



## Media Coverage of Street Harassment of Women in Bangladesh: A Study on National Dailies

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### Abstract

“Eve-teasing” commonly referred to as “street harassment” or sexual harassment is identified as one of the most devastating problems in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Despite rise in eve-teasing cases in the year 2009-10, it has not been given due prominence in newspapers. This study aims to examine the role of the Bangladeshi national newspapers in covering eve-teasing related news in this year when eve-teasing was one of the most alarming social problems in Bangladesh. Did media play a role in covering eve-teasing related news and raising awareness among people? For this purpose, the researchers conducted content analysis of two national dailies “Daily Prothom Alo” and “Daily Jugantor” during the year 2010. The results show a lack of responsibility on the part of the selected newspapers when it comes to addressing the severity of eve-teasing in Bangladesh. Media reports need to address the issue as a symptomatic of broader gender inequality issue.

**Keywords:** *Mass Media, Street Harassment, Eve-Teasing, Frame, Content Analysis*

### Introduction

‘Eve-teasing’ is a colloquial euphemism which is ubiquitous in the sub continental countries of Asia as street harassment, public harassment, and sexual harassment against women which has become an issue of grave concern to the society throughout

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Bangladesh. It includes everything from catcalling, to physical molestation and assault. Ghosh (2011) has identified eve-teasing as; “an attitude, a mindset, a set of behaviors that is construed as an insult and an act of humiliation. Eve-teasing is a gender specific term where women are teased due to a socially constructed lower rank for them. For a lot of the women/girls on the streets of Bangladesh it is something of a regular occurrence. Light eve-teasing by many is considered a norm, but severe instances have a bad affect both physically and psychologically (pp. 100-107). Akin to that (Fairchild, 2010) has mentioned, ‘many women find and experience stranger harassment (stranger harassment similar to street harassment) to be frightening, unpleasant, and disruptive; women frequently described themselves frustrated, disgusted and angered by the experience. The writer even provided the facts of regular experiences of stranger harassment correlating with additional body objectification and fear of rape. Being cat called, stared at, whistled at, and even groped and grabbed are monthly and weekly experiences and for some women it is a daily experience which is very real, common and often unpleasant’ (pp. 191-216).

Bangladesh’s society currently is in transition from the traditional to the modern. Half of the Bengali population is female, a vast majority of whom are seeking employment outside their homes in offices, factories or shops. Some of the urban lower-middle and high-class women are currently employed in offices at positions considered predominantly male or referred to as ‘male occupation’. Despite this positive social shift in a society where women were originally resigned to their homes the predilections of this progressive gender continue to be distraught by increased eve-

teasing.

Unfortunately, eve-teasing has become a chronic problem in Bangladesh which is experienced by most of the female population. Recently the number of eve-teasing and sexual repression has increased at a threatening rate. More often it happens around schools, colleges and work areas.

The severity of the situation has reached a point where lives are at stake, yet media has not covered this pressing social issue. The murder of a teacher and parents who had tried to protest against this harassment has made our environment ever more frightening. The deaths of Shimi, Rimi, Trisa, Soma, Fahima, Indrani, Rina caught the media eye only momentarily. A survey from October (2009) to August (2010) published by the Bangladesh Women's Association confirmed that, over a period of nine months 353 girls reported being subjected to torturous eve-teasing; Among these 78 girls were seriously harassed while 26 women committed suicide. The report also declared that, 91% of the girls feel unsafe on the roads of Bangladesh. 65-70% of the incidents took place close to schools and colleges. Harassment rates have increased by a whopping 39.6% since the previous year. This has resulted in an increased sense of insecurity within the female community and has a negative impact on the entire nation.

Newspapers are a mirror to the society, there is a need to understand the roles and responsibilities of this medium other than just covering mainstream local and international news. Local media has played a role in exposing the Inconsistencies of our society for example corruption, rape, bribery, fraud, embezzlement including murder and all the levels of crime, yet it has failed to highlight the

understated yet highly prevalent gender disparities present in our society.

