various cities, police stations staffed by women, and special police cells.

Also seen during this period was a marked rise in the number of women coming forward to report cases of sexual harassment, due to changing public opinion against this practice. In addition, the severity of these incidents grew as well, in some cases leading to acid throwing, which in turn led to states like Tamil Nadu making it a non-bailable offence. The number of women's organisation and those working for women's rights also increased, and during this period reports of bride burning increased. The increase in the number of violent incidents involving women meant previously lackadaisical attitudes towards

women's rights had to be revised and supported by law. In the coming years, certain organisations played a key role in lobbying for the passing of legislation designed to protect women from aggressive behaviour from strangers, including 'The Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill 1984'.

The death of a female student, Sarika Shah, in Chennai in 1998, resulted in some tough laws to counter the problem in South India. After murder charges were brought, about a half-dozen reports of suicide have been attributed to pressures caused by this behaviour.

Many other cases go unreported for fear of reprisals and exposure to public shame. In some cases police let the offenders go, after public humiliation through the murga punishment. In 2008, a Delhi court ordered a 19-year-old youth caught making lewd remarks to passing females to distribute 500 handbills to youngsters outside schools and colleges detailing the consequences of indecent conduct.

2.1 Eve Teasing: The Present Day context¹¹

¹¹ Social Awareness, available on <http://ken-foundation-awareness2.blogspot.in/p/eve-teasing-evils.html>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 7.33 P.M

The structure of Indian society has always been male dominated. But in the modern era, women tried to break the centuries of shackles by venturing into male dominated areas. Though, we have grown by leaps and bounds yet the most basic structure of society is showing no signs of improvement.

A thorough look at the news paper daily shows, so many incidents against woman. Eve teasing is a huge issue in many metropolitan cities of India. A large percentages of Indian women have faced or are facing this menace. Whether it is a public transport system or public places or shopping malls or multiplexes, women find themselves vulnerable to the threat of eve teasing everywhere. Eve teasing is complex problem and it requires more attention that what it has actually got.

As we know, the term 'eve teasing' is an Indian origin. The term itself has some demerits. Eve represents temptress and the term actually signifies that eves (women) tempt or provoke males for vulgar comments and behaviors. Ironically, that also means women cause the problem and are also a victim to it. But that is almost like blaming the victims for their sufferings. It also depicts an element of male chauvinism.

Every man needs to be aware of 'how to treat a woman'. Eve teasing in India has to do with women empowerment and girl education. What's the point of education if the people are not even willing to respect women? The traditional mindset often blames the eve teasing incidents on women that they provoke male by wearing scanty clothes. That is actually a lame excuse. Even if females wear modern dresses it does not give men license to harass women. The answer lies in changing the mindset and inculcating morals and values in our education system.

Women, should empower ourselves to fight back. Same story everyday and now we are wondering what to do? Many women have been found carrying pins, chilli powder, pen-knives, swiss knives and even daggers to protect themselves. Self-defense classes have mushroomed across metropolitan cities that teach martial arts and karate etc. Joining those classes will not be a bad idea. If you feel too shy and reserved to defend yourself and keep the suffering to yourself, then it is time to get up and raise your voice. Although, you can always pretend to ignore all the lewd comments but things would be much better

if you can just look straight into the eyes of the offender and speak up.

3. FORMS OF EVE TEASING¹²

Eve teasers frequently undergo passing vulgar comments, unnecessary touching, pushing & shoving in the streets and mostly in public transports. Other women are frequently harassed at workplaces by male supervisors, colleagues or bosses.

