

Faculty of Nursing Students' Perception Regarding Sexual Assault and Their Expected Reaction to It

**Thesis
Submitted for Partial Fulfillment
of Master Degree in Nursing Sciences**

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Abstract

Domestic violence (DV) is recognized as the most pervasive form of violence against women and almost all countries in the world experience this scourge. Domestic violence is a pattern of assault and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion. Sexual assault prevention is a college health priority. **A descriptive** study design was used. **This study aimed** to assess perception of nursing students regarding sexual assault and their expected reaction to ward it. **The study was conducted at** faculty of nursing Ain Shams University. **One hundred ninety five nursing students** were recruited in the study through using **systematic simple random sample technique**. **Two tools** of data collection were used first was interviewing questionnaire sheet named "students knowledge regarding sexual assault and their expected reaction to ward it ", while second tool was personality trait assessment scale . **The result** of the study shows that ٢٧,٢%, ٦٢,١% and ١٠,٨% of students have complete, incomplete, and incorrect knowledge regarding all aspects of sexual assault respectively. Furthermore, ٦١,٠%, ٢٥,٦% , and ١٣,٣% of students' have positive, uncertain, and negative expected reaction regarding sexual assault as reported by them. While, there is a highly statistical significant difference between students' knowledge regarding sexual assault and their age, marital status, residence, and nature of uniform. Also, there is a highly statistical significant difference between students' expected reaction regarding sexual assault and their age, marital status, and residence. Finally, there is moderate positive correlation between students' personality traits and their reported reaction toward sexual assault. **Conclusion and recommendations:** the study concluded that nursing student had low level of knowledge regarding sexual assault. Based on the finding, the following the researcher recommended; Conduction of awareness secessions should be provided for all students at different academic level regarding sexual assault. Training student's about effective protective strategies against sexual assault to reduce its impact.

Key Ward: sexual assault, nursing student knowledge

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- **S.A** : Sexual assault.
 - **DV** : Domestic violence.
 - **SV** : Sexual violence.
 - **GT** : Global trends.
 - **WHO** : World Health Organization.
 - **TRSV** : Traumatic Responses to Sexual Violence.
 - **PTSD** : post traumatic stress disorder.
 - **RTS** : Rape trauma syndrome.
 - **RR-PTSD** : Rape-related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.
 - **HIV** : Human immune deficiency viruses.
 - **AIDS** : Acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
 - **SARTs** : Sexual assault response teams.
 - **RAD** : Rape Aggressive Defense.
 - **SANEs** : Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.
 - **SPSS** : statistical packedge for social science
 - **SGBN** : Sexual and Gender Based Violence
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Introduction

Sexual assault often refers to forced sexual contact, but this term is frequently used as an all encompassing descriptor for any type of unwanted sexual advances, include rape (*Jones & Bartlett, 2007*).

Recently, Egypt has witnessed the growing phenomenon of mobs of young men violently harassing women in public spaces during feast times. These incidents have involved hundreds of men trapping a handful of women in a closed circle, ripping their clothes off and touching their bodies, while law enforcement authorities have remained idle. Such incidents have become widespread over the past three years and require serious attention from the law enforcement authorities (*Veronique. & Valliere, 2007*).

The incidence of sexual assault recorded in Egypt at 2010 was 11,4% of women's. Also, 83% of Egyptian women's sexually assaulted and reported it .Moreover, 98% of foreign women's sexually assaulted in Egypt. While, 1306 a number of crime that reported in Egypt 2010 (*women rights center, 2011*).

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, among female victims of rape and sexual assault, 70 percent of the crimes were committed by intimates, other relatives, friends or acquaintances. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the average number of rapes and sexual assaults during 2011 and 2012 was 223,290 of which 81,310 crimes were rapes; 61,060 were attempted rapes, and 80,920 were sexual assaults .weapons were present in rapes and sexual assaults 11 percent of the time

Introduction and Aim of the Work

The available evidence suggests that sexual violence (SV) against women in Egypt is very widespread, occurs across all geographical areas, all social classes and against women of all ages. Yet, the vast majority of women confronted with such violence are unable or unwilling to seek help or protection from the state's ***authorities*** (***Bartol & Bartol, 2001***).

There are three levels of sexual assault; first level is simple sexual assault occurs when any form of sexual activity is forced on a person without that person's consent. Second level involving bodily harm,

Weapons or more than one assailant occurs when one person forces sexual activity on another using a weapon (real or imitation) or the threat of a weapon. Third level is aggravated sexual assault occurs when the victim is wounded, maimed, disfigured or when the victim's life is endangered (***Bonnar-Kidd, 1997***).

There are several types of rape, generally that categorized by reference to the situation in which it occurs, the sex or characteristics of the victim, and/or the sex or characteristics of the perpetrator. Different types of rape include but are not limited to: date rape, gang rape, marital rape or spousal rape, incestual rape, child sexual abuse, prison rape, acquaintance rape, war rape and statutory rape (***Bonnar-Kidd, 1997***).