Therefore, media can raise awareness publicly by functioning on these four goals to eliminate this crisis entirely. Newspaper which is the most effective tool of Media has many responsibilities to disclose this situation. But the unfortunate truth is media today only works for current ongoing issues which are sellable and has a short-term memory. Another regrettable matter is the lack of significant research related to Media coverage on eve-teasing in Bangladesh. In 2010, when eve-teasing was a most discussed issue in media, not much news had been published in two major national papers at that time. The analysis revealed that, media talks about eve-teasing only sometimes. The coverage (treatment, news length, quantity, nature, news structure, importance) is also narrow for this social issue. A yearlong survey of two daily newspapers has been employed to investigate this problem.

#### **What is Eve-teasing?**

Eve-teasing is a common term for sexual harassment (Slang). According to the *Jannatul Mawa* indicates the word 'Eve' means the female race. The first woman created was named 'Hawa' or 'Eve' respectively in the Holy Quran and the Bible.

The word 'Street Harassment' was first coined in America in 1975. Journalist Brownmillar (2000) said in his book 'Time Memoir of a Revolution' that Cornel Astivistara invented this word. In Bangladesh, the word 'Eve-teasing' includes any kind of harassment for example-street harassment, public harassment, and sexual harassment. But in other countries around the world this phenomenon is recognized as "Street Harassment". Ghosh (2011)

pointed out that “eve-teasing is considered a growing problem throughout the sub-continent which, ranges in severity from sexually colored remarks to outright groping. It includes stares, comments or remarks: verbal abuse, suggestive songs, lyrics typically targeted at girls, an unwelcome touch which may be sexual in nature, physical abuse- beating flashing which is accompanied by masturbation-or an act of exposing one’s genitals, etc.” In her article, she also mentioned that “eve-teasing is a phenomenon, which reminds the female gender about their vulnerability, susceptibility, timidity and the tag of ‘weaker section of the society” (pp. 100-107).

Generally, eve-teasing is understood as verbal or physical harassment of women in the streets. Using slang words, vulgar sign, wolf-whistle sound, frightful physical gesture, making obstruction for girls on their way, offensive behavior towards ladies in front of schools, colleges or in any place are included as eve-teasing. Some age groups consider this sort of behavior as 'Fun' or 'liveliness' while others call this 'bad behavior'. But in Bangladesh it has become a part of 'Sexual Harassment'.

Because of this, girls are deprived of the opportunity to develop a normal life and some girls choose to commit suicide. Eve-teasing or street harassment can happen to anyone and anywhere. However, young girls or school - college students are the main victims. In India a recent survey (Yasmin, 2011) has shown that, “every 26 minutes a girl is sexually harassed and every 34 minutes a woman is a victim of rape”. This is a type of violence against women which is generally ignored. It is mentioned that eve-teasers now use mobile phones and the internet to harass girls.

Eve-teasing is of two types verbal and non-verbal types. Verbal

types include offensive comments; a wolf-whistle playing outside women's school or college gate; singing sexually frightening songs; verbally threat to block their path; claim or request for illegal sexual relations; invective, ridicule, etc.; ridiculing female education, sports, cultural or personal work by blatant chauvinism; slandering a lady's character; force to get approval of love; threatening physical abuse to the extent of showing intent to commit rape; using administrative or professional power on purpose for sexual abuse or to try to establish such a relationship; and false, fraud or enticing remarks for the intent of establishing a sexual relationship

**Nonverbal types include:** Following ladies and keep teasing by non-verbal cues; sexual indication, malicious gossip or intentionally showing vulgar films, still picture, digital image, cartoon image, leaflets, spam or posters, etc.; sometimes capturing video images and showing these contents in public place or threatening to exploit those images publically; through letters, telephone and mobile phone or crank calls, e-mail, SMS, posters, cartoons trying to harass to attain their desired goal; and to touch or hit any part of the body of a girl in order to gratify sexual desire.

#### **Reasons of Eve-Teasing**

There are various reasons behind eve-teasing. The main reasons of eve-teasing are social, cultural, family values and moral decadence; lack of respect towards women in social perspective; thinking of women as a commodity; lack of respect towards women due to accessibility of pornography; internationally free telecast of nude pictures on satellite TV channels; lack of healthy cultural studies; lack of family values and respect for women; bad company, addiction, unemployment and illiteracy; inadequate laws for eve-teasing;

gender discrimination; parental conflict; lack of ethics due to poverty and no education; political instability in the country which results in a poor law and order situation; lack of awareness regarding eve-teasing; taking this problem lightly and objectification of the female gender in media advertisement, music videos and movies.

