



SOCIAL ASPECTS ON VOYEURISM IN INDIA: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT AND IPC

AUTHOR – LOKESH KANNA TG, SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW, SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND
TECHNICAL SCIENCES (SIMATS), CHENNAI

BEST CITATION – LOKESH KANNA TG, SOCIAL ASPECTS ON VOYEURISM IN INDIA: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT AND IPC, ILE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL, 4 (2) OF 2025, PG. 296-304,
APIS – 3920-0007 | ISSN – 2583-7230.

ABSTRACT

Voyeurism is one of numerous non-contact sexual transgressions, including sexual harassment and public masturbating. It refers to having a sexual interest in, or the habit of watching, someone who is doing an intimate or private act, such as undressing, having sex, urinating, or defecating. This includes "offenders peering through windows with the hope of spying on persons in various states of undress; photographing others in restrooms; and secretly observing others in changing rooms." Given the prevalence of sexually themed reality TV shows and the ease with which voyeur-oriented pornography can be viewed on the Internet, even unintentionally, clinical definitions of voyeurism have not kept up with culture and technology. According to Metzler (2004, p. 127), voyeurism is the act of focusing one's attention on "unsuspecting individuals, typically strangers, who are naked, in the process of undressing, or engaging in sexual activity." Additionally, terms used in psychiatric textbooks such as "pictophilic voyeurism" and its reliance on "viewing obscene or pornographic pictures or video tapes" further modify the diagnosis based on the nature of voyeuristic acts. The research employs an empirical method, using data collected from a sample of 200 respondents through a questionnaire. Key variables include gender, age, educational qualifications, occupation, and marital status. With dependent variables focusing on Voyeurism, a fairly popular genre of pornography, causes voyeuristic disorder & treatment for voyeuristic disorder. The findings of the study indicate most of the respondents stated that Tamil Nadu and Kerala have the highest cases of Voyeurism. This study concludes by highlighting the treatment for voyeuristic disorder.

KEYWORD – Voyeuristic disorder, Spying, Pornography, Privacy, Modesty

INTRODUCTION

This article traces the evolution of the term voyeurism --From its psychoanalytic roots in the 1950s to modern usage in popular culture and post-Freudian, biological psychiatry, this article explores the term "voyeurism." It starts with a summary of the term's psychoanalytic roots, giving close attention to how Freudian philosophy influenced the clinical definitions of voyeurism used in American psychiatry in the middle of the 20th century. It then follows cultural and psychiatric notions of voyeurism through the 1970s and 1980s, eventually leading to contemporary TV shows, websites, and

definitions of voyeurism in academic psychiatry today. I argue that medical and popular conceptions of voyeurism developed in relation to one another in ways that help explain their configuration in social science literature.

I do this by reading against the assumption, common in social science literature, that there are distinct forms of "pathological" and "normal" voyeurism. The proliferation of small spy cameras in the 1880s made voyeurism even more unruly. However, the development of these small spies is his homage to the 1950s. Now, cameras are already built into cell phone frames and used for overly vicious hunts,



especially for celebrities. Women have always been worshiped as divine beings. Again, this kind of mutation in our society is not a new phenomenon, but one that has existed over time and is increasing violently.

With the advent of time and technology, voyeurism in the digital space is recognized as a recognizable offense under the IPC. Criminal law has been extensively amended and supplemented to accommodate the ever-changing aspects of domestic crime. The Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2013 introduced a number of new provisions to the Code to bring such negligent conduct within the scope of potential criminal offenses. Section 354C of the Act defines voyeurism as any act, stating that "A man who sees an image of a woman engaging in private acts shall, shall be punishable with a fine and imprisonment of not less than one year." Simply put, anyone who views or disseminates a video or a woman's private life without her knowledge is a physical threat to her. It is said that he committed voyeurism while offending his modesty of privacy.

OBJECTIVES

- To Analyze whether voyeurism is a fairly popular genre of pornography
- To Find which state has the highest cases of voyeurism
- To criticize which punishments they'll give for voyeurism
- To find the treatment for voyeuristic disorder
- To analyze the causes of voyeuristic disorder

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **Långström, (2010)** exhibitionism, voyeurism, and frotteurism for the American Psychiatric Association's Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Work Group in preparation for the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V).

