

## TUNISHA SHARMA'S LAST CAPTION "*THOSE WHO ARE DRIVEN BY THEIR PASSION DOESN'T STOP*" - AN IRONY, IN HER SUICIDIAL MURDER MYSTERY- INVOKING A DEBATE ON LOSS OF LOVE IN RELATIONSHIPS

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### **Abstract:**

*The intent of this research paper is to elaborate the factors leading to the tragic suicidal murder mystery of a rising Indian television and film actress Tunisha Sharma. Who at the age of twenty took her life by attempting suicide- through hanging herself on 24 December 2022, in a studio in Naigaon, Maharashtra, Tunisha Sharma hanged herself in the make-up room of co-star Sheezan Khan on the set of the **TELEVISION SERIAL ALI BABA: DASTAAN-E-KABUL CHAPTER 1**. She was taken to a hospital where she was declared dead on arrival (DOA). Her last Instagram post was on the same day when she took her life with an ironic caption "**THOSE WHO ARE DRIVEN BY THEIR PASSION DOESN'T STOP**" which leads to a heated argument towards her love affair with her costar, Mr. Sheezan Khan. The purpose of this research is to elaborate those factors, which causes psychological disturbance in the teenagers due to the disturbance in their love affairs and harsh breakups.*

### **Keywords:**

Loss in love, Sufferings of relationships, suicidal tragic death of a late teenager artist, religious conflicts and tensions in relationship, Factors causing the psychological disturbance after breakups and longing for love.

### **History of the Suicide Case:**

Incorporating **THE BBC News, Mumbai (6 January 2023)**- The alleged suicide of a television actress has been making headlines in India because of the circumstances surrounding her death and the arrest of her former boyfriend amid accusations of religious manipulation. Tunisha Sharma was found dead on 24 December in a toilet on the set of her show Alibaba - Dastaan-e-Kabul.. A day later, her co-star and former boyfriend Sheezan Khan was arrested by police after Sharma's mother accused him of "*abetment to suicide*" - which he denies.

Senior police official Chandrakant Jadhav has told reporters that Sharma took her own life, and that they are investigating what led her to do so. The 20-year-old's death has shocked India's

entertainment industry - she was a rising star and had a huge fan following on social media. Just hours before her death, she had posted a photo of herself on Instagram with the caption:

*"those who are driven by their passion doesn't [don't] stop".*



The post has more than **800,000** likes and thousands of comments, with fans expressing shock over her sudden death and wondering how a person who seemed "so positive could take such a drastic step". The tragic incident has been obsessively covered by the media, with the actress's life and relationships under the microscope. Live news pages have given minute-by-minute updates on every aspect of the police investigation. And everyone from Sharma's peers and friends to close family has been tapped for interviews, leading to a pool of stories rife with speculation and unverified claims.

After her family blamed Khan, her 28-year-old co-star from the show, for her death, he was arrested on 25 December and remains in judicial custody. The voyeuristic coverage in the media has also extended to Khan's life and his time in custody. It has continued despite warning from legal experts that intense media coverage around cases where all the facts are not known can hamper the investigation and be prejudicial towards the accused and disrespect the deceased. According to reports, Sharma and Khan had been dating for a few months but police say the couple had broken up 15 days before her death. They say the separation had put the actress under "*extreme stress*" and was suspected to have "*driven her over the edge*".

The police have questioned several people in connection with the case and also scanned several pages worth of WhatsApp chats between Sharma and Khan. They have also accused Khan of not co-operating with the investigation - an allegation the actor's lawyer has denied. The actor's bail plea is due to be heard on Saturday. His lawyer says he is innocent. Family members of Khan and Sharma have been sharing details with the media about the couple's relationship and have also been trading accusations against each other.

Sharma's mother, Vanita, has alleged that Khan cheated on her daughter and accused him of hitting her on set. She also said that she suspected her daughter had been **"murdered"** and accused Khan of not calling an ambulance immediately after finding her daughter's body. On Monday, Khan's sisters, his lawyer and mother addressed a press conference where they rejected all the allegations against him - that he took drugs, had affairs or assaulted Sharma.

They also levelled several allegations against Vanita Sharma, saying that her relations with her daughter were "strained", that she "controlled her [daughter's] life and finances". Sharma's family has denied "all the allegations" and said that they would respond in detail soon. Khan's sisters have also insisted that Sharma's depression was **"brought on by childhood trauma"** and that it had nothing to do with her break-up which they say was mutual and happened on a **"good note"**.

By Sharma's own accounts, she shared a close relationship with Khan and his family. A month before her death, she had posted a photograph with Khan on Instagram where she had called him **"the most beautiful Man in my life"**.