**Literature Review**

Eve-Teasing is a very frightening experience in a women's life with serious negative effects on psychologically and physically. It hampers their freedom and deprives women of the pleasures of life. The mental stress not only affects the victims but it remains like a dark shadow surrounding the whole family. It not only damages families but also has an intervallic effect on the Socio-cultural Development.

From January, 2010 to 1st November 2010 in these 9 months 26 girls had chosen the way of death (suicide).10 men and 2 women got murdered who tried to stand against the perpetrators. 166 women and 77 men were assaulted during protests against this crisis.

Another article described media' that state run government machineries for example media which have not been sufficiently effective in mobilizing all social agencies they also indicate that law enforcement system that has failed to stop gendered violence by the deviated young people. But this study mainly focused on deviated young generation, there was lack of discussion about media responsibilities.

In the article, 'Needed: A New Model of Masculinity to Stop Violence Against Girls and Women', Hayward (1997) draws a scenario of women's unsafe condition around the world. In his work, he tried to show that women are not only unsafe on the streets but

also at home with their own families. He collected some examples that can be added in addition to show the miserable situation of women.

Not only in Asia, but the whole world scenario is almost the same more or less regarding this issue. A survey in Kissi districts of Kenya, reported that 42% of the women were beaten on a regular basis by their partner. Even in France, 95% of the victims of violence are women, 51% of them at the hand of a husband. In Peru, a study revealed that in the Maternity Hospital of Lima, 90% of the young mothers age 12-16 had been raped- the huge majority was violated by their fathers, then step fathers, or another close relative. In south Asia, there are missing millions of women- from selective feticide, infanticide, discriminatory childcare, poor maternal care, domestic violence and suicide, not only from seclusion, under reporting or migration. In Sri Lanka, 60% of women conferenced in a sample survey responded that they had been subjected to domestic violence during their period of cohabitation. Not only that, A survey conducted in Karachi of 150 married women stated that even during pregnancy, about 45% of the women had been physically abused. A third of these reported a subsequent miscarriage. A study of all the murders in New York City from 1990-1994, showed that 50% of the women victims were killed at home, 10% in another home, and 49% were killed by their intimate partner, husband or boyfriend; with another 14% killed by a relative other than the husband. A Bangladesh NGO estimated that more women die from bride burning than from pregnancy and child birth.

It is terrible but a group of men even believe that they can beat their wives even can kill them as they are male property. From their



opinion women can be killed under certain condition and men can say anything or do whatever they want and culture prescribes that it is a domestic matter. Besides the author also introduced a new model of masculinity who says 'NO' for beating or any kind of domestic violence. Men from different countries for example India Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka are talking about these injustices and are coming forward to stop this violence. They are standing for women's right and protesting against women harassment. This study easily indicates female condition around the world and introduces a new model of masculinity that teaches what real men do. Only media can attract viewer's attention and make awareness in the society. This study did not identify the role of media about the issue of female suffering.

Eve-teasing or sexual harassment is not a street issue anymore. It has permeated into office environment. Williams, et al. (1999) have mentioned in their article that, flirting, sexual bantering and dating have become very common at workplace. But with little exception, psychologists have not paid much attention to these behaviors. According to the authors, organizations will never be able to rid themselves of sexuality as human beings are sexual and consequently where they work it will always be an issue. But they should do a better job of shielding workers from harassment and intolerance. This study illuminates the fact of workplace environment and did analysis about women experiences but did not pay attention why media does not bring this scenario to all.

One of the major reasons why media does not talk about eve-teasing is that it is part of our media industry. Brown and Flatow (1997) have explained that newspaper editors prefer to avoid

publishing sexual harassment news as it often happens within their organization. Exploratory analyses were also conducted through a random survey of Indiana journalists. The author described that, "Media coverage of sexual harassment within media organizations, like coverage of other unsavory occurrences inside the media, has been rare. The survey which was sent to a randomly selected sample of employees at nineteen newspapers that volunteered for the study showed that 38% of the female respondents had been subjected to sexual harassment at the newspaper where they were employed. Almost 70% of the women surveyed said that they had been sexually harassed while working as a journalist. Another 80% of respondents said they thought sexual harassment had been a problem for women journalists generally" (pp. 160-183). They also revealed that women never report such incidents because the harassment was mostly verbal in nature. Some female reporters leave their jobs because of this trouble. But results of this survey suggested that when women are publishing news around the world they should not let the issue go.

