

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS SEX EDUCATION AND EVE TEASING IN RELATION TO FAMILY ENVIRONMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

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### ABSTRACT

*The beginning of imparting of sex education should ideally begin at home. It shouldn't be considered as a taboo but an ultimate reality. The way girls respond to the eve teasing depends a great deal upon her family environment. So the main objective of study was to study the correlation between attitude towards sex education and family environment of adolescent girls and between attitude towards eve teasing and family environment of adolescent girls. To achieve this objective, the sample of 200 adolescent female students from government schools of Chandigarh was selected. Descriptive analysis like mean, median, mode and coefficient of correlation were calculated. Significant relationship was found between the attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment and between the attitude towards eve teasing and family environment.*

**Keywords :** Attitude, Sex Education, Eve Teasing, Family environment & Adolescents.

### Introduction

Despite early inroads of school-based sex education, most of the information on sexual matters in the mid-20th century was obtained informally from friends and the media, and much of this information was deficient or doubtful value, especially during the period following puberty when curiosity of sexual matters was the most acute.

For many years, researchers studied the psychological and social characteristics of adolescents who engaged in premarital sex, assuming that sexually active teenagers were more troubled than their peers. This view has been replaced as sexual activity has become more prevalent. Indeed, several recent studies show that sexual activity during adolescence is decidedly not associated with psychological disturbance.

### Sex Education

Sex education is instruction on issues relating to human sexuality, including human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexual activity, reproductive health, emotional relations reproductive rights and responsibilities, sexual abstinence and birth control. Common avenues for sex education are parents or caregivers, formal school programs, and public health campaigns.

Sex education begins at home. Parents and caregivers are-and ought to be-the primary sex educators of their children. Teachable moments-opportunities to discuss sexuality issues with children-occur on a daily basis.

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## **Eve - Teasing**

According to Oxford Dictionary, "Eve teasing refers to the making of unwanted sexual remarks or advances by a man to a woman in a public place."

According to Cambridge Dictionary, "Eve teasing is the act of annoying a woman or women in a public place, for example, by making sexual comments."

Eve-teasing is a euphemism used in India (and sometimes other parts of South Asia, including Nepal and Bangladesh) for public sexual harassment or molestation (often known as "street harassment") of women by men, where Eve alludes to the very first woman, according to the Biblical creation story. Considered a problem related to delinquency in youth, it is a form of sexual aggression that ranges in severity from sexually suggestive remarks, brushing in public places and catcalls to groping. Some non-governmental organizations have suggested that the expression be replaced by a more appropriate term. According to them, considering the semantic roots of the term in Indian English, Eve teasing refers to the temptress nature of Eve, placing responsibility on the woman as a tease.

## **Family Environment**

According to Duhaime's Law Dictionary, "Family environment refers to the central, fundamental unit of society responsible for the primary development and socialization of children."

Family environment is the complex of social and cultural conditions, the combination of external or extrinsic physical conditions that affect and influence the growth and development of the members of the family, the most instinctive fundamental social group which includes parents and children.

Family environment is the factor which sets the pattern for the child's attitude towards people and society, aids intellectual growth in the child and supports his aspirations and achievements.

The family is basically a unit in which parents and children live together. Its key position rests on its multiple functions in relation to overall development of its members, their protection, and over all well-being.

## **Emergence of the problem**

As we already know that adolescence is an age of stress and strain. For the female adolescents, it just gets worse as there are too many physical changes which really scare them and if a not scared, they surely get confused. In such a scenario, the adolescents need proper guidance and insight into the real problem so that they understand - whatever changes their bodies are going through are very normal. Parents and teachers often fear that putting too much in the child's mind, too early may be

harmful. They feel that once

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children are informed of the facts about sex, they may want to get involved in it. Studies show that by offering sex education, premature involvement of children in sexual matters has been delayed. This is because discussing the subject satiates curiosity and removes the compulsive motive to experiment.

Studies like Yama, Mark F.; Tovey, Stephanie L.; Fogas, Bruce S. (1993) and Jaccard

J. Dittus P.J. and Gordon V.V. (2000) lend support to the fact that the majority of young students desire and seek authentic information of sex matters. They need an understanding of physiological, psychological and emotional changes they undergo during their adolescence period. Adolescents many times have misconceptions and these myths are carried over to their adulthood, creating serious problems for marital relationship. So the vitality of the problem can be clearly understood here and it may be said that the relation between the family environment of adolescent girls and their attitude towards sex education is very crucial.

