



## Eve Teasing: Different Perspectives

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DOI : <https://doi.org/10.55248/gengpi.5.1224.3520>

### ABSTRACT

Eve teasing is closely related to the patriarchal mindset of the Indian male. Eve teasing can be taking place in the form of nonverbal, verbal, physical, or visual sexual attention, intimidation, or coercion acts. Women face this in public places, work places, public vehicles, shopping malls, streets, etc. The objective of the study is to find out different perspectives about 'eve teasing'. The method includes PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, Embase, PsycINFO, IndMed, and Google Scholar was searched along with books to find out information about "eve teasing". Information from 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)' also used. In this study it focuses on Biological, Psychological, Social, Cultural, Environmental and evolutionary perspective. All of them put forward their own perspectives. Whatever it is women are those who forced to face this atrocity. Effective legal and rehabilitation support need to be there to manage it.

**Key words:** *Women, Men, Eve teasing, Sexual harassment*

### Introduction

All around the world women facing sexual harassment and assault time immemorial. In India, eve teasing is a term used mainly in Indian English, introduced by feminists in India, now it use all over south Asia, referring to the public sexual harassment or sexual assault of women by men. Eve teasing is closely related to the patriarchal mindset of the Indian male. The term "Eve" references the creation narrative in the Bible involving Adam and Eve (Misri, 2017). Eve teasing can be taking place in the form of nonverbal, verbal, physical, or visual sexual attention, intimidation, or coercion acts (Talboys, Kaur, VanDerslice, Gren, Bhattacharya & Alder, 2017). Eve teasing includes cat calling, lewd remarks, and inappropriate sexual contact such as rubbing and fondling (Natarajan, 2016). Sexual harassment involves nonverbal, verbal, physical, or visual sexual attention, intimidation, or coercion that is unwelcome and unwanted and often has a negative impact on the psychosocial health of the victim (Talboys, Kaur, VanDerslice, Gren, Bhattacharya & Alder, 2017) Even causal touch, whistling and humming of a song, can be included in eve teasing. Women face this in public places, work places, public vehicles, shopping malls, streets, etc ( Gadekar, 2016).

The eve teasing was become the title of public and media attention in 1970s. The issue was brought to global attention with the shocking kidnapping and assault on December 16, 2012, of a 23-year-old female medical student, who boarded a private bus outside a mall in New Delhi around 9 p. m. after seeing a film with a friend. She was gang raped on the bus while it was in motion and succumbed to her injuries after 10 days of enduring severe damage to her genitals and intestines ( Nirbhaya Case). This incident sparked widespread anger in India and led to the creation of new federal laws aimed at addressing such cases. The Government of India compiles reports on crime from different States in a yearly publication titled Crime in India. Regrettably, the information on "eve teasing" within these reports is challenging to analyse, in part due to a series of alterations made to the Indian Penal Code under which eve teasing or sexual harassment in public areas is documented.

Although [Indian law](#) does not use the term Eve teasing, victims earlier usually seek recourse through Section 294 of the [Indian Penal Code](#). Section 294 of the Indian Penal Code deals with an offence of causing annoyance of others by doing obscene acts or singing, reciting or uttering obscene song, ballad or words in or near any public place, which is punishable with an imprisonment for three months or with fine or with both. Insertion of new section 376G: Punishment for eve-teasing.-Whoever commits the offence of eve-teasing shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine. Insertion of new section 376H: Sexual harassment of women at work place.-(a) Do you agree that a new section on "Sexual harassment of women at work place", namely, section 376H be incorporated in the Indian Penal Code in the following manner: "Whoever sexually harasses a woman at work place shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine. The [Criminal Law \(Amendment\) Act, 2013](#) introduced changes to the Indian Penal Code, making sexual harassment an expressed offence under Section 354 A, which is punishable up to three years of imprisonment and or with fine. The [National Commission for Women](#) (NCW) also proposed No 9. Eve Teasing (New Legislation) 1988. The Indian Parliament has passed the [Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace \(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal\) Act, 2013](#), which adds protections for female workers in most workplaces. The Act came into force from 9 December 201.

## **Objective**

To find out different perspectives about 'eve teasing'.