Another analysis of framing sexual harassment through media representation by McDonald and Charlesworth (2013) disclosed that, 282 articles described a specific case or sexual harassment event. Most of them reported the scenario, involving the female target rather than the harasser. The study showed media reports sexual harassment report as a classic or stereotype way and emphasizes scandalous allegations. It also suggested sexual harassment should be addressed properly as a symptomatic of broader gender inequality issue and beyond organizational boundaries. The study approached on framing sexual harassment rather than its impact and news coverage.

Furthermore, many scholars also argue that the difference between male and female portrayal is an outcome of a male-dominated culture, where men are the decision makers and the authorities, and women are the secondary in the society (Allen, Branston & Carter, 2002; Connell, 1987); Rodgers & Thorson, 2003). It could be another reason for less proportion of news. According to Armstrong and Boyle (2011), "Much mass communication scholars have traditionally focused on coverage of women in media content; the overwhelming findings of this research indicate that women are continually misrepresented, trivialized or missing in most media coverage" (p. 153). This perspective suggested that media organizations reinforce societal norms of male supremacy via coverage for women in essence, helping to maintain a system where men are seen as dominant.

Consistent with previous work, Gidengil, Elisabeth and Joanna Everitt (2010), has reviewed seven books regarding Gender, media and politics and illuminates that women are always ignored by the media it could be a gender issue or during election, they get less coverage than men. In some cases, more gender stereotyping is occurring now than in the past. In the article, the author brought out the researchers' opinion demonstrating that, there has been little change in recent years in the coverage of women's issues despite the increased number of women running for all jobs around the world. Taking into consideration, the reason for lack of women news coverage could also be 'male dominated media organizations' which is related to author's present study.

In addition, feminists are always seen to play roles ensuring that the law is responsive to women. Samuels H. (2003) analyses recent

feminist movements in the UK, according to him, feminists are talking about sexual harassment since 1970 and it has been the subject of research and campaigning for them. Sexual harassment is now widely recognized as a serious problem. There is a significant body of literature on the subject that attracts media for wide spread media coverage but feminist argument is that sexual harassment should not be seen simply as a type of bullying. The purpose of this study has been to unpack the way in which feminist work for sexual harassment but not how often sexual harassment news are covered by media.

Some studies assess the impact of Television viewing and its role in the cultural violence. Kahlor & Eastin (2011) explained about TV influence for unwanted social and cultural harassment such as rape. Sexual or Street harassment can be blamed on inappropriate TV exposure. Young boys watch movies and try to follow the male leading actor's behavior which that might be represented in a bad way in those movies. However, the study did not question why media does not attend to this problem.

There is also positive news about women news coverage. In one such article Dahal (2013) has talked about our neighboring country Nepal producing news about social problems through Community Radio which is a powerful community media capable of spreading mass awareness. Nepal is the 1<sup>st</sup> country in south Asia to begin experimentation with community owned independent radio channels since 1997. Women in Asian countries suffer from so many problems and keep their problems hidden to preserve their family honor. Nepal community Radio speaks out for these female issues.

A survey conducted in America reported by Petersen and Hyde

(2013) suggest that, America which is considered as the most modern country, more than 80% of girl students from grade 8 to 11 in the united states have reported that they have been victims of some form of sexual harassment for the period of their school lives. But not much research is paying attention on this issue. Even in this study results suggest that sexual harassment is a common factor for the school girls. Future researches should look at media roles more broadly to stop upcoming dreadful social impact.

Fairchild (2010) has talked about the manipulation of the context of this situation. Where study-one investigated, which elements of the situation are influential for increasing fear and enjoyment experiences. Study-two run by exploratory analyses have revealed harassment by younger and attractive men is viewed as less offensive. From the writer's point of view, a more understanding of the experience and mental stress procedure of victim women during the time of harassment can reduce increased self-objectification. Nevertheless, media responsibilities and news coverage support was not discussed which can be considered as a need of this study. Because without print and electronic media support, past and future research discussion, follow up and decisions would not be explored at all.

