

The Immorality of Not Wearing Clothes

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Abstract. In Chinese historical customs, women cannot show their feet. However, in the history of Western art, the naked woman is a very prevalent art form. Many artists even consider such art to be more representative of art than any other art. Acceptance of exposure varies from country to country, region, or religion, and this is also true in contemporary society. Nowadays, people must be well dressed and associate the exposure level with the morality level. This essay explores the history of dressing revealingly, the acceptance of exposure by people in different countries and cultures, and the relationship and related experiments between the level of morality and the level of exposure. The experiment used demographics as a variable to study two relationships, and one examined the relationship between sexual attraction and exposure. The other examined the relationship between the level of morality and the level of exposure.

Keywords: Dressing revealingly, Exposure level, Morality, Sexual attraction, Moral level, Sexual modesty.

1. Introduction

Throughout the ages, the way people dress and the level of morality behind it have always been discussed. Is it immoral if we do not wear clothes? This is a complex issue as it encompasses several aspects. It is a complex issue because it encompasses several aspects, such as the culture of dressing in different countries, regional and religious differences, the relationship between nudity and people's morality, and obedience to authority. Throughout history, clothing has been an expression of culture and a symbol of social status. In art history, the nude portrait is a prevalent artistic expression. However, with the continuous development of society, people's concept of the degree of exposure is also changing. What was accepted in history may be difficult in the real world. People's acceptance of nudity varies from culture to culture. In Western countries, it is very typical for girls to wear suspenders. However, in some parts of China, there is still some ambiguity about this type of clothing, and people may think that suspenders are too revealing and that such girls may have lower moral standards. In this article, the current study will discuss the differences between Eastern and Western cultures and the history of what people wear. The current study will also delve deeper into the relationship between morality and exposure, as people often correlate the two. In the paper, relevant experiments were designed that examined the relationship between sexual attractiveness and exposure level as well as between moral level and exposure level to see if their relationship changes depending on gender, region, religion, or other variables.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The History of What People Wore

A century ago, people in China dressed very differently than those worn today. The man about town was usually clad in a jacket and long robe. The wealthy woman, rarely seen in public, wore a long jacket over a pleated skirt, and her hair was frequently pulled back with a broadband embroidered or embellished [1]. Women dressed very conservatively back then. They could not even show their arms and legs. Women's feet were also judged to be a sex symbol. When a woman showed her feet and was seen by a man, she had to marry the man who saw her feet. A married woman who wore revealing clothing was repudiated by her husband and punished very severely. This shows that the level of acceptance of human nudity was shallow. However, the idea of nudity in Western history

differs from that in Chinese history. In the history of Western art, female body image is very prevalent. The female nude connects "Art" more than any other topic. The framed picture of a woman's body hanging on the wall of an art gallery serves as a symbol of art in general; it is a representation of Western culture and a mark of progress and achievement [2]. Women's collars would have been lower in historical times in the West. This demonstrates that nudity and body art were more widely accepted in Western history and society.

2.2. Regional Disparity

Collectivist cultures are "we"-oriented, whereas individualistic societies are "me"-oriented [3]. In the West, people are more individualistic. They are more focused on their interests, personal freedom, and the freedom to dress. They tend to be more self-centered. Therefore, people also pay more attention to their preferences rather than other people's opinions when it comes to dressing. That is why people in Western countries are more tolerant of the way people dress. But in the East, people tend to be more collectivist. People are more subservient to the state and the nation, and their interests are put after the collective. In Eastern countries, people dress very conservatively due to the history of the race and the rules. Contemporary society is also influenced by the way people dress. People pay more attention to the national dress code, which they consider more important than the freedom to dress, and are much less accepting of nudity than in Western countries. Because, in some cases, dressing revealingly can be seen as disrespectful. This is because the clothes people wear can be perceived as representative of the community or nation. If someone dresses revealingly, it is seen as disrespectful to the nation's culture and others. It is expected that everyone can follow the national dress code and show a good culture. That is why the dress code is more conservative in some parts of the East.

