

A Study on Heterosexual Female Stalkers

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Abstract: *The notion of unwanted pursuit is deeply witnessed in our culture and it is not only women who are being pursued it can happen other way round also as heterosexual males are also being stalked by heterosexual females. The study is mostly based on primary data gathered through case study method. Female stalkers were predominantly single, heterosexual, educated individuals. The study has looked into what had instigated the female stalker to stalk their male victims. The study also revealed that the male victims were stalked both physically as well as through social media specifically facebook, some instances of female stalkers threatening violence were also seen in the study.*

Key Words: Facebook , Heterosexual, stalking, stalkers, victims.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Women undoubtedly are the predominant victims of the crime of stalking, but it is important to recognize that in a significant minority of stalking cases, women can also be the perpetrators. (Purcell, Pathe and Mullen:2001). Study carried out by Meloy JR, and Boyd C in 2003 have also pointed out about female stalkers who were predominantly single, heterosexual educated individual in their mid 30s and who had pursued their victim for more than a year. Stalking victims were most likely to be slightly older male acquaintance. Dhar, S:2019 in her study have also talked briefly about a case study on ex-partner stalking where the stalker is a female, that female stalker used to stalk her ex-partner by using his Facebook account as she knew her ex-partner's Facebook's account details. In India it is often highlighted that men faces less social problems as compared to women but with time things have changed and social problems like stalking is also bothering men. Stalking can be carried out both physically as well as through the social media. When it comes to virtual or online stalking, general surveys have indicated that the female gender comprises of a large section of online stalkers as compared to their male counterparts. So considering all these it becomes pertinent that heterosexual female stalkers should be studied.

The study has looked into heterosexual female stalkers and their heterosexual male victims in Tezpur town of Assam, India. **The name of all the respondents and their victims has been changed.**

Case I: Neha

First case study is about Neha who is 21 years old heterosexual woman, she started stalking Sekhar after he ended up the relationship with her. Sekhar was not interested in her anymore and it was too hard for her to accept the reality and hence Neha started stalking Sekhar. Neha found that Sekhar was dating a girl from his neighbourhood and she felt that Sekhar should not be spared. She started texting Sekhar from a new number by hiding her identity and threatened him to spoil his life for playing with a girl's life. Sekhar was not that serious and thought someone is playing a prank with him but, Neha made things worse. She started sending gifts and unsolicited letters at his place and also threw stones at his place which compelled Sekhar to respond. Everytime Sekhar gave a call to the number Neha would not receive his call and rather text him that she would obliterate him. Sekhar was still unaware of stalkers identity so he asked her to disclose her identity or else he would call the police but Neha being too smart told him that she would call the police and make false allegation against him of sexual harassment, so the conversation make Sekhar realize that he is being stalked by a girl. Sekhar requested the stalker to stop all this and asked the stalker to disclose her identity as he was afraid that it may affect his present relationship. Later Neha discloses her identity and said she would expose him, Sekhar then requested her not to do so and also asked her to forgive him as he had played with her feelings. Neha then decided to stop all this as her main motive was to make him realize and she had been successful in doing that.

Case II: Shivani

Shivani is 22 years old and she stalked her ex-partner Vivek. Shivani got connected to Vivek through Facebook and soon they exchanged their number, and after 2 months of conversation they came in relationship. They were in a relationship for 2 years, it was a long distance relationship. Shivani is from Tezpur and Vivek is from Lakhimpur. Vivek comes to meet her whenever he can as he was from Lakhimpur. One day when they were spending time together,

Vivek's phone was ringing continuously but he was not receiving the call, on being asked about it he replied that it was his mother, that call created doubt in Shivani's mind but she did not ask anything and decided to find out on her own. Shivani then took one of Vivek's friend (Niraj) number from his phone, when Vivek left his cell in the table for washroom. Shivani came to know about Niraj through Facebook as Vivek use to regularly tag Niraj in his facebook posts and updates. She then created a fake account on Facebook and took help from one of her friend so that she could use her image as a profile picture in Facebook. Shivani started talking with Vivek through the fake Facebook account and was hurt because of Vivek's nature as he was flirting and was asking for her phone number, she than decided to go to Vivek's hometown to seek answers from him. She then contacted Niraj but didn't disclose that she was dating Vivek, so one day Shivani along with Niraj went to Vivek's home. Shivani was shocked when she reached Vivek's home as she found that Vivek was a married man and later she also found that he had been doing this to many girls.