In some studies, it was also discussed that reality and sexual harassment definition are often subjective and open to interpretation. It depends from person to person how they act and how they are perceived. Bursik and Gefter (2011) have explained the fact in their article, for example respondent A said about respondent B that, the behavior of B was not right, he should not be eyeing her like she is an item on the shelf. B opposed and said I did not make any verbal or

physical move towards her. Similarly, a female student said faculty member calling a student at home requesting a date is inappropriate whereas the faculty said I did not harass her, that the student was enjoying having a chat with me. However, individualized process of perceiving and labeling these behavior patterns which relies on individual definitions and internal values need to go through more study.

Iran where sexual harassment is strongly forbidden in public places, 369 female students of Shiraz University agreed that Sexual Harassment is significantly correlated to public places. Lahsaeizadeh and Yousefinejad (2012) demonstrated that, in this phenomenon men attempt to begin unilateral surroundings, comment on her look or beautifulness, describe her with loving or sometimes offensive words, and even try to move towards and touch her, all these signals insult women. Rather than talking about how we can stop this social crisis, some people directly condemn women for participating publicly or for their dress up and make up.

According to them women do not belong in public where they draw attention, they should stay at home. Although 75% of the participants declared that dressing up and make up has little or no influence on the prevalence of harassment. Among them 6 participants who experienced harassment, in spite of wearing "Chador" (which covers whole body). They stated, "When I studied in secondary school I used to wear a chador, which did not deter the harassers from passing lewd remarks. The study approached the reasons of harassment and what is the role of Iranian media or how they are suggesting to fix these issues.

### **Methodology**

According to Creswell, "Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue" (2013). It consists of three steps: Pose a question, collect data to answer the question, and present an answer to the question.

Qualitative and Quantitative content analysis are applied in this study. Through quantitative content analysis we have measured the diagnosis of malignancy of eve-teasing related news in newspapers and then we have investigated the reason, target and expansion of news item with the help of Qualitative method.

### **Selection of Newspapers**

For the purpose of this research two Bengali national newspapers Daily Prothom Alo, and Daily Jugantor were selected based on their circulation.

### **Selection of time, sample and population of the study**

All newspaper of Daily Prothom Alo and Daily Jugantor published from January 1, till December 31, 2010 are included in the sample for this study. The year 2010 marks the year when Eve-teasing got a lot of media coverage in Bangladesh. The unit of analysis includes all articles containing content related to eve-teasing on the front page of the selected newspapers for the duration of the study. Amount of eve-teasing related news, picture treatment, news pattern and comparison with other different news are analyzed.

### **Findings and Discussion**

In the year 2010, 56 news items covered Eve-teasing in two most famous newspapers of Bangladesh from 1<sup>st</sup> of January to 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Different aspects of information were covered in news.

**Table 1: Eve-teasing related news in sample daily newspaper**

Daily	Sample number	Published news
Prothom Alo	357	32
Jugantor	356	24
Total	713	56

Findings in Table 1 show that number of eve-teasing news is very less compared to the total published sample news at the front page. Out of 713 news only 56 news were published on eve-teasing (Prothom Alo published 32 news in 357 newspapers and Jugantor published 24 news on eve-teasing in 356 newspapers) So, it is clear that, eve-teasing related news in the front page is very low in number.

**Table 2: Comparative measurement of volume of a total sample news and Eve-teasing related news**

The daily	Sample number	Front page volume (column/inches)	Eve teasing related news amount	Eve teasing related news volume (column/inches)	%age
Prothom Alo	357	2856	32	696.2	24.377%
Jugantor	356	2848	24	438.7	15.404%
Total	713	5704	56	1134.9	19.89%

Each newspaper has twenty pages per day, as we have taken only front page as a sample, 713 pages of newspapers are our selected sample number. There are eight columns on each front page. So, the total printed area is  $(713 \times 8) = 5704$  column / inches. Column/inches is an effective way to measure news. Findings in Table 2 show that, in 713 published front pages, only 56 news related to eve-teasing were published. These news items occupied 1134.9 column/inches area, which is very less (19.89%) compared to the total 5704 column/inches. The differences of volume measurements are different depending on two newspapers. Prothom Alo allocated 696.2 inches of 32 news, which is 24.37% of total printed area. Jugantor



allocated 438.7 inches of total printed of 24news, which is 15.404% of total printed area.