And in December, she shared photographs with one of Khan's sisters, describing her as

**"my favourite person"**.

The unrelenting focus on the tragedy is also partly due to the fact that Sharma was Hindu while Khan is Muslim. Although Mr. Jadhav, the police official, told ANI news agency that **"no religious angle had come to light"** during the investigation, Hindu right-wingers have insinuated that religion may have played a part in the death. Members of Hindu nationalist groups, including **India's governing BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**, have alleged that the case could have a "love jihad angle" - a term radical Hindu groups use to promote a baseless accusation that Muslim men are converting Hindu women by marriage.

BJP leader Girish Mahajan, who is a minister in the western state of Maharashtra, told ANI that such cases were "increasing" and the state government was considering a **"strict law against it"**. Sharma's family too alleged that she had begun wearing the hijab and had **"changed her lifestyle"** after she started dating Khan. A photograph of the actress wearing the hijab began circulating on social media soon after her death, sparking outrage among hardline Hindus. Khan's sister denied allegations that they had "forced" Sharma to wear the hijab and insisted that the picture was from the set of her show.

### Introduction:

Tunisha Sharma, who was the lead actress of the show *Ali Baba- Daastan e Kaabul*, committed suicide on December 24th, 2022. Tunisha, who was only 20 years old, was an established actress in the entertainment industry. She appeared in well-known TV shows such as *Ishq Subhan Allah*, *Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat*, and a few Bollywood films.

Tunisha was working recently on the sab television program "Ali baba: Dastaan e kaabul," alongside Sheezan Mohammed Khan.

Tunisha Sharma was born on January 4, 2002, in Chandigarh, India. She began acting at an early age and because of her talent and passion, she quickly rose to fame in the entertainment industry.

Tunisha Sharma made her acting debut in 2015 with the television show *Maharana Pratap*, playing the role of Chand Kanwar. She rose to fame with the show *Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat* on Colors TV where she portrayed Rajkumari Ahankara. She made her Bollywood debut in 2016 with the movie *Fitoor* where she played the younger version of Katrina Kaif.

In 2016, she portrayed Young Dia in *Baar Baar Dekho* and Mini in *Kahaani 2: Durga Rani Singh*. Sharma portrayed Mehtab Kaur in the 2017 motion picture *Sher-e-Punjab: Maharaja Ranjit Singh*.

After *Sher-e-Punjab*, Tunisha went back to the television industry. She played the role of Aadhya Verma in Colors TV's show *Internet Wala Love* from 2018 to 2019. She also had an appearance as Zara/Babli in *Ishq Subhan Allah* on Zee TV in 2019.

She appeared as ASP Aditi in season 2 of *Hero - Gayab Mode On* on SAB TV in 2021. In 2022, she costarred with Sheezan Mohammed Khan in the Sony SAB production *Ali Baba: Dastaan-E-Kabul*.

On December 24, Tunisha Sharma died by suicide in the afternoon on the set of *Ali Baba*. According to the police, the actress hanged herself in the makeup room of her costar, Sheezan Mohammed Khan. She was taken to the hospital and was declared DOA (Dead on Arrival).

### Literature Review:

Tunisha Sharma's last caption, "Those who are driven by their passion doesn't stop," has sparked a debate on the loss of love in relationships. This caption, posted before her suicidal murder mystery, raises questions about the intersection of passion, love, and relationships. This literature review will explore the theme of loss of love in relationships, using intertextual references to shed light on this complex issue.

Research has shown that the idea of eternal love is often an illusion (Swanson, 1998). Relationships are dynamic and subject to change, and the loss of love can be a painful and devastating experience. As psychologist Esther Perel notes, "Love is a dynamic, evolving, and often contradictory force" (Perel, 2017, p. 12). Tunisha Sharma's caption suggests that those driven by passion will continue

to pursue their desires, even in the face of adversity. However, this pursuit can often lead to heartbreak and loss.

While passion can be a powerful driving force in relationships, it can also have a dark side. Research has shown that intense passion can lead to obsessive and destructive behavior (Fisher, 2004). In the context of Tunisha Sharma's caption, it is possible to interpret her words as a reflection of her own obsessive passion, which ultimately led to her tragic demise.

The concept of love as a performance has been explored in various literary and theoretical works (Butler, 1990; Goffman, 1959). In the context of social media, love and relationships are often performed and curated for public consumption. Tunisha Sharma's caption can be seen as a performance of love and passion, which belies the complexities and challenges of her real-life relationships.

Tunisha Sharma's last caption raises important questions about the loss of love in relationships. Through intertextual references, this literature review has explored the themes of eternal love, the dark side of passion, and the performance of love. Ultimately, Tunisha Sharma's tragic story serves as a reminder of the complexities and challenges of love and relationships.