2.3. Ethics-Related Experiments

There have been many experiments on morality, two of which are classic. One is the Milgram Experiment, and the other is the Stanford Prison Experiment. The Milgram Experiment is an experiment conducted by Stanley Milgram of Yale University. The experiment examined the conflict between people's obedience to authority and conscience. He observed the defenses by individuals indicted at the Nuremberg War Criminal trials for World War II atrocities. They frequently used "obedience" to justify, claiming they were merely carrying out their superiors' orders [4]. In this experiment, the experimenter is taken into a room with thoughts tied to their hands. In the room, there is a row of switches representing 15 volts of electricity to 375 volts of electricity. No one is shocked during the experiment, and the participants are unaware of it. The participants believed that the person in the room would be shocked if the switch were flicked. The experimenter asked the participants to push the switches to shock the people in the room. The experimenter wanted to study the extent to which people would obey authority even though this behavior could cause harm to others.

The Stanford Prison Experiment was a psychological experiment conducted in the summer of 1971. It was a two-week simulation of a prison environment that examined the effects of situational variables on participants' reactions and behaviors. Philip Zimbardo led the trial. Many men were recruited for the experiment, and 15 men who passed a psychological stability assessment were finally selected as participants. They were randomly assigned as inmates and correctional officers. The experimenter took them to a simulated prison. These participants wore inmates' uniforms and officers' clothing to de-individualize them. The experimenter wanted to see how people would behave after removing their individuation to become correctional officers and prisoners. Throughout the experiment, participants gradually developed rioters and anti-social behavior, and order became more and more chaotic. This had a severe negative impact on their psychology. Therefore, the experimenters ended the experiment on the sixth day. People consider the Stanford prison experiment as one of the most unethical experiments. The experiment caused significant psychological damage to the participants.

2.4. Relationship Between Ethical Level and Exposure

According to Bardack and McAndrew's research, a person's attire impacts whether they are given a job offer. These conclusions are supported by Ray's research, which showed that hiring decisions for job candidates with "low" ratings for appropriateness of apparel differed noticeably from those for candidates with "moderate" and "high" ratings [5]. A dress code is essential for a person, and people usually judge their first impression of a person based on the dress code. Similarly, when an employee has a lousy dress code, it can hurt the entire company. Therefore, in a sense, a poor dress code can affect people's judgment of morality. Social surveillance of women's bodies suppresses sexual subjectivity through stigmatizing their sexualized attire [6]. What a woman wears not only affects how others judge her level of morality, but it also manifests her sexuality.

When women wear short skirts or shorter, low-cut tops, people are skeptical of their moral standards. Some studies have shown that when women are at the peak of their fertility, they are more inclined to wear revealing clothing. Men will be more inclined to approach women in revealing clothing. This is a way for women to express themselves physically and sexually. Sometimes, women wear revealing clothes just because it suits their aesthetics and is their own choice of what to wear. Whether they want to show off their bodies and express their sexuality or their choice of dress, this does not prove that they have low morals. People judge women's morality by how revealing they dress, which can lead to sexual shame. They are not free to choose what they wear and show their bodies with confidence. Some women become afraid of revealing clothing and wear very conservative clothing to keep a favorable impression on others. Others want to rebel and stay exposed, intentionally wearing short skirts and low-cut clothing. Wanting to rebel against this culture and change the stereotypes of how women dress. Women need to be more accessible in choosing their dress code. The way women dress should not influence people's judgment of their morality.

2.5. Experiment

2.5.1. Experimental Design

The experiment was done using the IAT method of the single-masked trail. Implicit Association examination (IAT) measures how long it takes a person to divide concepts into two groups to reveal unconscious attitudes, instinctive preferences, and hidden biases [7]. This is a single-masked experiment, so participants did not know what the experiment was testing, which reduced participants' social desirability and sped up their responses during the experiment. In the experiment, two pictures were placed in the upper left, and right corners of the screen, and participants were asked to choose the picture they thought corresponded to the text that appeared in the center of the screen. They need to make the choice as fast as possible. For example, a picture of a conservatively dressed person appears in the upper left corner of the screen. A picture of a scantily clad person appears in the upper right corner of the screen. The word in the center of the screen is "freedom." At this point, participants must choose based on their perception of freedom. Choose the picture that they think better represents "freedom." The experiment was divided into two parts. The first part was to investigate the relationship between sexual attraction and exposure. Therefore, the pictures on the screen would be grouped to represent high morality with high exposure and low morality with low exposure. Then, the participants will be asked to choose which picture set is more accessible or violent. The second part is to study the relationship between the level of morality and the level of exposure. Therefore, the experimenter formed a group of pictures with low morality and high exposure and a group of pictures with high morality and low exposure and asked the participants to choose the pictures that matched the words in the center of the screen. The experiment results can be concluded based on the participants' selection time and choices [8].