There are a lot of ways by which women are harassed. Some of the typical examples would be a vulgar stare, a wink, an opportune clap, a sly whistle, a needless collision, an apparent casual touch, a persistent stare, passing uncouth comments, the purring of an evocative song, despicable gestures, bikes soaring close with hands stretched intending to take a feel of the girl's body, passing by in slow moving cars with loud music with an number of boys inside eyeing the girls in order to measure her up. The following are some vivid scenarios:

¹² EVE TEASING IN BANGLADESH: CAUSES AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY, A STUDY FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE by Muhammad Aminul Hoque, available on <http://www.tijoss.com/TIJOSS%2015th%20Volume/aminul%20hoque.pdf>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 9 P.M

- a) **With school going girls:** Most teenage boys wait outside school to make indecent remarks on the girl. Afterwards some follow girls from school to home intending to grab her attention and doing eve-teasing by passing dreadful comments and passing offensive letters etc. Sometimes, they pass filthy comments through vulgar letters or sometimes force girls to go into a relationship with them. Not being to tolerate such mental trauma, a potential life comes to an end when a girl finally decides to take her own life.
- b) **Through mobiles:** This is one of the most popular forms of making eve-teasing. A stalker starts with sending a SMS in patterned and abstract language and the girls fall for it. This girl then very naturally develops a feeling on which that boy capitalizes. Then the commencement of a relationship. They spend a few intimate moments together which are captured by hidden video cameras and are later circulated using the internet.

c) **Directly by internet:** The best way in this modern world for girls and guys to come closer to each other is by chatting through the internet. And thus most girls are victimized by boys mostly because of sensuality's sake.

Due to these terrible practices, productivity and mobility of women is treacherously hindered. In the long run, these women, their families and the society suffer.

4. CAUSES OF EVE-TEASING¹³

Among others there are eight major causes of eve teasing found out by various social research organization and prominent persons. These are: family and social causes, unemployment facimism, open sky culture, political atmosphere, administrative, carelessness, social cultural activities, demonstration effect, Lacking of respect to each other. However the following points may be taken into account as causes of eve-teasing:

a) **Natural attraction to each other:**

One of the great causes of eve teasing comes from the natural tendency of man and woman to

attract each other when they openly see each other at the stage of puberty. Sometimes male can not control himself and he indulges with eve teasing.

b) **Lake of religious education:** When people are not religiously educated they will not understand respect of women by man and vice versa. They also don't know about punishment of bad deeds in the day after this world. For this reason they are doing evil deeds frequently without any fear.

c) **Unmindful about religions:** There are a lot of persons who remain unmindful and blind to religious boundary. Religion teaches a person good behavior, morality, ethics, social and personal dealings, code of conduct, manner etc. When a man is careless about his religion naturally he falls under some bad dealings like eve teasing.

d) **Unfair dress:** Unfair dresses are great causes for eve teasing now days. We found that fair dressed women are very rarely harassed and teased by teaser. Sometimes unfair dresses of the women instigate an

¹³ Ibid.

eve teaser. But some activists are not considering it as a valid ground.

- e) **Open sky culture:** Open sky culture, satellite communication, internet etc are to great stand responsible for eve teasing. People see free sex, free mixing of men and women via various televisions programs; internet etc. and they try to do same things which caused eve teasing.
- f) **Absence of Family Educations:** Parents now-a-days remain carefully careless about the movement of the son and daughter. Students are going entertainment spots, markets, streets etc. for getting fun instead of going to their educational institution and this carelessness encourages eve teasing.
- g) **Absence of Strict Laws:** Absence of Law is a great factor of encouraging eve teasing. There are some laws to prevent eve teasing but those are not enough and the implementation of these laws is difficult due to procedural complexity, political influence etc.
- h) **Alcoholism and Drug addiction:** Uninterrupted alcoholism and drug addiction is a great cause of eve

teasing. When a man devours intoxicating materials he looses his conscience and that time he can do any bad things like eve teasing.

