

Title of the Paper

Promiscuity and Polygamy: Natural Human Instincts?

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ABSTRACT

These days, there is a cacophony about highly increased sex culture, including sex-related crimes, especially rapes and sexual offences against women and children. Such a scenario is alarming and forces society to trace the causal factors behind such an unprecedented increase of such behavioural patterns. Humans, by nature, are made to be promiscuous, and godmen are no exception. It is a fact that human beings, by nature, are polyandrous and promiscuous. Their monogamous lifestyle is the artificial behaviour forced upon by societal norms, laws, and cultural influences, which is always at the edge of breaking down when faced with the slightest rickety moment.

Before the established sociological order, humans lived like animals, and no norms for sexual intercourse or relations had been in place. Promiscuity tends to be rebuked by many societies, expecting people to have committed, long-term bonding relationships with single partners. Historically, women's promiscuity has been considered more critical and kept under surveillance socially compared to men. Promiscuity has been defined as the state of being anti-social and immoral. Promiscuity is the habit of having sex frequently with unlike partners or being eclectic in the choice of sexual partners. No disease can be healed unless the cause of the disease is established. In this piece, we have tried to determine the causal factors behind sexual acts in earlier times and the increased activity combined with perversion in modern times.

Keywords- #Sexuality,# History,# Research,# Media Report #prostitution #women

INTRODUCTION

"Virgins indulge in sex for curiosity; harlots for money, widows for remembering the good old days, wives out of a sense of duty, while the pure pleasure of sex is possible only in adultery"-- eminent journalist late Khushwant Singh once quoted these lines of an unknown 12th-century poet in his popular column.¹ In today's world, we find many more people, irrespective of age and status, embracing a sexually liberated culture to form a satisfying illicit relationship. In their imperceptive craze to taste the tipsy cake of variety, they have been scaling the barrier of religious, social, cultural, and legal boundaries wholeheartedly.

Humans, by nature, are made to be promiscuous, and godmen are no exception. Scheming godmen like Asaram Bapu, Baba Dikshit, and Baba Ram Rahim idealized Lord Krishna, who, it claimed, had sixteen thousand *gopis* (cowgirls). Their logic is quite simple – as long as we are godmen, we can be promiscuous, and it will not be a sin. Some years back, the problem was very well expressed by memorable quotes written on the back of trucks and lorries -- *Krishna kare so Lila aur hum Karen to saza* (If Krishna does, it is fun, if we do it then punishment). That is how these so-called godmen have tried to moralize their promiscuity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This research is purely doctrinal. Researchers have used primary and secondary sources available for this research, like Gazettes of India, Acts, Books, Journals, U.N. website and newspapers, etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study's main objective is to elaborate sexual behaviour of people in India as per their lords and epic stories. There are many lords available as per Hindu manuscripts, but it is also true that cases of sexual harassment are taking growth rapidly in human society. It is important to understand the law about such offences and prescribing punishment. Sexual harassment case is growing each day with a humble percentage that affects the human society. It also affects the mental situation of women about their security and living area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research of this article has been made through different information gathered from some news cases and mostly is from the present situation of human society. Present-day is facing many problems due to sexual harassment, and it causes different psychological problems for women. The historical background of Hindus is taken here as the reference of women's importance. Media reports, case history, and sexual problems are taken to reflect the situation of religion in the country. Here, another point has been met that is the reason for harassment.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the established sociological order, humans lived like animals, and no norms for sexual intercourse or relations had been in place. From a historical perspective, the hunter-

gatherer evolutionary past was characterized by an absence of exclusive, committed relationships; males mated casually with many females, and females mated randomly with many males. Because everyone was having sex with everybody else, there was no way for males to determine whether those children were their own or if they even had any children of their own (Wix-Ramos, 2018). However, that was okay because nobody cared; "certainty of paternity" was a non-issue for ancestral hunter-gatherers.