Very limited empirical support was found for major changes of the current DSM-IV-TR criteria sets for these paraphilias. Some of the criticism of current criteria and the balancing of false negatives and false positive diagnoses are examined.

2. **Smith, (1976)** The most striking thing about the literature on voyeurism is the relative lack of material in print. In the present work, the author was able to find only 15 articles and no books that deal specifically with voyeurism. Of the 57 references compiled for this review, not one involves an experimental manipulation of variables. An attempt is made to review as many aspects of voyeurism as possible, giving illustrative case material whenever available.
3. **Walen, (2014)** In increasingly mediatized cultures it is essential that criminologists develop more sophisticated understandings of the power of images and this article offers such an approach. It begins by setting out some of the relationships between photography and criminology as they have evolved over time to enable a richer understanding of how the modern criminal subject is constructed and how archival practices have a significant bearing on how meanings are organized.
4. **Buda, (2013)** The purpose of this paper is to propose voyeurism as one possible lens to analyze the experiential nature of dark tourism in places of socio-political danger, thus expanding psychoanalytic understandings of those who travel to a "dark" place. The authors' analysis of the experiences of this tourist in Iran reveals that tourism, in its widest sense, can be experienced as "dark" through the consumption and performance of danger.
5. **Jackson, B. T. (1969)** Reported the case of a 20-yr-old, unmarried male whose



voyeurism was overcome through counterconditioning. The S stated that after peeping in windows, masturbation would take place, thus reinforcing the voyeurism. After 8 sessions, however, the S associated orgasm with sexual stimuli of decreasing similarity, i.e., young nude females to pornographic pictures, and arousal-potential from voyeuristic fantasy, thus, creating a positive attraction to more acceptable objects. A 9-mo follow-up revealed that S no longer had a desire for voyeurism.

6. **Emmanuel, (1991)** In response to the article by M. D. Bianchi (see record 1991-05369-001), the case of a 30-yr-old man who responded to fluoxetine (FL) as a treatment for voyeurism is reported. This suggests similarities between paraphilias and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), as FL is reported to be effective for treating OCD.
7. **Balon, R. (2016)** In psychiatry, sexuology, and sexual medicine, voyeurism/voyeuristic disorder is conceptualized as a condition characterized by deriving intense and recurrent sexual arousal from watching unsuspecting person(s) while they are having sex, disrobe, or are nude. It has been classified as one of the exploitive paraphilias/paraphilic disorders. Acts of voyeurism are probably the most common of potentially law-breaking sexual behaviors (Arch Sex Behav 39:317–324, 2010).
8. **Janssen, D.F.(2018)** Neither Tannenbaum nor Solomon cited actual cases. The third edition of Stedman's (1914) A Practical Medical Dictionary already has voyeurism as "A morbid desire to look at the sexual organs or other usually clothed parts of the body of one of the opposite sex" (p. 1024). The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia's 1909

Supplement had mixoscopia as "a form of sexual perversion in which libidinous pleasure is excited by the sight, or mental picture, of the cohabitation of the desired one with another" (Smith, 1909, p. 816)

9. **Stoudenmire, J. (1973)** Presents a case study that describes the relatively successful treatment of voyeuristic behaviors using behavioral techniques. A 44-yr-old black male had been a peeping tom since the age of 13. He was of borderline mental retardation with an IQ of 77. He and his wife were asked to keep a record of his peeping urges and fantasies and from this they were encouraged to have intercourse or, if not feasible, for him to masturbate at these times.
10. **Longo, R. E., (1983)** The results of this study reveal that a significant number of offenders manifest a history of sexually inappropriate behaviors beginning in early adolescence. It appears from the study that many offenders begin to act out sexually at an early age and if left untreated may escalate to more serious sexual assaults.