- i) **Unemployment:** It can be noticed that some unemployed people are evil doers and engaged in eve teasing. When a man has no work to do he becomes a devil and only for spending his time do eve teasing.
- j) **Lack of social bondage:** Lack of social bondage is a big cause of eve teasing. Now-a-days, people are busy with their own purposes and not looking with their brother, sister, relatives, neighbors. Fellow feedings are lessening day by day that is why eve teasing is increasing day by day.
- k) **Computer, Mobile etc:** Computers and mobiles have become mobile cinema house with free call, free talk time, free SMS. Without showing his identity or fake identity, a man can make friendship with opposite sex, and this kind of friendship causes a lot of eve teasing.
- l) **Obscene cinema, drama and song:** Obscene cinema and drama sometimes encourage eve teasing. If a boy finds in cinema or drama an

eve teaser a hero then he is encouraged to involve with eve teasing.

m) Environment: A great factor of encouragement of eve teasing is negative environment in the society. Quarrel between parents, neighbors, relatives makes a negative environment in the society and this causes impact on the mind of the children and they involves with negative works like eve teasing.

5. CONSEQUENCES OF EVE TEASING¹⁴

The consequences of eve teasing can be summarized as below:

- a) **Suicide:** In many cases when eve teasing crosses borders and is known to everybody, it becomes intolerant to the victims and sometimes she is forced to commit suicide. Media, newspapers etc are always full of dangerous news of suicide after being teased by vagabond.
- b) **Blocking Education:** Eve teasing has become so alarming that many students and their guardian are compelled to stop education of their

children. They are of the opinion that it is better to save life of their children than education.

- c) **Child marriage:** Eve teasing is a main cause of force marriage and child marriage and it is mainly to save girl from the clutches of the eve teasers.
- d) **Mental disease:** Most of the girls under the fear of the eve teaser, suffer from various types of mental disease and some go mad for all through their life. Sometimes father & mother also become upset and suffer from various mental shocks. The entire family of a girl who is under eve teasing may suffer either this way or that way and there are many cases death of father and mother by heart attack, killing brothers, salting fire on houses.
- e) **Family trouble:** Sometimes, eve teasing may bring new and unbelievable family trouble. A girl under the umbrella of eve teasing when discloses the matter to the family members, a troublesome misunderstanding may arise in the family. Father mother may blame the victim unknowingly rather than the

¹⁴ Ibid.

teaser. There may be some troubles regarding marriage proposals of the girls. The family blames the girl as soon as the proposal is negated.

- f) Killing and Oppression:** Eve teaser and their hoodlums never hesitate to kill, suppress, loot, arson, torture the opposite parties if they fail to eve tease or eve teasing is countered by kith and keen and others. The various types of activities by teaser are throwing stone, undressing, throwing acid, kidnapping, raping, torturing and killing etc.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and programs have aimed at

women's advancement in different spheres. India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 Constitutional Provisions for women are as under:¹⁵

- a) Article 14, confers on men and women equal rights and opportunities in political, Economic and social sphere.
- b) Article 15, prohibits, discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc.
- c) Article 16, provides for equality of opportunities matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state.
- d) Article 39(a)(d), mentions policy security of state equality for both men and women the right to a means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

¹⁵ Eve Teasing and Molestation – A Case Study of District Srinagar by Aadil Bashir, Shabana Khurshid, available on <http://www.ijsr.net/archive/v2i12/MDIwMTM1NTM=.pdf> last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.22 P.M

- e) Article 42; Direct the State to make provision for ensuring just and humane Conditions of work and maternity relief.

Eve-teasing generally occurs in public places which, with a little effort, can be effectively curbed. Consequences of not curbing such a menace, needless to say, at times become disastrous. There are many instances where girls of young age are being harassed, which sometimes may lead to serious psychological problems and even committing suicide. Every citizen in this country has right to live with dignity and honour which is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Sexual harassment like eve-teasing of women amounts to violation of rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15 as well.

Supreme Court observed that in the absence of effective legislation to contain eve-teasing, normally, complaints are registered under Section 294, Section 354 and Section 509 of IPC.¹⁶

¹⁶ SC on Eve-Teasing: Human Rights of Woman in India, available on <http://medind.nic.in/jal/t13/i2/jalt13i2p98.pdf>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.08 P.M

- **Section 294 IPC:**¹⁷ Section 294 says that “Whoever, to the annoyance of others: (a) does any obscene act in any public place, or (b) sings, recites or utters any obscene song; ballad or words, in or near any public place, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both”.