Konain, R. (2024), explores the study that how- Thousands of the people in the world suicide because of societal rejections, failure of love, financial depression & health issues every year. There, should be strong awareness regarding mental health issues among general public, so that people may consider the values and norms of relations with each other and to build a safe environment for everyone to live peacefully.

### **Research Methodology:**

The foremost aim and object of this research is to highlights the factors leading to psychological breakdown of teenagers after breakups, leading towards suicidal behavior through cheating in relationships, sudden breakups, to raise a voice against all mental health issues rising in youth which causes them to end up their lives by killing themselves, in the Lense of feminist and modern age perspective.

### **Discussion and Analysis:**

A meta-analysis of 20 manuscripts reporting on 21 unique studies (N = 19,623) was conducted to investigate the magnitude of the association between adolescent romantic relationship quality (RRQ), romantic relationship breakups (RRB) and mental health outcomes (i.e., depression, suicide ideation, deliberate self-harm, and suicide attempt). Potential moderators of these relationships were also explored. The sample included U.S. and non-U.S. adolescents (13–17 years old), and young adults (18–29 years old). Results indicated statistically significant but modest relationships between both RRQ and RRB and mental health, with the first showing a stronger association. There was some evidence suggesting this relationship may be stronger for women, but

no evidence it differed as a function of nationality or age. Additional research is needed to address the distinction between clinical and non-clinical populations on specific outcomes and to further explore the role of mental health outcomes as related to romantic relationship quality and breakups. Implications for practice include the need for (a) services to individuals emotionally affected by romantic relationships, (b) relationship quality psycho-education, and (c) screenings of individuals at risk due to low romantic relationship quality or recent relationship breakup, Mirsu-Paun, A., & Oliver, J. A. (2017).

Just as post-breakup strategies differ between the sexes, they may also differ by rejection status. To the extent that Rejectors and Rejectees have recurrently faced different adaptive problems after the end of a relationship, selection may have fashioned specific strategies for each context. If the Rejector is the initiator the breakup, the Rejectee should typically be regarded as lower in mate value. It follows that the Rejector may have some leverage over the Rejectee and this imbalance in power may lead to submissive expressions by the Rejectee in an attempt to retain or regain the Rejector. We predicted that (13) Rejectees, on average, would report displaying submissive gestures like crying, pleading and threatening to commit suicide more than Rejectors, Perilloux, C., & Buss, D. M. (2008).

From a feminist perspective, the psychological breakdown of teenage girls after breakups can be analyzed by considering the societal pressures that shape their understanding of relationships and self-worth. Traditional gender roles often place a disproportionate emphasis on a girl's romantic relationships as a measure of her value and desirability. This can lead to a heightened sense of loss and identity crisis when a relationship ends, as it challenges their perceived social standing and personal validation. The "princess narrative" and the idea of needing a romantic partner to feel complete are deeply ingrained, making breakups feel like a failure, not just of the relationship, but of their own inherent worth. Furthermore, the objectification and sexualization often prevalent in teenage culture can create a sense of vulnerability and insecurity, making the loss of a partner feel like a loss of control over their own body and identity.

In the modern age, the impact of technology and social media intensifies these issues. The constant exposure to idealized relationships and curated online personas can create unrealistic expectations and exacerbate feelings of inadequacy.

Social media platforms often become battlegrounds for post-breakup drama, with public displays of affection, "revenge posting," and constant monitoring of the ex-partner's activities. This digital landscape can prolong the grieving process and amplify feelings of jealousy, insecurity, and social isolation. Additionally, the increasing focus on individual autonomy and self-expression, while empowering in many ways, can also create a sense of pressure to **"bounce back"** quickly and appear unaffected by the breakup. This can lead to the suppression of genuine emotions and a lack of healthy processing, ultimately contributing to psychological distress. The modern emphasis on instant gratification and disposable relationships can also diminish the perceived value of

commitment and emotional investment, making breakups seem more trivial, even as they inflict deep emotional pain. Therefore, a modern feminist approach demands a critical examination of these cultural and technological factors, advocating for a shift towards healthy relationship models that prioritize mutual respect, emotional intelligence, and a strong sense of self-worth independent of romantic partnerships.

Tunisha Sharma's final Instagram post, a seemingly defiant declaration of unwavering passion, now echoes with a tragic irony, given the circumstances of her alleged suicide amidst accusations of emotional manipulation. This stark contrast between her online persona and the reported realities of her relationship has ignited a critical conversation about the destructive power of lost love and emotional abuse. Her case highlights the precarious balance many young individuals, particularly women, navigate between projecting an image of strength and concealing internal struggles. The digital age, with its curated realities, often masks the vulnerability that lies beneath, making it difficult to discern genuine passion from a desperate attempt to maintain appearances. The caption, intended as an affirmation of resilience, now underscores the potential for profound disconnect between online portrayal and lived experience.