As a western scholar has said, instead of worrying about caring for and protecting (investing in) one's children, everybody in the group is instilled equally in all children.² Based on the assumptions about our evolutionary past, it is suggested that human nature is fundamentally promiscuous. People have been experiencing paternity concerns and engaging in committed, sexually exclusive, long-term relationships only over the past 10,000 years or so; these unnatural and noxious behaviours emerged as by-products of the agricultural revolution (Naskar, 2017). Precisely why agriculture is to blame for the emergence of committed relationships is never logically explained, but they suggest that it has something to do with private property. Natural sexual behaviour was based on polygamy and promiscuity. However, with the advent of civilized society, norms for establishing sexual relationships were brought in. To ensure the implementation of those norms, laws were drafted with strictly prescribed punishments to follow the standards. This adopted social jurisprudence from a behavioural perspective was artificial and frequently had risks of being defied.

Promiscuity tends to be rebuked by many societies, expecting people to have committed, long-term bonding relationships with single partners. Historically, women's promiscuity has been considered more critical and kept under surveillance socially than men (Diogo, 2019). The uncontrolled promiscuous lust never sleeps. Promiscuity can also be known as the "Coolidge effect" or the "rooster effect." The legal magazine referred to above mentions an interesting anecdote:

One day President Calvin Coolidge and his wife Grace were touring a farm. While the President was preoccupied elsewhere, Grace was learning about the management of the hen house. She noticed a rooster intensely engaged in a frenzy of copulation. "how often does he do that?" Mrs Coolidge asked the farmer. "Oh my, he can do that ten times a day," replied the farmer (Obloh, 2018). "Please inform the President of this when he stops by," said Mrs Coolidge. When the President toured the hen house, the farmer dutifully informed the President as Mrs Coolidge instructed. Upon being told, the President asked, "Same hen every time?" the farmer shook his head, "Oh no, Mr President, it is always a different hen every time." President replied, "Please tell that to Mrs Coolidge."³

Evolutionary psychologists have hypothesized that taboos against female promiscuity evolved based on "paternity anxiety." DNA tests being yet to be absolute determinative. It is impossible to govern paternity, unlike maternity precisely (Park, 2017). A husband of an adulterous wife risks spending paternal investment on offspring who carried another male's genetic material rather than of his own. Such apprehensions in the past got translated into sexual jealousy and insecurity, which led to giving birth to inhuman preventive customs like *Sati pratha* and female genital mutilation, etc.

According to anthropologists' accounts, the institution of marriage came into being almost 4350 years ago. The essential criteria behind the strict compliance of following the marital concord rules were to protect the women from committing adultery to ensure true paternity (Zeitzen, 2020). The first recorded evidence of marriage ceremonies tying the nuptial knot between one man and one woman dates back to 2350 in Mesopotamia. Over the centuries, marriage evolved to become a dignified and sacred institution and was embraced by ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans.

As they say, A need or problem encourages creative efforts to meet the demand or solve it. It is also commonly believed that maternity is sure, but paternity can never be proved. Only God knows of the paternity, or the woman knows (Uzomah & Falana, 2020). Even at times, the woman does not know that she has had intercourse with multiple partners at the time of conceiving. As such, the growing feeling of emotional insecurity and fear of sexual infidelity in the fragile psyche of men gave way to establish the monogamous institution of marriage with the sole aim to ensure paternity by preventing pre-marital and extramarital sexual relationship of a woman. With this aim, in the betrothal ceremony of ancient Greece, a father would hand over his daughter to the groom with these words: "I pledge my daughter for producing legitimate offspring."

The Vedas lauds the 'gracious, smiling women,' the love between husband and wife is viewed with the utmost sense of godliness. The Hebrew Bible or Old Testament forbids adultery in the Sixth of the Ten Commandments. In Islam, both women and men will be punished for adultery (Kucharčík, 2019). Quran says, "The adulteress and the adulterer whip you each one of them (with) a hundred streaks. Furthermore, let not pity for them hold you back from imposing the punishment of Allah if you trust in Allah and the Last Day, Quran (24:2)." As per Manusmriti (Chapter: VIII: Verse:371-72), "When a woman, contended of her relations (or abilities) cheats her husband (with another man), then the King should (ensure that) she be torn apart by dogs in place much visited by people. And the evil man should be incinerated in a bed of red hot iron."