Scope and Explanation:¹⁸ It is for the prosecution to prove that the accused committed any obscene act or the accused sang, recited or uttered any obscene song; ballad or words and this was done in or near a public place, it was of obscene nature and that it had caused annoyance to others. Normally, it is very difficult to establish those facts and, seldom, complaints are being filed and criminal cases will take years and years and often people get away with no punishment and filing complaint and to undergo a criminal trial itself is an agony for the complainant, over and above, the extreme physical or mental agony already suffered.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ Id.

- **Section 354:**¹⁹ Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty. Sec. 354 says that, “Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.”
- **Section 509 IPC:**²⁰ Section 509 IPC says, “Whoever intending to insult the modesty of any woman, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending, that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen, by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine or with both”.

Scope and Explanation:²¹ The burden is on the prosecution to prove that the accused had uttered the words or made

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Id.

the sound or gesture and that such word, sound or gesture was intended by the accused to be heard or seen by some woman. [Para 30] Normally, it is difficult to establish this and, seldom, woman files complaints and often the wrong doers are left unpunished even if complaint is filed since there is no effective mechanism to monitor and follow up such acts. The necessity of a proper legislation to curb eve-teasing is of extreme importance, even the Tamil Nadu Legislation has no teeth.

- **Types of Eve-Teasing:**²² Eve-teasing today has become pernicious, horrid and disgusting practice. The Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics (January- June 1995 Edn.) has categorized eve teasing into five heads viz.:
 - (1) Verbal eve teasing;
 - (2) Physical eve teasing;
 - (3) Psychological harassment;
 - (4) Sexual harassment; and
 - (5) Harassment through some objects.

²² Id.

6.1 The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013²³

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 is an Indian legislation passed by the Lok Sabha on 19 March 2013, and by the Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2013, which provides for amendment of Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on laws related to sexual offences. The Bill received Presidential assent on 2nd April 2013 and deemed to come into force from 3rd February 2013.

This new Act has expressly recognised certain acts as offences which were dealt under related laws. These new offences like, acid attack, sexual harassment, voyeurism, stalking have been incorporated into the Indian Penal Code.

Some of the important provisions of the Act can be discussed as below:

- **Sec. 354A: Sexual Harassment-²⁴**

Main Ingredients:

²³ Available on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal_Law_\(Amendment\)_Act,_2013](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal_Law_(Amendment)_Act,_2013), last visited on dated 22.07.2014 at about 5 P.M

²⁴ Ibid.

- i. physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures; or
- ii. a demand or request for sexual favours; or
- iii. making sexually coloured remarks; or
- iv. forcibly showing pornography; or
- v. any other unwelcome physical, verbal or nonverbal conduct of sexual nature.

Punishment:

Rigorous imprisonment up to five years, or with fine, or with both in case of offence described in clauses (i) & (ii). Imprisonment up to one year, or with fine, or with both in other cases.

- **Sec. 354 B: Act with intent to disrobe a woman-²⁵ Main**

Ingredients:

Assaults or uses criminal force to any woman or abets such act with the intention of disrobing or compelling her to be naked.

Punishment:

Imprisonment not less than three years but which may extend to seven years and with fine.

²⁵ Id.

- **Sec. 354 C: Voyeurism-²⁶** Main

Ingredients:

Watching or capturing a woman in “private act”, which includes an act of watching carried out in a place which, in the circumstances, would reasonably be expected to provide privacy, and where the victim's genitals, buttocks or breasts are exposed or covered only in underwear; or the victim is using a lavatory; or the person is doing a sexual act that is not of a kind ordinarily done in public.

Punishment:

In case of first conviction, imprisonment not less than one year, but which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine, and be punished on a second or subsequent conviction, with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

- **Sec. 354 D: Stalking-²⁷** Main

Ingredients:

Only available for women. To follow a woman and contact, or attempt to contact such woman to foster personal interaction repeatedly despite a clear indication of

disinterest by such woman; or monitor the use by a woman of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication. There are exceptions to this section which include such act being in course of preventing or detecting a crime authorised by State or in compliance of certain law or was reasonable and justified.