2.5.2. Expected Results of The Experiment

The experiment had two expected results. First, the relationship between exposure level and sexual attractiveness may vary with gender, region, religion, and other variables. The second possible outcome is that the relationship between exposure and moral levels may vary with gender, region,

religion, and other variables. The results of the experiment may appear as if people think that the higher the exposure level, the lower the person's morality level. However, we believe that the level of exposure does not prove a person's morality level. People should not objectify their bodies. When people objectify a person's body, it affects their moral intuitions. It is incorrect to draw moral conclusions by objectifying others. These people will assume that people with higher levels of exposure are less moral. This judgment can hurt others. We should not objectify anyone's body. Like in Western history, everyone can appreciate the naked human body and call it a great work of art. People make more accurate judgments when they don't carry thoughts of discrimination and objectification of others. We need to respect everyone's body; when we objectify people's bodies, it can negatively impact their mental health. Objectifying the human body, in a sense, reinforces the notion that the body and appearance are more important. In human interactions, we should not be judged by the appearance of others. Their morals and abilities are the more essential qualities. Objectifying people's bodies affects society's concept of interpersonal communication. And this situation can easily create inequality between men and women. In some societies, a woman who dresses revealingly is more likely to be criticized and considered to have low morals. People are stricter about what women wear, and society is less tolerant of women who wear revealing clothing. Women's bodies are more easily objectified. Men are more likely to perceive women as more sexually attractive when they are scantily clad and believe they may be sending out specific sexual signals. This phenomenon can violate women's dignity and make them feel sexist and unequal. When people's bodies are objectified, they become less tolerant of dressing and create stereotypes. What society needs is high tolerance and freedom to dress. People's freedom to dress should not be constrained. Not only that, but the stereotypes can seriously impact people's dressing choices and styles. Some people wear revealing clothes just for their dressing style and reasonable display of their bodies. It is a free expression. When people are stereotyped for this high-exposure clothing, they become prejudiced against them. They lose a way of presenting themselves. We should develop a more tolerant and open society rather than objectifying people's bodies and losing the freedom to choose what to wear [9].

3. Research Implications

The history of different countries, races, and cultures strongly influences what people wear in modern times. People in different cultures have different standards for evaluating the level of exposure. This shows the diversity of cultures; we all need to respect such differences. We need to respect the differences in dress brought about by culture. The cultural changes in history and today's society are also very significant. Every country has evolved with the changing times and the people's social attitudes. We can see the development of society through the way people dress. People's views on clothing also change with the development of society. Therefore, people need to adapt to such changes and keep up with the pace of social change. Change their concepts in time to adapt to society. Therefore, what people wear cannot be the only criterion for judging a person's moral level. When we judge a person's moral level, although the dress is one of the criteria, we also need to know more about the person. Not only that, but we also need to consider that people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds have different views on the level of exposure. Nowadays, we are in an era of racial diversity. We need to respect the different races and cultures and the choices of everyone. Give everyone the right to choose and the freedom to dress [10].

4. Conclusion

To summarize, the issue of what people wear has been around since time immemorial. As times have changed, so have people's views on the level of nudity. Racial and cultural backgrounds also influence the nudity people wear in modern society. Some people, such as individualistic people, believe that dressing is a person's freedom, that the human body is not only a symbol of sex but also

a way for human beings to express their identity and desires, and that it can also be a respectable art. They believe that people's high level of nudity does not indicate a person's morality. But some people, such as individualistic, believe that dressing revealingly is unacceptable. People need to dress decently and modestly. This is because how a person dresses do not only represent the person as an individual but also as a race. If people have a high level of nudity, they have a low level of morality. This dress code stereotyping and labeling of women is not desirable. This culture creates sexual shame in women and prevents them from choosing their dress code freely. Lastly, the level of exposure people wear is a personal choice. Everyone has the freedom to display their body and the right to choose their favorite dress code. In today's society, everyone's choice should be respected. Whether people dress revealingly should not be the standard by which their morality is judged.

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