With the technological advancement of society also came the concept of personal liberty, individualism, and permissiveness, which gave rise to liberal sexual behaviour simultaneously, defying strict laws to maintain monogamy. As such, society has started turning to its actual sexual behaviour based on promiscuity and polygamy.

SEXUALITY UNDER CLOAK OF RELIGION

The libido is deeply rooted in the human-made Hindu culture. Jayaram V has mentioned in his blog - "At the same time, the Puranas are replete with questionable behaviour of gods like Indra and Agni, who often throw all caution to winds and indulge in sinful behaviour to satisfy their carnal desires or send celestial nymphs to disturb the austerity of pious people (Earp & Savulescu, 2020). We also find questionable behaviour by gods in both the epics, which raises doubts about ethical or unethical behaviour. Traditionally, the scriptures uphold monogamous relationships and exemplify Rama and Sita, or Shiva and Parvathi, as perfect couples. Hindu marriage tradition emphasizes purity and fidelity and extols women's virtues like Sati, Savitri, and Anasuya. On the other hand, polygamy was a legal practice in ancient

India, and many gods had multiple wives as their consorts. Some also had lovers, in addition to wives."

Baba Virendra Dikshit from Delhi was running a "Spiritual University." He claims that he is the avatar of Krishna and hence would like to marry 16,000 women. In this process, he has raped women. Baba Virendra Dikshit is not an isolated example. There is no shortage of such babas in India. Laws to curb such tendencies are very much in place. However, the question is of the will to implement. The current government has, to some extent, shown its willingness to expose such baba as Ram-Rahim, Rampal, etc. But humans, by nature, are not just promiscuous; they are shrewd too (Pettman, 2020). They have very conveniently put into the picture a character like Lord Krishna, who is quite well known for things like "Raas-Leela." In fact, and when we come across such babas, it becomes conspicuously evident that such gods have been discovered to validate and moralize a tendency like being promiscuous simply. Common sense strongly suggests that such characters can never be the gods.

Avani Bansal (2017), writing for *Times of India*, has referred to the originator himself (Brahma), who created a goddess of wisdom and married her despite being related to him as his daughter! It is high time that society comes together strongly and resist such attempts to moralize a tendency like being promiscuous in the name of God. Of course, this is not a simple task. We have examples of Dabholkar, Kaliburgi, and Gauri Lankesh, who were murdered, and the government is yet to find any significant evidence about the people behind the murders (Pettman, 2020). In a country like India, where superstitions are of higher order, people are ready to lay down their lives if the government arrests their rapist gurus. In Panchkula, for instance, twenty-five people were killed following the arrest of Baba Ram-Rahim. This article explores the gravity of the tendency of human beings to be promiscuous. It also discusses the legal framework in India that exists to deal with such a trend.

In a religious context, one will invariably see a woman with God. And what does the woman do – she is worshipping the *linga* (phallus) of a man. Rohit Dasgupta et al. (2014), in their book *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Penis*, states that "Since the 19th century, the popular literature has represented the lingam as the male sex organ." Such things lead to intense nausea—a goddess worshipping the penis of a male. Humans are promiscuous by nature, and the worst is that they have taken it to the level of gods. One fails to understand this choice of a *linga* to denote God as if there was no other better thing left in the world. Female promiscuity has been a recrudescing theme in mythologies and religions. The Bible features many female personalities identified as being promiscuous.

As a matter of fact, from the point of basic instincts, Humans are animals. It is said that they are social animals, but that statement is also not true as many animals are social, living in herds and groups. However, with the impact of civilized norms, we are bound to adopt artificial social edicts. Society since the very beginning has been a patriarchal society because of females' weaker physical Constitutions (Wix-Ramos, 2018). The male grabbed the opportunity of over-ruling her and imposing himself as security cover for her. The man's primary intention behind providing security cover was to have his absolute control over her body and entire personality, viz. the extreme sense of over-possessiveness. The hidden reason

behind man's over-possessiveness was his sense of insecurity, who feared another man stealing his woman's affection.