Case III: Priyanka

Priyanka use to stalk her ex- partner Aryamaan with whom she had been in a relationship for almost two years. It was Priyanka's adamant behaviour which was responsible for ending up her relationship with Aryamaan. She started stalking Aryamaan both physically and through social media. She stood outside his home to keep an eye on him and follow him. She made unsolicited phone calls and also hiddenly kept photographs of their being together in his house premise, she did all these with an intention to create fear in Aryamaan's mind, so that they could be together again. Priyanka's activity compelled Aryamaan to respond, he asked Priyanka to stop bothering him as he was getting mentally disturbed, but she made things worse realizing that he doesn't loves her anymore. Priyanka was already there in Aryamaan's Facebook and was also following him in Instagram but she again made a fake account in both these social networking sites to know if he is interested in other girls. She also proposed him through fake accounts to see if he is interested in other girls but nothing worked. She **threatened** the victim that she will upload all their intimate pictures in social media if he does not come back to her life, but Aryamaan's ignorance made her realize that all these are not going to work and she decided to stop all these.

Case IV Nikita:

Samir and Nikita came in contact with each other through Facebook in the year 2017, as Samir had send her a friend request. For Nikita it was love at first sight, and situations became quite thrilling for Nikita when she came to know that Samir was also in the same college in which she was pursuing her studies. They became friends and after some days she expressed her love for him but he denied as he was already in a relationship. She pretended to be ok and left for her home but after reaching home she started texting Samir saying that she loves him and cannot live without him and she would kill herself if he don't accept her proposal. Samir tried his best to make her understand many times that it is not possible but later he started ignoring her when he realized that she is not going to understand. Annoyed by Samir's behaviour she further worsened the situation, she started spreading fake rumors about their relationship which resulted in Samir's breakup with his long time girlfriend. This made Samir frustrated and angry and he threatened her that he will inform the police but it backfired him as Nikita also threatened him that she may call the police and make false allegation against him of sexual harassment, and this scared Samir to no extend and he decided to keep quiet. Later he discussed about his problems with his elder sister and asked for her help, Samir's sister than confronted with Nikita and asked her to stop her filthy acts because Nikita will never be accepted by their family because the entire family knew her filthy acts, so Nikita finally decided to move on.

Case V Binita

Binita and her boyfriend Prakash were in a relationship for 3 years and they were happy together. They were in the same school and later they joined the same college. In college Binita and Prakash met new friends and among them was a girl (Shruti) in which Prakash felt a little attachment as he first saw her. Binita did not realize much at the first but when her other friends started telling her about Prakash interest on the new girl, she was a bit afraid as well as tensed at the same time. Binita decided to follow her boyfriend and the other girl (Shruti) secretly. She started following her boyfriend after college but she did not find anything against him, so she thought of trying some other way, she than created fake Facebook id with Shruti's name and used Shruti's photos also in the fake Facebook profile. Binita texted Prakash from the fake profile by disguising herself as Shruti and told him that her first Facebook account got hacked so she opened a new one, slowly when their conversation grew deeper she realized that Shruti and Prakash were already in a relationship. She then decided to expose them in front of everyone and the very next day she did the same in front of everyone and left him.

2. CONCLUSION: Thus the above case studies clearly indicates that even men can become the victim of stalking and women can acts as stalkers.

The study may state the following inferences:

All the respondents and their victims were heterosexual in their sexual orientation.

All the respondents in the study were unmarried.

Love has emerged as the cause of stalking.

Case study 1 of Neha (stalker) narrates that the stalker wanted to make the victim realize that what the victim (Sekhar) did to her was wrong and he should not have treated her like that. There was a feeling of revenge in the stalker.

Different methods were used by the female stalker to stalk their victims. The stalker use to follow their victims, give them calls, use social media as a means of stalking and so on.

Case II of Shivani (stalker) shows that she was also cheated which compelled her to become a stalker.

Facebook was more actively used by the stalker to keep an eye on the victim.

Facebook is not only used as a medium of stalking but was also the site through which the stalker and victim communicated for the first time.

Stalking has such a severe consequence, which not only affect the victim psychologically but also spoil their personal relationship.

Though the term stalking is thought of in a negative way but sometimes that can be beneficial, as Case II is an example of that because Shivani was stalking her boyfriend because she had some doubt in him and her doubt turn out to be reality. If she had not stalked Vivek she wouldn't have been able to findout vivek's reality.

Female stalkers have expressed that they feel cheated so they have stalked and when they realize that it will not yield anything beneficial than they gave up. Some of them have also said that they wanted their ex-partner to realize that they did something wrong, so they stalked their ex-partner.

Thus all these case studies points out that some where human life have become anomic. As members of society our lives are inter connected with other members, so any anomic behaviour of one member is certain to upset the life of other members too. When it is about stalking it is not only the relationship between the stalker and the victim but beyond that, Case II of Shivani points out that Vivek was already married but his anomic behaviour have disturbed the life of Shivani and it instigated her to stalk Vivek and if she hadn't stalked Vivek she would have been in darkness of vivek's reality, in such a case is stalking really stalking or a proper step to find out the truth? Case IV of Nikita shows that Samir had a break-up with his long time girlfriend because of Nikita's grimy act. So to sum up it can be said that the issues of stalking must be addressed with primacy as it can have dire consequences for both the victim and the stalker.

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