## **Methods**

PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, Embase, PsycINFO, IndMed, and Google Scholar were searched along with books to find out information about "eve teasing". Information from 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)' also used.

## **Discussion**

Eve teasing is an absurd way for men to find pleasure and a source of both physical and psychological distress for women. This represents one of the everyday issues women encounter in Indian society (Akhtar, 2013). Though prevalence research is limited and measurement techniques differ, eve teasing is considered quite widespread, with 50% to 100% of women indicating they have been victimized (Leach, Sitaram, 2007). There are several reasons explains why eve teasing took place. In this study it focuses on Biological, Psychological, Social, Cultural, Environmental and evolutionary perspectives.

### **Biological factors**

Biological Theory relies on the physical distinctions between the sexes. Differences in hormones and body size result in males exhibiting more aggression than females. This perspective presumes that males are the aggressors and females are the targets of sexual harassment. (Lee et al., 1996).

A variety of studies have discovered irregularities in the brains of certain sexual offenders; however, it is evident that such irregularities are not present in the majority of instances (Aigner et al., 2000). Research investigating the connection between hormonal irregularities and sexual offending has centred on the significance of specific hormones (e. g., testosterone) that are known to influence physical changes in males. To this point, investigations have not revealed a definitive connection between hormone levels and sexual offenses (Bain et al., 1987). Attention has also been paid to the potential presence of a genetic defect in sex offenders that increases their propensity for aggressive sexual conduct. (Harrison, Clayton-Smith and Bailey, 2001). Connections between impairments in cognitive functioning and sexual offending have also been proposed, but empirical support for these theories has not been presented. So far does not suggest that the existence of a specific biological phenomenon has a causal connection to sexual offending.

Scientists have utilized functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging ("fMRI") to examine the brains of individuals with high results on psychological assessments for ambivalent sexism, benevolent sexism, and hostile sexism. Each form of sexism is characterized by notably different neurophysiologic responses (Papillon, 2018)

Despite the fact that certain biological theorists argue that recognizing a biological foundation for rape does not justify the act, these theories can aid in the development and continuation of beliefs that absolve offenders from accountability for their actions and assign blame to the victims. (Randy, 1999).

### **Psychological factors**

A four-factor theory of sexual harassment explains various reasons why perpetrators participate in eve teasing including power and attraction at the individual level, but also external factors, such as the social environment (O'Hare & O'Donohue, 1998). The researchers by Talboys, Kaur, VanDerslice, Gren, Bhattacharya, & Alder in 2017 defines eve teasing within the rural Indian setting, shows that eve teasing is prevalent in rural areas (37. 1%-48. 3%), and may result in limitations on the movement of young women in public and adverse psychosocial effects that range from sensations of anger and humiliation to depression and suicidal ideation.

The four-factor model is introduced and contrasted with various models of sexual harassment. This model explains hoe eve teasing happened in society. Several risk factors linked to sexually harassing behaviour are analyzed using the four-factor model of sexual harassment. These encompass attributes of the work environment (e.g., sexist attitudes among colleagues, unprofessional workplace atmosphere, imbalanced sex ratios in the workplace, and awareness of grievance procedures for sexual harassment cases) as well as personal attributes of the individual (e. g., physical attractiveness, job position, sex role). Several risk factors linked to sexually harassing behaviour are analyzed using the four-factor model of sexual harassment. These encompass attributes of the work environment (e. g., sexist attitudes among colleagues, unprofessional workplace atmosphere, imbalanced sex ratios in the workplace, awareness of grievance procedures for sexual harassment cases) as well as personal attributes of the individual (e. g., physical attractiveness, job position, sex role)

Sigmund Freud, who believed that sexual deviance, is an expression of the unresolved problems experienced during the early stages of an individual's development. Subsequent theorists of personality, however, proposed that early childhood connections marked by trauma or abuse might cause to modifying the child's view of sex and his or her function in sexual relationships (Leguizamo, 2002). One of these later personality theories — attachment theory — was first introduced by Bowlby (1988) to explain the relationship between a child and his or her primary caretaker, and how this early relationship affects later adjustment. Seidman and associates (1994) carried out two investigations focused on intimacy issues and feelings of

loneliness among sex offenders. As per these investigations, sex offenders possess shortcomings in social abilities that severely limit their chances of sustaining intimacy. Ward and associates suggested that sex offenders are prone to encountering challenges in forming bonds with others and might display distorted perceptions, such as "courting" a child and regarding him or her as a romantic partner. Knox (2014) recently discovered that adolescents who have committed a sexual offense had diminished levels of attachment to fathers or father figures compared to adolescents who have committed a non-sexual offense.