Punishment:

Imprisonment not less than one year but which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

- **Guidelines on Sexual**

Harassments: In Vishaka and Others v. State of Rajasthan²⁸; the Supreme Court has laid down certain guidelines on sexual harassments. In Rupan Deol Bajaj and Another v. K.P.S. Gill²⁹; the Supreme Court has explained the meaning of „modesty“ in relation to women. More and more girl students, women etc. go to educational institutions, work places etc. and their protection is of extreme importance to a civilized and cultured society. The experiences of women and girl children in over-

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ (1997) 6 SCC 241

²⁹ (1995) 6 SCC 194

crowded buses, metros, trains etc. are horrendous and a painful ordeal.

7. ERADICATION OF EVE TEASING

The ways to eradicate eve teasing are discussed below:³⁰

- a) **Family Education:** Family is the first institution of learning for a human being. If he achieves proper values, ethics, knowledge etc. from his family he can not engage himself with bad works like eve teasing at the outside of his house.
- b) **Maintaining the guidelines regarding street:** The law and order and law enforcing agencies should be very strict about the maintenance of the guidelines which need to be maintained in streets. This may help a little in curbing or controlling this evil.
- c) **Creation of Social Responsibility:** Every man is responsible towards the society and he will be personally liable for his deeds. As a social being many men have their subordinate persons. If a man properly take care of his subordinates and prevents

them from doing bad acts, then no one of a society can do evil works.

- d) **Giving exemplary punishment to the offender:** Offender must be kept under the ambit of law. If offender remains unpunished, crimes spread quickly in the society. Every person will be feared if exemplary punishment is given to an offender.
- e) **Making arrangement for fair culture, literature and recreation:** By adopting these methods also the evil of eve teasing may be curtailed

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Eve-teasing is the most arising subject in recent times on the media and everywhere in the world. Almost every day it is present in the newspapers. It is a matter where the girls are abused by the boys. Here boys use bad language to the girls. Presently government and many organizations are coming ahead for preventing this bitter experiences of society. But it is still existing in our society. For removing it forever from the society, everybody should be very careful in behaving in the social life. Everybody should behave with each other like brothers and sisters. Here religious rules can contribute a lot. Therefore, we should

³⁰ Supra Note 15

obey our religious rules and values because after all, we have to take the responsibility to remove it from our society.³¹

The growing incidents of eve-teasing are a cause of great concern. It is unfortunate that crime against women is spreading like a deadly virus, which we can ignore at our own great risk. No nation can even survive let alone prosper where women are not safe. The eve-teasing has to be combated on a war footing and special legislation needs to be enacted in this regard very soon. It brooks no more delay. Sadly enough, adequate laws have not been enacted so far to tackle this grave menace. To say the least, all our successive governments since 1947 have scarcely paid any attention to tackle eve-teasing. This must end now once and for all! It is high time the government started taking concrete and firm steps to combat the increasing incidents of eve-teasing all across the country.³²

³¹ Available on <http://online-paragraph.blogspot.in/2010/12/eve-teasing.html>, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 7.54 P.M

³² SPECIAL LEGISLATION NEED OF HOUR- To tackle eve-teasing, by Sanjeev Sirohi, available on http://www.udayindia.in/english/content_9march2013/legal-watch.html, last visited on dated 05.10.2014 at about 8.40 P.M

In the present day society, eve-teasing is regarded as a wrong against the honour, dignity and self respect of a woman. It hurts her at the core of soul. We need a strong legislation for combating this fast growing problem. In a country like India, where we are worshipping women like Goddesses, therefore, the ill behavior or eve-teasing towards them is morally unjust and religiously unethical and unacceptable. Hence, it is time for us that we should respect woman and the class of respect begins at Home.³³

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