CHAPTER FOUR

METHOD

4.1 DESIGN

The present study was designed to study the phenomenon of eve teasing and its relation to the perception of Feminine Worth by male and female students. In the absence of any similar studies in this area, the appropriate measurement devices to assess the experience of being teased for girls and indulgence in teasing by boys were not available. Also, an appropriate standardised tool to measure the feminine worth of a person was not available. Therefore, the first step required for the purpose of the present study was the construction and standardisation of appropriate tools.

The present study was, therefore divided into three phases. The first phase consisted of the construction and standardisation of the Experience of Eve Teasing Questionnaire for girls (EETQ), and the Indulgence in Eve Teasing Questionnaire for boys (IETQ).

The second phase of the study was devoted to the construction and standardisation of the Attitude towards Women Scale (ATWS) to measure the perception of feminine worth of a person. This scale was common for both males and females.
Finally, the third phase of the study was designed to investigate the relationship of the perception of feminine worth to (a) indulgence in eve teasing by males; (b) the experience of eve teasing by females.

4.2 SAMPLE

For the first phase of the study, the sample consisted of 435 females and 422 male undergraduate students from various colleges and the Panjab University campus, Chandigarh. The age of the subjects was between 18 and 26 years. The subjects were chosen using incidental sampling.

For the second phase of the study, in all 342 male and 345 female undergraduate students from the various colleges and the Panjab University Campus comprised the sample. The age of the subjects ranged between 18 and 23. Incidental sampling technique was used in this phase.

For the third phase of the study, the scales constructed in the first two phases were administered to 750 female and 750 male undergraduate students of the city. These students belonged to local colleges of Chandigarh and the Panjab University Campus. The age of the subjects ranged from 18 to 23. The sampling technique used in this phase too was incidental. Some of the respondents who did not complete all the items in the questionnaires were dropped from the sample. Thus, in the final sample 672 females and 448 males were included.

4.3 TOOLS

4.3.1 Indulgence in Eve Teasing Questionnaire (IETQ) as constructed in Phase – 1. A 26-item questionnaire measuring the frequency and degree of eve teasing that the males indulged in. The questionnaire measures the indulgence by males in three forms of eve teasing – attention seeking behaviour, severe eve teasing, and mild eve teasing. The respondents can indicate their responses on a five-point scale ranging from “never” to “Always”. Items are scored 0 to 4, high scores indicating higher frequency
of indulgence in eve teasing. Possible scores run from 0 to 104. The psychometric properties of the questionnaire are given in Phase – I of the present study.

4.3.2 Experience of Eve Teasing Questionnaire (EETQ) as constructed in Phase – 1. A 26-item questionnaire measuring the frequency and degree of eve teasing that the females experience. The questionnaire measures the experience of three forms of eve teasing by females - attention seeking behaviour, severe eve teasing, and mild eve teasing. The respondents can indicate their responses on a five-point scale ranging from “Never” to “Always”. Items are scored 0 to 4, high scores indicating higher frequency of experience of eve teasing. Possible scores run from 0 to 104. The psychometric properties of the questionnaire are stated in Phase – I of the present study.

4.3.3 Attitudes Toward Women Scale (ATWS) was constructed in Phase – 2 of the present study. A sixty-item scale was used to measure the perception of feminine worth. The scale consisted of ten dimensions related to the rights and roles of women in the society – Son Preference (SP); Child Rearing (CR); Education (Ed); Interpersonal and Social (S); Sexual Harassment (SH); Marriage (M); Dowry (D); Wife Beating (WB); Employment (E); and Political (P). The respondents could indicate their responses on a four-point scale ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”. Items were scored 0 to 3, higher scores indicating a liberal and egalitarian attitude. Possible total scores run from 0 to 180. The psychometric properties of the scale are specified in Phase – II of the present study.

4.4 PROCEDURE

The first two phases were devoted to the construction and standardisation of the tools required to measure (a) indulgence of eve teasing by males (IETQ); (b) Experience of eve teasing by females (EETQ); and (c)
perception of feminine worth by males and females (ATWS). These involved editing of items, item analysis, and determining the reliability and validity of the three instruments.

In the third phase of the study, IETQ and EETQ were administered to males and females respectively. All the subjects were also administered the ATWS to measure their perception of feminine worth. The information about demographic variables, i.e., their age, total family income, father’s education, mother’s education, mother’s employment status, number of siblings, type of school that they had attended, type of family that they came from, etc. was procured from the subjects. The completed questionnaires and the demographic information were collected from all the respondents. The scoring of the questionnaires was done and the demographic information was coded for statistical analysis of the data.

4.5 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis of the data was done using Pearson’s r, multiple regression equations, and t-test. Intercorrelations were found between (a) the scores of males on ATWS and IETQ; (b) the scores of females on ATWS and ETWS. Gender differences were tested on the perception of feminine worth by calculating the t-ratio on the scores of males and females on ATWS. Pearson’s coefficient of correlation and multiple regression equations were used to find out the various demographic predictors for the ATWS, IETQ, and EETQ.