Only a few studies like Akhtar Z. (2013) and Kuruvilla M., Suhara F.M. (2014) have been found regarding eve teasing in relation to family environment of adolescent girls. This roused the curiosity of the investigator as she herself had sensed a deep relationship between the two. If the parents are open minded and understanding, the adolescent girls feel free to discuss such problems with them and parents are always capable of finding apt solutions for the same. But if the parents treat it as a taboo, the girl would never be able to share her troubles with them and would always remain in stress. This in turn, would cause a set down in her academic achievements and she would become socially withdrawn in extreme cases. This made the investigator very curious as she herself, during her adolescence period had gone through such experiences, which were quite tough on her and so she found all the more reason to conduct research on this topic. This called in for the study to be conducted on the family environment of adolescent girls in relation to their attitude towards eve-teasing.

### **Objectives**

- To study the correlation between attitude towards sex education and family environment of adolescent girls.
- To study the correlation between attitude towards eve-teasing and family environment of adolescent girls.

### **Hypotheses**

- There is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment.

- There is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards eve-teasing and family environment.

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### **Delimitations of the study**

- The study was delimited to the adolescent girls of Chandigarh only.
- Only the female adolescent students (18+ years old) of govt. senior secondary schools were taken.

### **Sample**

In the present study the sample consisted of 200 adolescent girls of XI grade from Government Model Senior Secondary School of Sector 20D, Government Model Senior Secondary School of sector 21B, Government Model Senior Secondary School of sector 22D and Government Model Senior Secondary School of sector 22B, Chandigarh, which were selected according to the convenience of the investigator.

### **Tools Used**

For the present study following standardized tools were used. These are:

- Family Environment Scale, Dr. Harpreet Bhatia and Dr. N.K. Chadha, 2009
- Eve Teasing Scale for Girls, Dr. Deepa Ghosh, 2012
- Attitude Scale Towards Sex Education, Dr. Usha Mishra, 2008

### **Interpretation and Discussion**

The correlation between the attitude towards family environment and sex education; attitude towards family environment and eve teasing was worked out through Pearson's correlation method.

### **Hypotheses - 1**

There is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment.

**Table 1.1: table showing coefficient of correlation of attitude towards sex education and family environment of adolescent girls**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>S.d.</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Level of significance</b>
Sex education	200	127.98	129	12.20	.85	Significant at 0.01 level
Family environment	200	286.37	287	15.68		

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### Interpretation

Table 1.1 shows that the value of coefficient of correlation between attitude towards sex education and family environment of adolescent girls is .85 which is greater than the table values 0.18 at 0.01 level of significance, respectively. This shows that the value of calculated coefficient of correlation is significant at 0.01 level of significance. So it can be said that there is a significant and positive correlation between the sex education and family environment of adolescent girls. Hence the hypothesis that there is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment is not accepted.

### Hypotheses - 2

There is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards eve-teasing and family environment.

**Table 1.2: table showing coefficient of correlation of attitude towards eve teasing and family environment of adolescent girls**

Variables	N	Mean	Median	S.d.	R	Level of Significance
Eve Teasing	200	97.74	100	11.33	.97	Significant at 0.01 level
Family environment	200	286.37	287	15.68		

### Interpretation

Table 1.2 shows that the value of calculated coefficient of correlation between attitude towards eve teasing and family environment of adolescent girls is .97 which is greater than the table value 0.18 at 0.01 level of significance. It shows that the value of calculated coefficient of correlation is significant at 0.01 levels of significance. So it can be said that there is significant and positive correlation between attitude towards eve teasing and family environment of adolescent girls. Hence the hypothesis that **there is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards eve teasing and family environment** is not accepted.

It can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment as well as their attitude towards eve teasing and family environment.

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## Findings and Conclusions

After calculating the Pearson's correlation coefficient for the first two hypotheses, it is found that:

**Hypothesis - 1** which states that **there is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment** is not accepted. Hence, the present study shows that the attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education has a significant relationship with their family environment.

**Hypothesis - 2** which states that **there is no significant correlation between attitude of adolescent girls towards eve teasing and family environment** is not accepted. Hence, the present study shows that the attitude of adolescent girls towards eve teasing has a significant relationship with their family environment.

Hence, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between attitude of adolescent girls towards sex education and family environment as well as their attitude towards eve teasing and family environment. This means that family environment of adolescent girls plays a very important role in shaping their mindset for the acceptance of sex education as well as their exposure to eve teasing.

## Educational Implications

- Teachers will need a wider perspective about sex education being provided at school so as to benefit the adolescents to get a better insight into the workings of their bodies and minds.
- This study will enlighten the male population about the effects of eve teasing upon the females and will discourage them from such acts of degradation.
- Benefits parents by making them realize their role and need of providing conducive family environment to adolescent girls.
- Enables society at large to be empathetic towards the problems of adolescent girls.

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