

**Original Article****“Selfie” – Is It A Fad or A Famished Thrill? Some Ruminations on Forensic Issue**

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**Dr Mohammad Asrarul Haque**Email: [asrar428@gmail.com](mailto:asrar428@gmail.com), Mobile No. +91 8755198534**Abstract**

*The craze for 'selfie' is a recent phenomenon and it has percolated in every strata of society cutting across age, sex, occupation, culture and life style pattern. The existence of 'selfie' is precarious in nature and the desire to get maximum appreciation in social media like facebook goads the individual to get photo shots in unusual postures and dangerous situations. Recent incidences have revealed that there is no 'good-selfie' or 'bad-selfie'. Hence, the 'selfie' takers must take cognizance of risk factors and play to get only 'SAFE- SELFIE'.*

**Short Communication**

Right through 2014-15 hardly a day passed when selfie-related injuries or deaths have not been reported in national and international newspapers<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>. The following news has been randomly picked up from various sources. What is illustrative is that this phenomenon have pervaded among the youngsters crossing international boundaries, culture and literacy. It appears that the desire to indulge in seemingly innocent activity over-rides the caution deemed to be exercised in dangerous behavior.

Having gone through these heart-wrenching news the authors thought over the issue and reached a consensus that some sort of legal shackling is required to truncate the menacing outcome lurking behind “selfie”, particularly in places of high altitude, roof of running train, bridges across rivers etc. Unnatural destabilizing postures and rickety balances in dangerous places should be made out of bound legally for such adventurous exercises.

Legal provisions may also be required to be in place in those cases where criminal bent of mind

may take advantage of ‘selfie’ activity and may push or trip the unsuspecting other partner. Such investigation needs independent investigation by law enforcing agencies. However, circumstantial evidence may have to be largely accommodative. Forensic analysis of the retrieved camera may give some clue particularly if the camera is on video mode.

The logical outcome to this may be secured by declaring “selfie” to be a dangerous sport and places considered to be dangerous may be rendered out-of-bound for adventurers. Anyone violating the law may be made to undergo simple imprisonment for a minimum of one month with provision of extend ability up to 3 months and fine. Repeat offenders may have to undergo higher quantum of punishment – may be upgraded to rigorous punishment.

We hope that this would prove to be a deterrent in many cases and subsequently lives may be saved.

The Russians have taken a step in this direction by issuing an appeal stirring the emotion for “safe-selfies”: “Even a million ‘likes’ on social media is not worth your life and well-being.”<sup>5</sup>

## References

1. St Petersburg: a 17 year old amateur Russian photographer, climbed successfully atop a railway bridge, lost her balance and fell to her death after taking a selfie. Payne, Samantha, International Business Times, 22 April 2014 (retrieved 6 July 2015)
2. Puerto Rican musician Jadel El Tsunami died in an accident shortly after taking a selfie on his motorbike (May 2014). Jadel “El Incomparable” – Me Descontrolo (official video) #tsunamisisback Imperio Nazza – You tube 7 June 2012.
3. An 18 year old Romanian teenager died when she attempted to take the “ultimate selfie”, posing with a friend on top of a train in the north-eastern Romanian city of *Iasi* when her leg touched on live wire

above, sending an electrical surge of up to 27000 volts through her body. The Independent, May 2015.

4. A 25 year old Russian woman asked a security guard at her office to give her a 9mm rubber bullet pistol for taking a selfie and accidentally shot herself in the head sustaining heavy injuries. RT 23 May 2015. Retrieved 6 July 2015.
5. Gretel Kauffman, Staff Writer: How to prevent death-by-selfie: a guide from Russian government. The Christian Science Monitor, 7 July 2015.