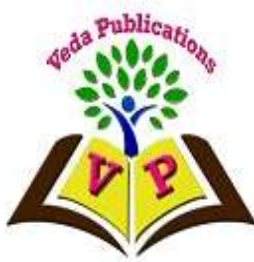


I AM 'AVAILABLE' FOR ALL MEN

(SHORT COMMUNICATION)

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I have spent months trying to find an answer to the question that what makes girls and women vulnerable to sexual abuse and offences. First, I thought that it is the fast internet age that has given us excess to opportunities and new ways to learn how to assault a woman. However, when I studied the anthropological accounts, I realised even in absence of existing means of information and communication, girls and women were subjected to sexual offences.

We often read that the life styles which some of the girls and women have adopted make them prospective victims. I wonder that if that's the fact, how those become victims who don't step out of their homes at odd hours , who wear non - exposing clothes, who don't have boy friends and those who don't object patriarchy. Girls and women face physical and sexual violence inside our own homes. The perpetrators are their own kith and kin. So this makes me conclude that only being born as girl and woman is ENOUGH to make them a target, irrespective of any of the factors.

I am not equal - I am superior to man. It does not mean that to prove their dominance, men have to assault and abuse me. It is this approach of the men that makes them rape minor girls even who have not reached puberty. They don't think twice before abusing old aged women too.

I am 'available' as a piece of meat to be grabbed by the vultures and wild grass to be grazed by the herbivore men. I don't have liberty to do anything more than breath. I cannot go out when I want, I cannot dress up the way I like, I cannot talk to someone whom I like, I cannot have hard drinks, and so on.

It is unfortunate that if I dare to say that I also have sexual desires , it becomes easy to be labelled as a slut. Men have the exclusive privilege to be proud of their masculinity. They have the liberty to express their sexual urges and approach any girl/ woman to fulfil their sexual whims and wishes.

If I ask my own boy friend or partner that I don't want sexual relationship at a particular moment, even he asserts RIGHT over my body against my wishes. At the same time, the same partner may have more physical relations, the moment he feels boredom with me. Are my sexual needs relevant to him or not. Only his pleasure, his timings matter. I am there as his 'property', to be used at his will, to be judged and so on.

Being born with the ability to give birth to new life, I don't have the right to protect my own body and right to say not touch my body.

I am not a human being, not even a living being.

I am an object, a machine, a toy for the physical pleasure of the men.

I am born to get judged for anything I do or things I don't do. I am questioned for my sexual choices. I am discerned if I express my sexual needs.

Nothing makes me vulnerable - more than absence of realization among 'men' that I too may get hurt and feel traumatized. The theory that girls and women symbolize Goddess has perhaps never ever been accepted fully by the mankind.

Should I accept that I am born as a girl and woman, so I don't have any rights? Should I start learning to accept that the society can never be safe? Should I pray to the Almighty not to make me a girl or woman in next birth?

In this birth, I am available not only for outsiders who treat me as the target but my own partner whom I have trusted. I am available even to my blood relations.

'I am available'.

It is the time to stop bothering about why it happens to me – a girl and woman can't question.
