



Tackling the issues of Eve Teasing- Sexual Harassment & Sexual Assault

Hi and welcome back to the 'Victim2Victor' podcast. My name is Anu and I am a writer, a mother and an abusive relationship survivor. In my previous podcasts, I tell my story of abuse and I discuss what leads to abusers abusing. I also discussed toxic relationships and control in relationships. If you haven't listened to them already, you may find them helpful if you are in an unhealthy relationship and are looking for a way out. In this episode of podcast, we will talk about the culture of eve teasing and its polis implications causes and aftermath. We will also look about what can be done to put an end to this trend.

Ever heard of roadside Romeo Sound's familiar, right? Well, apart from it being the title of the famous animated movie that was released in 2008. It also tends to indicate and highlight a rather serious issue that we size at the very heart of Indian society. He represents the ever rising trend of eve teasing behavior and gestures, including staring, stalking, touching, making remarks or passing a comment, winking and deliberately pushing one boy into another boy to accidentally push a girl.

Email harassment, verbal phone, harassment, and cyberbullying all form the very crux of eve teasing. The most unfortunate part is that there are no bounds to these violations as they can occur anywhere at work in schools, colleges, public transport, roads, and any other form of public place. Plus, such gestures can be perpetrated by any number of men Be it a single person or group of men or boys, and it can be perpetrated by strangers or people who are known to the victims, including people from within the home. More importantly, it can be dictated by any sense of intention. Sometimes this will be lust or attraction, while other times it has to do with power.

So, we can all agree that Bollywood has repeatedly promoted eve teasing by portraying it in the most casual sense. As a result, men are positively motivated to replicate such actions on a day to day basis, you will find that movies have normalized the idea of stalking in the name of a wooing the lady three singing songs following her whistling or winking at her. These have been incorporated as rather friendly standards of pursuing a woman. Clearly the concept of seeking permission has been corrupted. For some, it is a mere word in the dictionary, while for others, it conjures up certain traumatizing feelings, triggering painful memories. And I have had many traumatizing moments during my travels in India, for example, which involved a men gazing at me in an intimidating manner,

attempting to touch me on public transportation and being chased by a crowd and men who were naked waist down. How can one incident weigh so much that it haunts you for the rest of your life?

Well, let me explain the irony of it. It is true that such incidents can last from a few seconds to a few minutes, but the scars it leaves are everlasting. I'm not talking about the physical marks, but the scars that are imprinted on your soul and your mind. Because every time you look yourself in the mirror, you're reminded of those snide remarks. Every sort of unknown or surprising body contact with your loved ones startles you. Every time you walk alone, you fear of the previous times. You try to keep yourself occupied to evade letting your thoughts be idle. Because the moment you allow your thoughts to flow freely, you end up in a loop of that very moment. It's like constantly being vigilant and leading the life in a self-conscious state. It's like your every action is dictated by that moment, be it choosing clothes to wear or which routes you take. In more professional terms. These symptoms are classified as those of PTSD, which is post-traumatic stress disorder.

Apart from this, they also tend to scar the identity of a woman for such hooligans it is a mere flirting Gambit. And this crosses all sorts of boundaries in the name of fun and games. But little do they know it has dire consequences on the integrity of a woman which is constantly a stake. You in order to eradicate this problem of eve teasing from our society, we need to learn the cause of it. This largely depends upon one's mindset as to how you perceive the world. Because from what I see, the world comprises of two sets of people, those who tend to evolve with the times, and others who have remained fixated. The ones who are not able to keep up with the pace of changes in society are often those who still believe in an orthodox style of living. If you ask them, they will blame the culture of liberalization, which awards women the freedom to dress and behave the way that they want to as a source of this issue.

According to those the clothes that women wear may be revealing and provocative. And they believe women should be tamed and should be subjugated to the status of inferior to men, hence should always be accompanied by men. I know this goes against the morals and values for many countries because we are the idealist and evolved members of society, who knew that the very origin of such horrendous acts and the courage to perform them comes from such typical stereotypes that continue to persist in society. The problem is that to date, such conventional values are being imparted to younger members by the elder members of the family. Hence, the vicious cycle continues. In my opinion, the sheer corrupted social values and lack of revised version of family and moral education is a prime cause of eve teasing.

I would also like to address that your education is not your character certificate, because many men or people for that matter, who are well versed with the fundamental laws of society, also tend to prey upon women and partake in activities. And speaking of this, we know with education comes diverse knowledge of technology, and with technology comes access to a lot of privileges. For example, easy access to people's locations, which has not helped in the case of exterminate in case of eve teasing, but in fact has rather fume them. Apart from these I believe another profound cause is the ever rising trend of the core boy image, among many who tend to face the adversities of eve teasing our young teenage girls. Their perpetrators are usually young adolescent boys, who often commit such acts to gain attention and be crowned as a cool boy amongst their peers. What her don't

understand this how hurling comments at a stranger or picking up on innocent people is something to be proud of. You won't will can such actions positively reflect or define on that image or personality for that matter.