Findings show that daily Prothom Alo has published more eve-teasing related news than daily Jugantor in numbers and volume as well.

**Table 3: Different types of Eve-teasing news coverage**

Daily	Sample #	Eve related news paper	Plain news	Follow up	Feat ure	Investi gative news	Explan- atory News
Prothom Alo	57	2	2	9	4	9	7
Jugantor	356	24	16	5	4	7	8
Total	713	56	38	14	8	16	15

Findings in Table 3, show that out of 56 eve-teasing related news 38 of them are plain news, only 14 follow up news stories were published. Eight of them are Feature items; 16 Investigative news items and 15 explanatory news. So, it can be mentioned that, about eve-teasing problem, the tendency of reporting was plain news.

**Table 4: Column wise news treatment of two sample newspapers**

Daily	Sample #	Eve-teasing news	Column wise treatment				
			Single clm	Double clm	3 clm	4 clm	5 clm
Prothom Alo	357	32	13 (40.6%)	12 (37.5%)	5 (15.6%)	2 (6.2%)	×
Jugantor	356	24	11 (45.8%)	7 (29.1%)	4 (16.6%)	2 (8.3%)	×
Total	713	56	24 (42.8%)	19 (33.9%)	9 (16.0%)	4 (7.1%)	×

*clm: column\**

Columns bring the news to spotlight and insist what people would like to read. As said by the journalist, news gets more significance according to the number of columns allocated to it. Generally, the sub-editor decides columns of news according to its importance. Both newspapers reported eve-teasing news in a single column. Among 56

eve-teasing news of two national newspapers; 24 news were published within a single column which is 42.8%, 19 news pieces were given double column space which is 33.9%. 9 news pieces were given a triple column space in both newspapers which is 16.0% and only four news pieces were given 4 columns.

**Table 5: Box news treatment in sample two newspapers**

Daily	Sample number	Eve-teasing news	Box news	rate (%)	Without box news	rate (%)
Prothom Alo	357	32	×	0%	32	100%
Jugantor	356	24	4	7.1%	20	83.3%
Total	713	56	4	7.1%	52	92.8%

It can be seen in the Table 5 that, among 56 eve-teasing news only 4 box news were found in a whole year. Daily Jugantor had reported 4 of them which are only 7.1% of total published news. 52 news came out without box which is 92.8%. Prothom Alo which is known as a leading newspaper of Bangladesh didn't report any box news. Box news is very effective to catch viewers focus and is considered a very significant part of news publication.

**Table 6: Comparison of volume between eve-teasing news and picture**

Daily	Sample	Total news print area in the front page (column/inches)	Pictures number	Total picture area in the front page (column/inches)	rate (%)
Prothom Alo	357	2856	30	151.1	5.29%
Jugantor	356	2848	22	68.9	2.42%
Total	713	5704	52	220	3.86%

In Table 6, findings of total sample news print areas are shown. Total print area of 713news is 5704 (column/inches). Two national newspapers print area respectively is (2856+2848) =5704. 52 news items have used pictures. Compare to total news print area picture input is only 3.86%. Prothom Alo has used 5.29% of picture area

whereas Jugantor used 2.42%. Pictures increase the impact of a news item; lack of visual aid to news reduces its impact and severity.

**Table 7: Use of color in Headline**

Daily	Sample number	Eve-teasing news	Use of color in Headline			
			Black	Red	blue	Others
Prothom Alo	357	32	27 (93.75%)	2(6.25%)	3 (9.37%)	0
Jugantor	356	24	22 (91.67%)	2(8.33%)	×	0
Total	713	56	49 (87.5%)	4(7.14%)	3 (5.36%)	0

Selection of Headline color is very important for news. Most of the Bangladeshi newspapers published black color based headline. They also used red, blue or other color to emphasize specific news. Different colors highlight that news to get attention from the readers. In this study, 49 of news headlines are found in black color among 56 news which is 87.5%. Four of those are red and three are blue which are respectively 7.24% and 5.36%. So, it can be said that, eve-teasing news are not treated with importance to get viewers' attention.