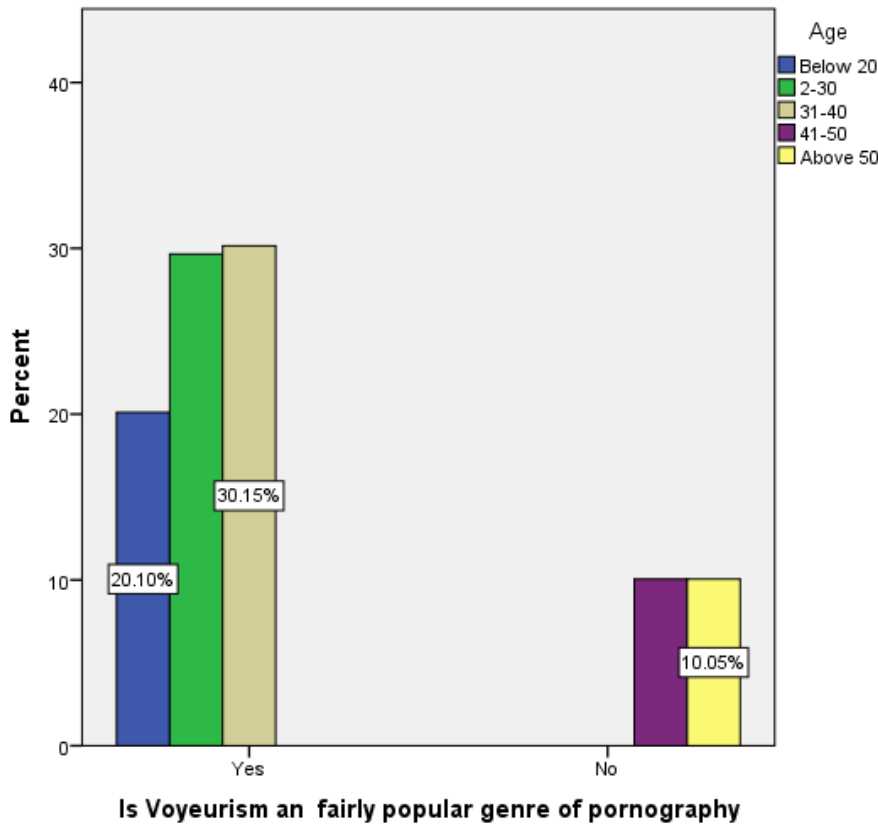
METHODOLOGY

I conducted a descriptive study using a convenient sampling method with 200 sample sizes in and around Chennai. The independent variables I used were gender, age, educational qualification, occupation and Marital status and the dependent variables are Is voyeurism a fairly popular genre of pornography, what punishments they'll give for voyeurism, Treatment for voyeuristic disorder and causes of voyeuristic disorder.



ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1



LEGEND: Figure 1 represents Is voyeurism a fairly popular genre of pornography and with an independent variable of age

TABLE 1

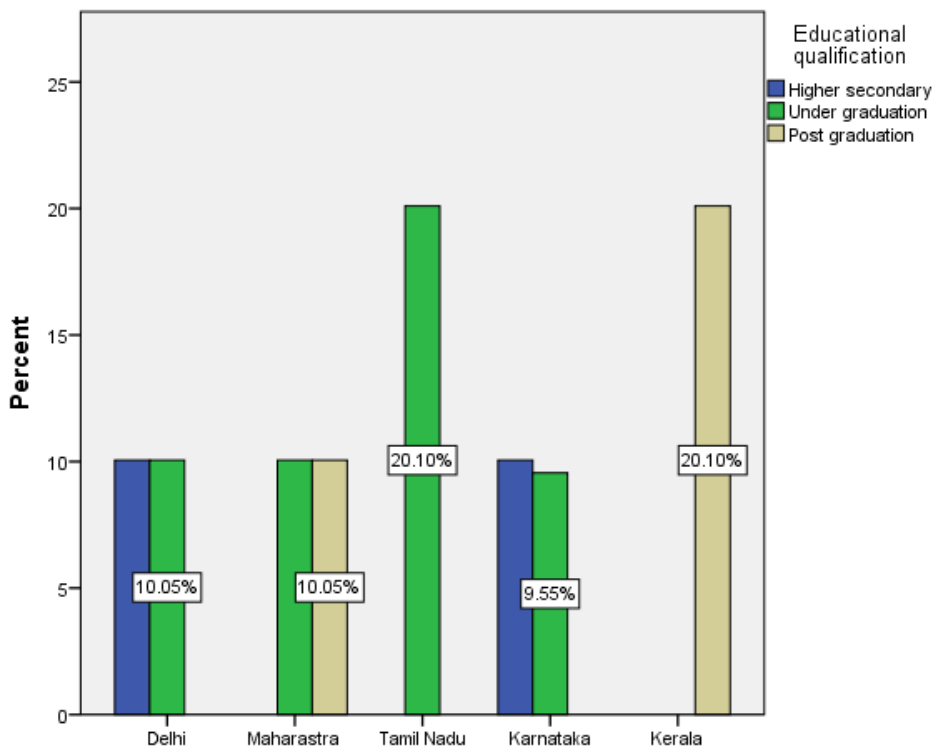
Correlations

		Age	Is Voyeurism an fairly popular genre of pornography
Age	Pearson Correlation	1	.791**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	199	199
Is Voyeurism an fairly popular genre of pornography	Pearson Correlation	.791**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	199	199