Humans are promiscuous and polygamous by nature, but society and its rules or ethics do not let humans' real nature come out openly. Sexual instinct is eternal not only by birth but pre-birth too, which is evident from male fetuses getting an erection in the womb. Concupiscence, the 'appetite of sex' is an eternal urge which exists even before birth and remains till death. Sigmund Freud identified two related complexes: Oedipus complex, meaning thereby son's carnal affection towards mother, and the Electra complex meaning thereby father's sexual love towards his daughter (Naskar, 2017). Rapes or sexual harassment, or molestation generally occur because of the sex-starved people in our country. Is castration a solution? No, we are wrong, as it is said that sexual instinct is perpetual, which never dies. There are two parts of sexual behaviour: (a) sexual urge; (b) sexual activity. As such, by castrating, you can neutralize sexual activity but cannot eliminate the sexual impulse. Many impotent or non-performing males satisfy their urge through voyeurism or watching pornography. However, an infertile or castrated male may kill his object out of his anger of not performing the actual act.

Here it may be relevant to mention that some assertive and sexually active women willingly indulge in extramarital relationships. For that reason, the emergence of male prostitutes has become a reality. There are many examples of a sexually-starved, dissatisfied married woman who has killed their husbands with their lover's help to achieve promiscuous sexual satisfaction. This clearly shows the promiscuous behaviour in both genders of humans. Following are a few reported cases of female promiscuous behaviour to the extent of murdering their husbands for achieving sexual pleasure with their lovers.

ND Tiwari Case

A recent example of N.D Tiwari and Ujjwala Sharma case in which Ujjwala Sharma was deceiving her husband Bipin Sharma for almost 30 years as Bipin thinking Rohit, his son, had raised him as his blood. The latest DNA test proved that Rohit Shekhar was born to Congress leader N.D Tiwari and Ujjwala Sharma. The conceiving in the late 1970s happened when Ujjwala's marriage to Bipin Sharma was surviving. Ujjwala wedded Sharma in 1962 and divorced in 2006. This fact came to light after Rohit filed a paternity suit in the Delhi High Court in 2007. After five years of emotionally drained litigation under the full public glare, the DNA test report nailed 87-year-old Tiwari for the consensual physical intimacy he had with Ujjwala over three decades ago, the biological consequence thereof.

MEDIA REPORTS

The newspaper and T.V. reports are overflowed with the news of wives ruthlessly murdering their husbands with their partners' assistance for the sake of illegitimate satisfaction. In some instances, husbands have repeatedly killed their wives after finding them in illicit relations with other men. Introducing a few will be sufficient to explain the horrors of illegal pleasure. One Rakesh Kumar Singh, an IIM-Ahmedabad pass out and the vice-president of an I.T. firm in Gurgaon, stabbed his wife Shweta with a kitchen knife at least ten times, suspecting

infidelity of his wife. The couple had three children (Diogo, 2019). Sudha Chandra, the 28-year-old wife of an Indian Air Force sergeant, was arrested in Delhi Cantonment for stupifying and killing her husband Ramesh Chandra, 40, with her help teenage lover. Sudha was not satisfied with her husband and fell in love with a 17-year-old boy.

On 14 December 2017, in Delhi's Ghazipur area, a six-year-old girl was murdered by her mother and her boyfriend after the child had seen her mother with her lover in a compromising position. In September 2016, police arrested a young woman Barkha of Delhi's Sarojini Nagar and her boyfriend Satbir for brutally crushing her husband Amit Kumar under the wheels of Satbir's car. After killing her husband, she had been crying for five days before the police trace her husband, stating that the two children aged 12 and 14 are missing. She and the father would commit suicide in the police station if they did not expedite the investigation (Park, 2017). However, later on, the police arrested Barkha and Satbir after CCTV footage was accessed from Bahadurgarh, showing Satbir's Accent car squashing Amit Kumar. Satbir, during the investigation, revealed that Barkha planned murder.