**Table 8: Monthly news coverage of Eve-teasing news in two national newspapers**

Name of the month	Prothom Alo	Jugantor
	January	×
February	×	1
March	×	2
April	5	3
May	2	2
June	×	×
July	1	1
August	1	3
September	×	×
October	14	6
November	7	6
December	2	×
Total	32	24

This is one of the most important tables to investigate how often the newspapers covered eve-teasing news did. After analyzing the survey, it is clear that, eve-teasing news had been published mostly in April, October and November as a lot of issues happened in those months. Eve -teasing became of the major issue of media in that time. But it is hard to accept that there was no occurrence of eve-teasing in the month of January, June, and September and fewer occurrences in other months. The table is also clarifying only sometimes the newspapers put attention on this issue when anyone gets harm by the teasing or any deaths catch their concern of them.

**Table 9: Coverage on consequences of the victim**

Daily	Dead		Injured	Sufferer and locked at home
	Killed	Suicide		
Prothom Alo	2	4	1	6
Jugantor	4	6	2	4
Total	6	10	3	10

In the year 2010 total 16 people died regarding this issue. 10 of them did suicide and six were killed by the teaser including parents and teacher. Results showed that three of them were injured and 10 of them remained inside the house because of the harassment. The results indicate that most of the victims choose the way of side which is a severe danger factor.

### Discussion

Eve-teasing was the most discussed issue everywhere whereas only 32 news are found in leading national paper of Bangladesh "Prothom Alo" and 24 news items in the second largest newspaper by circulation paper Jugantor published. To get a proper result of this study total volume of two newspapers were measured. Very unfortunately only 19.89% Eve-teasing news were covered during

2010 on the first page of these newspapers. Therefore, it is evident that, these newspapers did not give due coverage to a pressing social issue which has the potential to incapacitate 50% of the population which is female.

Eve-teasing news items that did make it to the front page were not given significant space which marginalized its overall impact. Majority of the items published were single column pieces, there were no five-column news published during 2010 in both the newspapers. The death of a mother daughter due to street harassment was news that got a lot of media attention but the selected newspapers delegated a mere four columns to this news.

Another example is the news published on October 20, a teacher named Md. Mijanur Rahman tried to protest against eve-teasing and was subsequently killed by the teaser. All media channel and civic society discussed this incident and the gravity of the situation but on October 21, 2010, leading national newspaper 'Daily Prothom Alo' covered this news in three columns only. Again, on October 28, 2010, eve-teaser killed a mother named Chapa Rani Bhowmik, who spoke out in protest against a group of boys harassing her daughter. This news could have been published in five columns or banner news as this crime was constantly taking lives but the news got only four columns.

Moreover, Daily Prothom Alo and Jugantor covered eve-teasing news as a straight story news format. This format generally fails to grasp the reader's attention, which is the reason why investigative or explanatory news get readers attention easily. Feature and follow up news with pictorial representations are also very successful and retaining reader attention but eve-teasing was not given any such

coverage which limits the scope of the news published regarding the matter. It also fails to rouse sympathy for the victims in the minds of the readers. The platonic nature of the news items published take away from the actual nature of the problem, and to an extent increasing its acceptability in the society as a norm.

It is commonly acknowledged that, media only discuss an issue for few months after that they jump into another issue. Therefore, eve-teasing news was given coverage in April, May, October and November whenever a big incident took place regarding this. In October Chapa Rani and Md. Mijanur Rahman's death attracted media's eye otherwise the entire year thousands of victim's tears did not catch the attention of media to raise voice for their rights.

### **Conclusion**

From the Literature review section, we have seen that eve-teasing is not only a major social problem in Bangladesh but also India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and some other countries are also suffering from it.

Being a Fourth Estate, newspapers have some responsibilities for example by answering who is involved with eve-teasing, their punishment, related laws, government's initiative and the consequences for the sufferer. Also, raising awareness and preventing the growth of eve-teasing. the findings show that eve-teasing related news only appear sometimes when any serious incident comes up. Eve-teasing is a very serious social issue and media needs to play its role not just as media reports on sexual harassment report as a classic or stereotype way but also sexual harassment as a symptomatic of broader gender inequality issue.

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