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



FIGURE 2



In India Which state has the highest cases of voyeurism under Section 354(c) of IPC

LEGEND: Figure 2 represents which state has the highest cases of voyeurism under Section 354(c) of IPC

TABLE 2

One-Sample Statistics

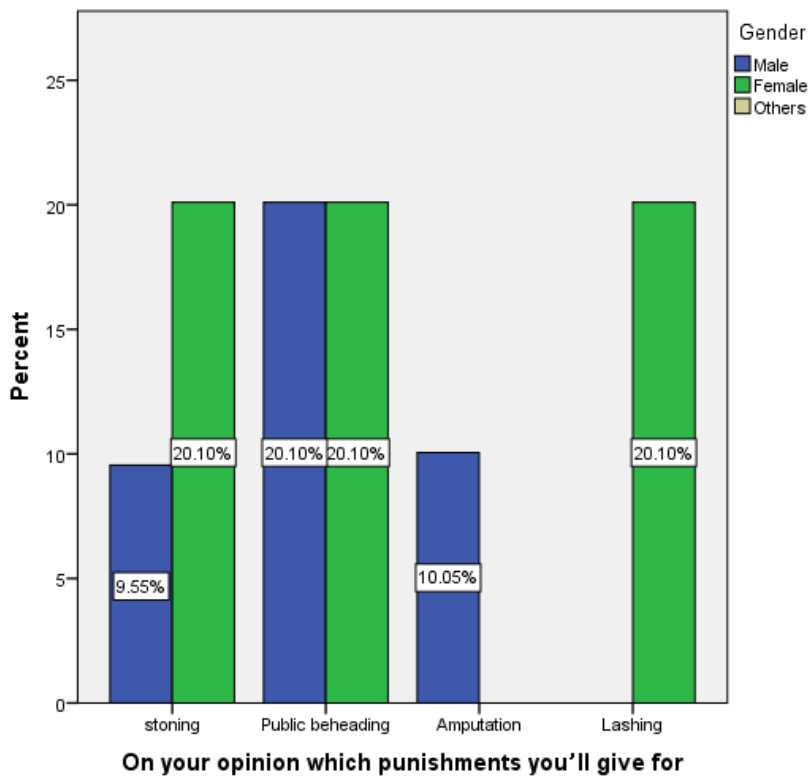
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Educational qualification	199	2.10	.703	.050
In India Which state has the highest cases of voyeurism under Section 354(c) of IPC	199	2.99	1.420	.101

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Educational qualification	42.120	198	.000	2.101	2.00	2.20
In India Which state has the highest cases of voyeurism under Section 354(c) of IPC	29.762	198	.000	2.995	2.80	3.19



FIGURE 3



LEGEND: Figure 3 represents on your opinion which punishments you'll give for

TABLE 3

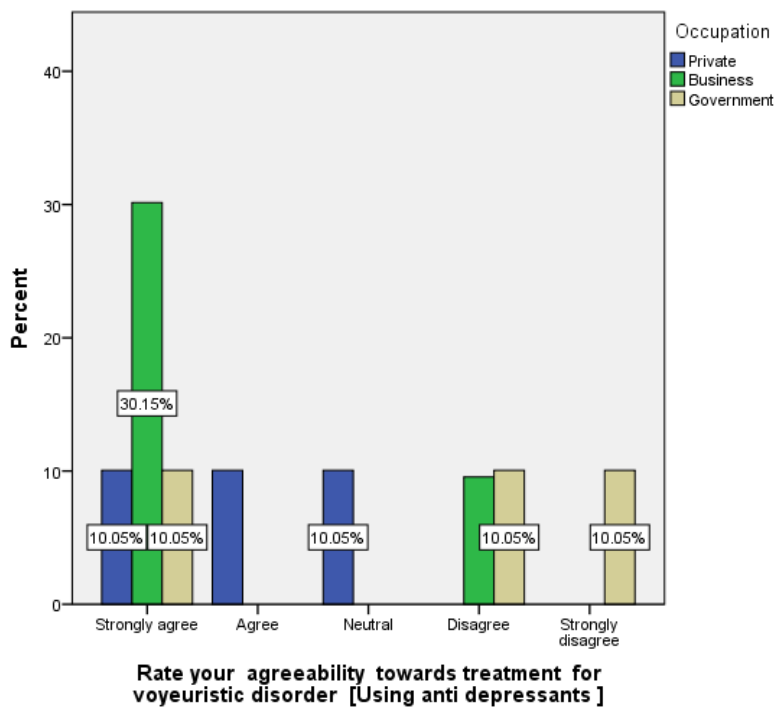
Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
On your opinion which punishments you'll give for	Equal variances assumed	60.692	.000	-2.068	197	.040	-.321	.155	-.626	-.015
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.302	193.069	.022	-.321	.139	-.595	-.046

