

ABSTRACT

Sexual harassment in Thailand, like in many countries across the world, has often been underreported in the media. Some incidents have been presented as scandals rather than an issue that needs attention.

This research aimed to survey the prevalence of sexual harassment and its negative effect, and to identify the perpetrators. The respondents of this study were 394 undergraduate female students at Thammasat University. The self-administered questionnaire based on literature reviews of the sexual harassments was used as a tool of data collection. The respondents were included in the study by accidental sampling procedure to respond to the questionnaire. The SPSS was used to analyse the data. Descriptive statistics were used to describe characteristics of sexual harassment, as well as the perpetrators.

The research findings revealed the prevalence of sexual harassment among undergraduate female students. 85% of respondents experienced at least one type of sexual harassment; all types of sexual harassment: verbal, non-verbal, sexual bribery, threat, and sexual coercion, were accepted as their experience. Most of respondents identified the students as the perpetrators which could be described as peer harassment. 64% of the sexual harassment victims felt uncomfortable or strained. Moreover, some respondents' expressed their concern about the problem and suggested that it should be solved by setting regulations/measures to protect the female students from sexual harassment, and campaigning to raise awareness on the issue.

The results of this research reflected quite a high prevalence of sexual harassment in the campus that might call for attention from many parties, such as university, ministry of education and ministry of cultural development to deal with this issue.

To raise awareness on this issue, more research with a large sampling size should be conducted to investigate the magnitude of the problem.