As a per random study conducted by Sanji dunia a woman rights organization reveal that nine out of 10 women who use public transport face EFT sing on a regular basis on a more holistic level. About 93.75% of women who participated in the survey admitted that they face eve teasing almost on a regular basis. This indicates divide a sour truth of gender inequality, which continues to dominate the world today.

Now the question arises regarding what could be done to obliterate the concept of eve teasing from the very core of society. The most common result people turn to is that they demand or expect women to learn self-defense. There was nothing wrong with this idea, if it is for the purpose of skill development. Using this as a temporary refuge to avoid eve teasing is not the answer, nor is carrying a pepper spray. The ideal solution is bringing a reform in the attitude of society towards women. The focus should be ensuring that such crime is not committed in the first place instead of looking at ways on how to dodge it. If only we had taught the male Gentry of society how to control rather than ask women to inhibit, we would not have landed at a grievous stage like this. Can you recall the devastating ganglia that took place in Delhi, India in 2012 that left the entire country in a state of shock? Well, that is the most apt example of eve teasing being escalated, leading to crime as atrocious as rape.

Although both these crimes have equally devastating consequences, consequences, it is mostly eve teasing that anchors other offenses. If the perpetrator does not get their desired response, they tend to start being more aggressive. Now this has given birth to a new term called literal rape. Have you ever been scolded by your mother despite doing nothing wrong? How did that make you feel? Angry helpless. Now imagine that same for you magnified to an intensity of 1000 times more. This is how you feel when you suffer from harassment such as eve teasing, which tortures our spirit. It's not like the way we dress is an indication of consent of the law. Speaking of the law, we all know tons of amendments and legal codes for protection that exist in our Constitution. The problem is that its implement implementation is far from effective.

As a matter of fact, even the preamble declares that one of the fundamentals of the country's equality, but all of this is a facade. Only on paper, are we at an exemplary model country, in practice such an accident cease to exist. I know now, you will say that for legal actions to be taken, the offense needs to be reported first, but most of the cases go unreported. So why? Why is this Have you ever wondered? The answer lies behind several reasons. For example, a woman who faces any form of harassment becomes impure and unfit for society, which creates fear, fear of shame and fear of being out casted. This is what keeps a woman from reporting any incidents. Instead of supporting the victim, the society including family members tend to blame the victim and the finger is pointed at them instead.

The other probable reason of hefty fee is demanded by lawyers, or required as part of the court fee, as well as the fee for filling affidavits. Also, considering that such processes are financially draining,

and not everybody has a strong financial background, women often refrain from reporting for this reason, the terror of eve teasing lies on every woman regardless of caste, class, ethnicity, and religion. Another reason for not reporting the incident could be ignorance in the eyes of society. As if teasing is often classed as a minor offense, the system fails to acknowledge the ravages of this offense. This in turn could create grounds for sheer lack of faith in the police system, because the police and forces often turn a blind eye and are biased against women. The constructive solutions to this could be the deployment of more female officers so that cases are no longer neglected and so offenders do not go and judged.

Those who have experienced eve teasing are often labeled as victims. But I would personally label them as survivors, because living through those tormenting memories every day of your life requires strength. In fact, those who commit such shameful acts are the real victims. They are the victims of their own shallow thinking, their own insecurities, of which they have been unable to work through issues their own weaknesses, of not being able to accept their vulnerabilities, or for possessing a fragile ego. On the contrary, you are brave my ladies brave enough to fight through at all, no matter what life throws at you.

As humans, we have the capacity to do anything that we set our minds to, we have unlimited potential. So let us put our heart and mind into creating a society free of such evil acts and to look forward to a much brighter future. Well, that is the end of this episode. But I do believe that this very important issue needs to be dealt with on a much larger scale. Raising awareness is going to be our pathway to freedom. Do not forget to read my book victim to Victor where I have shared my journey of determination to cast off my damaging past it is my humble attempt to reach out to fellow survivors of abuse and to impact the lives of those who feel helpless. I am sure it will help others to find themselves just as I did.

I also have a 12 week self-development plan which is free and aims to guide you to find your highest self. I will add the link in the description below. Please like the podcast and tag share it with somebody who you know is going through a similar situation. I will be back with another podcast soon. Until then, take care and stay empowered.