GRASP - EDUCATE - EVOLVE

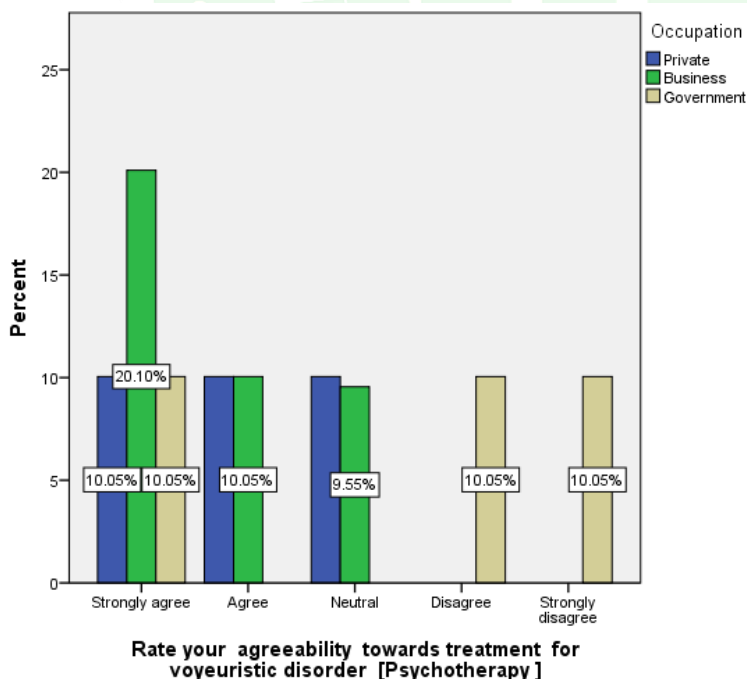


FIGURE 4



LEGEND: Figure 4 represents treatment for voyeuristic disorder (Using anti depressants)

FIGURE 5



LEGEND: Figure 5 represents treatment for voyeuristic disorder (Psychotherapy)

RESULT

- **(FIGURE 1)** As a result most of the respondents stated yes, Voyeurism is a fairly popular genre of pornography

whereas some of the respondents stated no it is not a popular genre of voyeurism.

- **(FIGURE 2)** In this figure most of the respondent states Tamil Nadu & Kerala have the highest cases of voyeurism.



The percentage is 20.10% of UG and PG students.

- **(FIGURE 3)** Most of the Male & female respondents responded that public beheading is the best punishment which they will give for the offence.
- **(FIGURE 4)** As a result 30.15% of business persons strongly agreed to use Antidepressants as the treatment of voyeuristic disorder. While some of the other respondents disagreed.
- **(FIGURE 5)** In this figure as the same as figure 4 the respondents also strongly agreed to Psychotherapy as a treatment of voyeuristic disorder.

DISCUSSION

- **(FIGURE 1)** According to the result, respondents of age 31-40 stated yes it is a fairly popular genre of pornography because many viewers are drawn to its theme of secrecy, curiosity, and the feeling of watching something is forbidden.
- **(FIGURE 2)** As a result most of the respondents stated that Tamil nadu and kerala had the highest cases of voyeurism. But according to a 2018 survey Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have the highest cases of voyeurism.
- **(FIGURE 3)** According to the result most of the respondents stated Public beheading is the punishment which they will give for the offenders. According to our country we follow a reformatory theory of punishment. Whereas the punishment for public beheading is not given in countries like India, while the Arab countries follow retributive theory where public beheading is one of the punishments for these offences.
- **(FIGURE 4)** In this figure the respondents strongly agreed that use of antidepressants is a treatment for the

voyeuristic disorder because it helps in reducing sexual urges and compulsive behaviour, treating co-existing conditions and balancing brain chemicals.