The tragedy raises poignant questions about the nature of love and relationships in a society increasingly defined by fleeting connections and digital validation. Sharma's situation underscores the vulnerability of young women who may conflate romantic attachment with self-worth, making the loss of a relationship feel like a loss of identity. The accusations of emotional manipulation further complicate the narrative, forcing a broader examination of the subtle forms of abuse that often remain hidden behind closed doors. The public nature of her relationship and its subsequent breakdown, amplified by social media, likely exacerbated her emotional distress, transforming a personal crisis into a public spectacle. The relentless scrutiny and the pressure to maintain a facade of happiness can create an unbearable burden, particularly for those already grappling with emotional vulnerabilities.

Sharma's case also exposes the unique pressures faced by young women in the entertainment industry, where the lines between professional and personal lives are often blurred. The industry's emphasis on image and success can create a toxic environment where emotional well-being is often overlooked.

The loss of love, in this context, extends beyond romantic relationships, encompassing a disillusionment with the industry itself. Her death serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for a cultural shift that prioritizes emotional intelligence, healthy relationship dynamics, and mental health support. It necessitates a critical examination of the ways in which societal expectations, digital culture, and industry pressures contribute to the vulnerability of young women.

### Conclusion:

Tunisha Sharma's final Instagram caption, *"Those who are driven by their passion doesn't stop,"* now stands as a chilling testament to the tragic irony woven into her life's abrupt conclusion. The juxtaposition of this seemingly optimistic declaration against the backdrop of her alleged suicide, amidst swirling accusations of manipulation and emotional betrayal, has ignited a profound and necessary debate. This tragedy transcends the realm of mere celebrity gossip, becoming a stark and unsettling reflection of the anxieties and vulnerabilities that plague contemporary relationships, particularly for young women navigating the complexities of love and career in the public eye.

Sharma's case forces us to confront the insidious nature of emotional abuse and the devastating consequences of its unchecked presence within intimate relationships. In the age of social media, where curated personas often mask hidden realities, the facade of a passionate and driven individual can crumble under the weight of unseen emotional turmoil. The question of whether her death was a direct result of manipulative dynamics within her relationship, or a culmination of pre-existing vulnerabilities exacerbated by the breakup, remains a central point of contention. Regardless of the precise narrative, the tragedy underscores the urgent need for a societal shift in how we perceive and address emotional abuse. It necessitates a deeper understanding of the subtle ways in which power imbalances, gaslighting, and emotional manipulation can erode an individual's sense of self and agency.

Moreover, Sharma's death illuminates the unique pressures faced by young women in the entertainment industry. The constant scrutiny, the pressure to maintain a flawless public image, and the vulnerability inherent in navigating romantic relationships within a highly competitive and often exploitative environment can create a perfect storm of emotional vulnerability. The industry's culture, which often prioritizes rapid success and superficial connections, may inadvertently contribute to a climate where emotional well-being is overlooked, and the lines between professional and personal relationships become dangerously blurred. The loss of love, in this context, extends beyond the romantic sphere, encompassing a broader sense of disillusionment with the industry itself.

The digital age, with its relentless intrusion into personal lives, amplifies these anxieties. Social media, which can be a powerful tool for self-expression and connection, also becomes a breeding ground for public shaming, online harassment, and the relentless dissection of personal lives.

The constant exposure to idealized portrayals of love and success can create unrealistic expectations, further fueling feelings of inadequacy and despair when faced with the harsh realities of heartbreak. The public nature of Sharma's relationship and its subsequent breakdown, played out on social media platforms, likely intensified her emotional distress, transforming a private tragedy into a public spectacle.



In the wake of this tragedy, it is imperative that we move beyond sensationalized narratives and engage in a meaningful dialogue about the importance of emotional intelligence, healthy relationship dynamics, and the critical need for mental health support. We must cultivate a culture that prioritizes empathy, open communication, and the recognition of emotional abuse in its various forms. Educational initiatives aimed at empowering young people to identify and navigate toxic relationships are crucial. Furthermore, the entertainment industry must take responsibility for fostering a more supportive and ethical environment, one that prioritizes the well-being of its artists over the pursuit of fleeting fame.

Tunisha Sharma's final caption, now a haunting echo, serves as a poignant reminder that appearances can be deceiving, and that behind the veneer of passion and success, profound emotional vulnerabilities may lie hidden. Her death, a tragic confluence of lost love, alleged manipulation, and the pressures of a demanding industry, demands a collective reckoning. It calls for a society that is more attuned to the subtle signs of emotional distress, more willing to challenge toxic relationship dynamics, and more committed to creating a world where young women are empowered to pursue their passions without sacrificing their emotional well-being.

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