There are many factors that contribute to the occurrence of sexual violence in our culture. Understanding these factors is the first step to prevention. Some factors contributing to sexual violence are the perpetrator has a sense of power, control, and entitlement. They use their violent behavior and power to control the victim. For a variety of reasons, they feel that they are entitled to treat the victim with no regard or respect (***Abbey, et al, 1999***).

Introduction and Aim of the Work

Sexual assault of any kind can result in a host of reactions some are immediate, some are long term. Victims of sexual assault will respond to an assault in different ways. Many factors can influence an individual's response to, and recovery from, sexual assault. These may depended on the victim's previous life experience ,the kind of force used, the age and developmental maturity of the victim; the social support network available to the victim; the victim's relationship to the offender; severity and duration of the assault(s); the setting of the attack; the level of violence and injury inflicted; the response by the criminal justice system; community attitudes and values; and the meaning attributed to the traumatic event by the sexual assault (*Donovan, 2007*).

Women face a variety of psychological issues due to the traumatic experience of being sexually assaulted as well as the societal stigmatization and self-blame. In addition, survivors experience diverse negative impacts of sexual assault; there is no list of typical "symptoms" they should exhibit. What is shared is that such impacts are profound, affecting the physical and mental health of victim/survivors, and their interpersonal relationships with family, friends, partners, colleagues and so on. More than this, the impacts of sexual assault go beyond the individual, to have a collective impact on the social wellbeing of our communities (*Roberts and Albert, 2004*).

Nurse has a vital role in sexual assault prevention education activities that take many forms, including public media campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the prevalence and dynamics of acquaintance sexual assault, consciousness-raising groups for men to explore their role in supporting sexually exploitative behavior, and peer educator presented role plays and workshops in residential buildings. Including training and prevention as part of overall

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response to sexual assault is imperative and is clearly a proactive and preventative response to sexual violence issues (***Anderson & Whiston, 2007***).

In addition to, developing programs that focus on both primary prevention for women who have not experienced sexual assault and secondary prevention in an effort to prevent re-victimization (***Littleton et al., 2007***).

Justification of Problem

There is mounting evidence that sexual assault is a common and reoccurring problem among college students. The physical and psychological effects of sexual assault can be devastating, and college students who are sexually assaulted may face impediments to academic and personal success (***Adams-Curtis & Forbes, 2007***).

Sexual assault is a public health and public safety problem with far-reaching implications. Although a substantial body of research on sexual assault exists, additional data are needed to help document the current magnitude of the problem, the extent to which certain subpopulations are impacted, the consequences and reporting or no reporting of victimization incidents, and strategies for preventing and reducing the risk of sexual assault and effectively responding to victims (***Maxwell, Robinson, & Post, 2007***).

The national sexual assault statistics show about 300,000 women are raped each year and 3.7 million women are subjected to other forms of unwanted sexual activity. It has been estimated that one in six American women have been or will be sexually assaulted during their lives (***Bonnar-Kidd, 2007***). In Egypt The incidence of rape and sexual assault against women is difficult to estimate, as only a small proportion of victims report such incidents to the police, or seek help

Introduction and Aim of the Work

from state services Milder forms of sexual assault are even more widespread. A survey carried out in ٢٠٠٨ found that ٨٣% of Egyptian women reported being exposed to sexual assault (*women rights center, ٢٠٠٨*).

Aim of the Study

To assess faculty nursing students' perception regard sexual assault and reaction towards it through:

- Assess faculty nursing students' knowledge regarding sexual assault
- Assess faculty nursing students' reaction towards sexual assault

Research Questions:

- What are faculty nursing students' knowledge regarding sexual assault?
- What are the reaction of faculty nursing students' towards sexual assault

Sexual assault

Sexual assault (S.A) is an act of aggression and violence motivated primarily by power or anger rather than by sexual gratification. Sexual assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature including touching, fondling, oral or anal sex, intercourse or other forms of penetration that is imposed on another person. This includes, but is not limited to, forced sexual intercourse, previously called rape. As is the case with all assaults, sexual assault occurs without the consent of the victim and is accompanied by force or the threat of force by act or gesture (*Humphrey et al, 2007*).

Domestic violence (DV) is a crime of power and intimidation. It relates highly to sexual assault. Not only can the abuse be emotional, physical, psychological, and financial, but it can be sexual. Some of the signs of sexual abuse are very similar to those of domestic violence (*Van Decherny et al, 2007*).

Sexual assault define legally as an umbrella term that includes, at least, rape, attempted rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It involves “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic a person’s sexuality, using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of relationship to the survivor, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work” (*Kyoon, 2007*).

Milder forms of sexual assault are even more widespread. A survey carried out in 2008 found that 83% of Egyptian women and 98% of foreign women reported being exposed to sexual assault in the street, out of which more than half on a daily basis. This sexual assault was reported to occur at all times of the day and night, against women of all ages, all economic backgrounds and against women dressed conservatively as well