- **(FIGURE 5)** In this figure the respondents strongly agreed that Psychotherapy is also a treatment for voyeuristic disorder because it helps in identifying triggers, improving self control, addressing underlying issues, Building empathy and awareness and also relapse prevention.

LIMITATION

One of the major limitations of the study in the sample frame. There is a major constraint in the sample frame as it is limited to a small area. Thus, it proves to be difficult to extrapolate it to a larger population. Another limitation is the sample size of 200 which cannot be used to assume the thinking of the entire population in a particular country, state, or city. The physical factors have a larger impact, thus, limiting the study.

SUGGESTION

Voyeurism in India isn't always only a prison problem however additionally a social one which wishes greater open conversations and focus. Although it's miles virtually punishable below IPC segment 354C and the Information generation act, many instances in no way come to mild due to the fact sufferers frequently experience disgrace or worry judgment. To alternate this, we want focus campaigns, virtual literacy programs, and gender sensitization efforts that assist human beings recognize the significance of privacy, consent, and the actual outcomes of such acts. Just as essential is the want for robust help structures like counselling and prison aid- in order that sufferers experience secure and advocated to document incidents. By imposing present legal guidelines successfully and updating them to cope with more recent paperwork of cyber-voyeurism, society can circulate closer to developing a



more secure and greater respectful surroundings for everyone.

CONCLUSION

Voyeurism in India has emerged as an urgent social and criminal concern, intensified with the aid of using speedy technological improvements and converting modes of on-line communication. While the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology Act offer a sturdy criminal framework to criminalize and penalize such offenses, the patience of voyeuristic practices displays the restrictions of regulation on my own in addressing this issue. There is a pressing want to integrate criminal enforcement with social awareness, virtual literacy, and gender sensitization programs to lower voyeurism effectively. A holistic technique that mixes punitive measures with preventive techniques can make certain the safety of privacy, dignity, and protection of individuals, thereby fostering a greater steady and equitable society.

REFERENCE

1. Långström, N. The DSM Diagnostic Criteria for Exhibitionism, Voyeurism, and Frotteurism. *Arch Sex Behav* 39, 317–324 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-009-9577-4>
2. Smith, R.S. Voyeurism: A review of literature. *Arch Sex Behav* 5, 585–608 (1976). <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01541221>
3. Walen, H. R., & Lachman, M. E. (2014). Social Support and Strain from Partner, Family, and Friends: Costs and Benefits for Men and Women in Adulthood. *Journal of Management*, Vol 18 ,issue (2), 218–243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0149206307312504>
4. Buda, D.M. and McIntosh, A.J. (2013), "Dark tourism and voyeurism: tourist arrested for "spying" in Iran", *International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research*, Vol. 7 No. 3, pp. 214-226. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJCTHR-07-2012-0059>
5. Jackson, B. T. (1969). A case of voyeurism treated by counterconditioning. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 7(1), 133–134. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-7967\(69\)90058-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-7967(69)90058-8)
6. Emmanuel, N. P., Lydiard, R. B., & Ballenger, J. C. (1991). Fluoxetine treatment of voyeurism. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 148(7), 950. <https://doi.org/10.1176/ajp.148.7.950a>
7. Balon, R. (2016). Voyeuristic Disorder. In: Balon, R. (eds) *Practical Guide to Paraphilia and Paraphilic Disorders*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-42650-1_5
8. Janssen, D.F. "Voyeuristic Disorder": Etymological and Historical Note. *Arch Sex Behav* 47, 1307–1311 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-018-1199-2>
9. Stoudenmire, J. (1973). Behavioral treatment of voyeurism and possible symptom substitution. *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research & Practice*, 10(4), 328–330. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0087612>
10. Longo, R. E., & Groth, A. N. (1983). Juvenile Sexual Offenses in the Histories of Adult Rapists and Child Molesters. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 27(2), 150–155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X8302700207>