Personality theories effectively illustrate that sex offenders possess inadequate social skills and difficulties with intimacy, and that there exists a link between troubled relationships with others (especially caregivers).

Cognitive theories have enhanced the comprehension of sex offenders and their actions. There is proof indicating that sex offenders participate in cognitive distortions or thinking errors, and that these distorted thought processes can propel deviant sexual behaviour.

Research offers support for sexual abuse being a learned behaviour. Acknowledgment of the role of self-regulation also appears to be a necessary component of a thorough understanding of sexual behaviour problems. (Przybylski and Faupel.2023)

### ***Social factors***

Social learning theories gives important insights for comprehending sexual offending, and there is evidence that supports different principles of social learning theory in relation to sexual offending. For instance, there is strong empirical evidence indicating that sexual offending is a learned behaviour. Furthermore, while it is accurate that there is no direct link between the use of pornography and rape, research has clarified that pornography usage is a factor in influencing the attitudes and behaviours of certain men who consume it, and it contributes to the sexual aggression of some men. (Briggs & Hawkins, 1996).

### ***Cultural Factors***

Evolutionary theories have been suggested to clarify a range of human behaviours, including sexual aggression. Evolutionary theory considers human behaviour as the outcome of millions of years of adaptive modifications intended to address continual challenges in the environment.

Several theories depend on evolutionary principles concerning sexual selection and sexual strategies to account for sexual aggression. One theory posits that sexual coercion is a conditional sexual strategy (Bailey, 1988). Another evolutionary perspective interprets rape as a result of competitive disadvantages faced by certain men, which leads to their insufficient resources or capability to acquire a mate through more suitable methods (Figueredo et al. 2000). A further theory characterizes rape as a "courtship disorder," stemming from a disruption in typical mating processes (Freund, 1990).

### ***Environmental factors***

Social learning theory also presents the idea of environmental factors influencing sexual offending. A significant portion of who a person is today is influenced by the culture in which he or she is born and raised, absorbing cultural values, attitudes, and behaviours. Culture establishes the criteria and explanations of normalcy and mental health issues. Culture significantly impacts how various populations and societies understand, interpret, and respond to sexual activities as well as sexual violence (Kalra and Bhugra, 2013)

The researcher Sanday, categorized cultures into two types: Rape-free and rape-prone cultures, which are shaped by sociocultural values; the former exhibit greater gender equality and experience low rates of rape, while the latter show high rates where women are marginalized from positions of power, simultaneously limiting their freedom and objectifying them. Rape Culture refers to an atmosphere where rape is common and where sexual violence is accepted and justified in the media and mainstream culture. Rape culture is sustained by employing misogynistic language, treating women's bodies as objects, and romanticizing sexual violence, thus fostering a society that neglects women's rights and safety (Harkins and Dixon, 2010).

### ***Evolutionary factors***

From an evolutionary viewpoint, the understanding and interpretation of sexual propositions rely on mechanisms that are specific to sex, variations in the mating strategies of the perceivers, and the appeal of the actor (Stephen & Stephanie, 2002). Sexual selection theory, this view—of indiscriminating, eager males and selective, coy females—stems from Darwin (1871). Since sexual selection theory focus on reproductive success (mating leading to offspring), heterosexual behaviours are the centre of attention in evolutionary biology. Based on evolutionary theory, rape is a severe reaction to natural selection pressure that has favoured male assertiveness in their efforts to mate with multiple sexual partners and has favoured females who oppose male efforts to dominate their sexual conduct.

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## **Conclusion**

In this study it focuses on Biological, Psychological, Social, Cultural, Environmental and evolutionary perspectives. All of them put forward their own perspectives. Whatever it is women are those who forced to face this atrocity. Effective legal and rehabilitation support need to be there to manage it.

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