Who will forget the prominent 'Tandoor' case when Sushil Sharma was convicted for killing his wife Naina Sahni, suspecting his infidelity? In a fit of anger, Sharma shot her dead at their residence in the Gole Market area of New Delhi on 2 July 1995. He then chopped her body into pieces, stuffed it into a gunny bag, took it to an open-air Bagiya restaurant inside the former Ashok Yatri Niwas hotel and tried to burn it in tandoor with the help of his friend, the restaurant manager. "Today, we find more and more women falling prey to after marriage affairs and one-night stands for apparent reasons mainly for not getting sexual pleasure with their husbands, though it is not always the same. Money, fun, the craze for variety, social fame, promiscuity, nymphomania, and peer pressure, maybe some other reasons."

LEGAL STATUS IN INDIA

In Indian laws, Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code had provided punishment for 'adultery.' Only a man who had consensual sexual intercourse with another man's wife without his consent could have been penalized under this offence in India. In Joseph Shine Case, the Court held Section 497 unconstitutional because it violates Article 14 of the Constitution since it did not incriminate the wife, a partner, in the adultery. It did not implicate married men for having sex with women other than their wives (Zeitzen, 2020). But it is well settled that a statutory provision is not unconstitutional merely because it is inclusive, as was ruled by the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench in the *State of UP vs. Deoman Upadhyaya* case.⁴ This is what Judge Chandrachud Sr. had said a third of a century ago. He was deciding a writ petition challenging Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code's constitutional validity, relating to adultery.

"This Court has recognized sexual privacy as a natural right, protected under the Constitution. To shackle the sexual freedom of a woman and allow the criminalization of consensual relationships is a denial of this right. Section 497 denudes a married woman of her agency and identity, employing the force of law to preserve a patriarchal conception of marriage which is at odds with constitutional morality.' [Joseph Shine, 2018].⁵

This is what Judge Chandrachud Jr. has said now about the same provision of the Indian Penal Code. The Court in Joseph Shine case further held Section 497 of IPC to be violative of Article 21 of the Constitution. Thus, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed:

"Sexuality cannot be disassociated from the human personality. For to be human involves the ability to fulfil sexual desires. Autonomy in matters of Sexuality is thus intrinsic to a dignified human existence. Human dignity both recognizes and protects the autonomy of the individual in making sexual choices."⁶

However, Justice Markandey Katju, former Supreme Court Judge views, "Now these may be the personal, subjective belief of Justice Chandrachud, but it was surely not open to him to enforce them on to Article 21 of the Constitution." Whatever may have been the pro and against comments from various nooks of society, the law of adultery under section 497 of IPC became defunct on 27 September 2018, a judgment passed by the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court called the law unconstitutional because it "treats a husband as the master." However, it is still an adequate ground for divorce as ruled by the Supreme Court.

Conclusion

There is a saying, "you clap, so I clap." Some women who had earlier indulged in pre-marital or extramarital sex, out of peer pressure, joined the '*MeToo*' movement, holding men responsible for the sex indulgence exclusively, calling it rape. It's a naked truth that humans, by nature, are promiscuous and polygamous irrespective of gender. Sex is at the core of human relations. It can be a root of emotional pleasure and spiritual elevation besides being the extreme source of physical pleasure, providing concupiscence, and the appetite for sex. The ancient Indian culture has always regarded sex as an object of spiritual value. The walls of temples adorned with beautiful rock-cut sculptures, paintings, and frescoes with meditative erotic sculptures having *nagara*-style architectural symbolism are evident to this statement. These erotic sites of Hindu and Jain temples in Madhya Pradesh are today UNESCO approved world heritage sites. Whereas, over some time, the 'illustrative arts' as media for the gratification of the senses and stimulation of the sexual pleasure gradually started to be considered taboo for public discussion.

Sex and sexual energy will remain a core feature of our lives, being a natural phenomenon. We need to create a platform and an environment of freedom, where humans of either gender talk about and positively discuss sex. However, it is alarming that online pornography has deviated from the natural human behaviour towards naked capitalism. Society has been polluted with extreme perversion and corruption, which has to be eradicated and neutralized. However, the earlier prevalent practice of sex education through illustrative arts was a source of correction and knowledge for the youngsters, which should be retained.

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