

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

This chapter reports the results of the research questionnaire on survey of sexual harassment among undergraduate female students at Thammasat University. SPSS was used to analyze data bases on the questionnaire responded to by 394 students. The results of this chapter is divided into 7 parts as follows: 1) the students' year of study, 2) the prevalence of sexual harassment among the respondents, 3) the six types of sexual harassment, 4) the perpetrator profile, 5) the negative effects of sexual harassment reported by the victims of harassment, 6) the prevalence of sexual harassment among the respondents' friends, 7) respondents' opinions, and 8) conclusion.

4.1 STUDENTS' YEAR OF STUDY

The students' year of study of 394 respondents are shown in Table 1. 141 (35.8%) were the third year students. 105 (26.6%) were the fourth year students. 82 (20.8%) were the first year students and 66 (16.8%) were the second year students.

Table 2. Students' Year of Study

Respondents	no.	(%)
1 st year	82	20.8
2 nd year	66	16.8
3 rd year	141	35.8
4 th year	105	26.6
Total	394	100.0

4.2 PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The sexual harassment reported in this research is divided into six types as follows: 1) verbal harassment, 2) non-verbal harassment, 3) physical harassment, 4) sexual bribery or quid pro quo, 5) threat of physical abuse or blackmail for sexual relationships, and 6) sexual coercion. To know the prevalence of the sexual

harassment, the respondents were asked whether they experienced these types of sexual harassment.

Table 2 shows the prevalence of sexual harassment among the undergraduate female students at Thammasat University. The majority of respondents, 334 (84.8%), experienced at least one type of sexual harassment as mentioned above. 60 (15.2%) had no experience of sexual harassment.

Table 3. Prevalence of Sexual Harassment among Undergraduate Female Students

Respondents	no.	(%)
Experienced at least one type of sexual harassment	334	84.8
No experienced any type of sexual harassment	60	15.2
Total	394	100.0

4.3 SIX TYPES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This item shows the prevalence of each type of sexual harassment among undergraduate female students. For each type of sexual harassment, at least one characteristic of harassment behaviour was described for the respondent's recognition, and one respondent could experience more than one behavior of each type. Table 3 shows the prevalence of six types of sexual harassment. 291 (73.9%) were verbal harassed. 240 (61.1%) experienced non-verbal harassment. 170 (43.4%) were the victims of physical harassment. 11 (2.8%) had been faced with sexual bribery. 5 (1.3%) had faced the threat of physical abuse or blackmail for sexual relationship, and 9 (2.3%) were forced to have sexual intercourse.

4.3.1 Verbal Harassment

The verbal harassment of this study could be described in 3 ways: 1) listening to a dirty joke or sexual rude story, 2) facing unwanted figure comments, and 3) experiencing verbal invitations of sexual intercourse. 192 (48.9%) reported that they had to listen to a dirty joke or sexual rude story or had been asked to talk about a sexual story which they did not want to participate in. 245 (62.2%) were abused by unwanted sexual comments on their figure such as too small breast, too big

breast, big buttocks etc. and 101 (25.8%) experienced unwanted verbal invitations to have sexual intercourse.

4.3.2 Non-Verbal Harassment

Non-verbal harassment of this study presented is through 3 behaviors. The first behavior was unwanted sexual looking of limbs which made the respondents feel uncomfortable. The second behavior was repeated or improper invitation to go out on date which annoyed the respondents. The last behavior could be defined as a sexual gesture which made the respondents feel frustrated or embarrassed. 207 (53.2%) faced unwanted sexual looking at limbs such as face, breast, hips etc. 88 (22.4%) were annoyed by repeated invitations to go out on date. 95 (24.2%) faced sexual gestures such as sending a kiss or showing a sex symbol.

4.3.3 Physical Harassment

Physical harassment was defined as unwanted physical closeness or touching, which the respondents felt was a sexual harassment. 142 (37.1%) were touched on limb or body such as hand, arm, shoulder, cheek etc. 90 (23.0%) felt that they were harassed by physical closeness, blocking or cornering. 29 (7.4%) were sexually harassed by hugging, kissing or touching of breast or buttock.

4.3.4 Sexual Bribery

Sexual Bribery was described in 2 behaviors. The first one was an offer of good job, good grade or money in return for sexual cooperation. The other was an offer of help with a bad situation or punishment. 9 (2.3%) had experienced the offer of good job, good grad or money in return for sexual cooperation. 5 (1.3%) had experienced the offer of help in a bad situation or punishment.

4.3.5 Threat of Physical Abuse or Blackmail for Sexual Relationships

Sexual threatening in this study was defined as the threat of physical abuse and disgrace. 4 (1.3%) of the respondent expressed that they were faced with a threat of physical abuse or disgrace when they rejected dating, touching, kissing, hugging or having sexual intercourse.

4.3.6 Sexual Coercion

Sexual coercion was an extreme form of sexual harassment in this research, and it could be considered as a rape or rape attempt. 9 (2.3%) of the respondents had experienced such sexual coercion.

Table 4. The Prevalence of Six Types of Sexual Harassment

	YES	NO	TOTAL
	no. (%)	no. (%)	no. (%)
1. <u>Verbal Harassment</u> : experienced at least one character of the below behaviors.	<u>291</u> <u>73.9</u>	<u>103</u> <u>26.1</u>	<u>394</u> <u>100.0</u>
1.1 Have you ever listened to a dirty joke, sexual rude story or been asked to talk about a sexual story which you did not want to disclose?	192 48.9	201 51.1	393 100.0
1.2 Have you ever been abused by unwanted sexual comments about your figure such as too small breast, big breast, big buttocks etc?	245 62.2	149 37.8	394 100.0
1.3 Have you ever been verbally invited to have sexual intercourse, example, someone told you that due to your sexy figure, he wants to make love with you?	101 25.8	291 74.2	392 100.0
2. <u>Non-Verbal Harassment</u> : experienced at least one character of below behaviors.	<u>240</u> <u>61.1</u>	<u>154</u> <u>38.9</u>	<u>394</u> <u>100.0</u>
2.1 Have you ever been observed sexually such as, watching breast, hip, face etc. which made you feel uncomfortable?	209 53.2	184 46.8	393 100.0

(table continued)

Table 4. (Continued)

	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	no.	(%)	no.	(%)	no.	(%)
2.2 Have you ever been annoyed by repeated invitations to go out on dates although you had been denying this?	88	22.4	305	77.6	393	100.0
2.3 Have you ever faced sexual gestures which made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or fear such as sending you a kiss or showing a sex symbol?	95	24.2	297	75.8	392	100.0
3. <u>Physical Harassment</u> : experienced at least one aspect of the below behaviors.	<u>170</u>	<u>43.4</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>56.6</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>100.0</u>
3.1 Have you ever been touched on limbs or body which made you feel unhappy?	142	37.1	241	62.9	383	100.0
3.2 Have you ever felt that you were sexual abused by physical closeness, cornering or blocking?	90	23.0	301	77.0	391	100.0
3.3 Have you ever been hugged, kissed, touched on the breast or buttock, when you did not want the incident?	29	7.4	361	92.6	390	100.0
4. <u>Sexual Bribery</u> : experienced at least one character of the below behaviors.	<u>11</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>97.2</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>100.0</u>

(table continued)

Table 4. (Continued)

	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	no.	(%)	no.	(%)	no.	(%)
4.1 Have you ever been offered a reward in turn for sexual cooperation, such as good job, good grade, money etc?	9	2.3	383	97.7	392	100.0
4.2 Have you ever been offered assistance with a bad situation or a punishment in turn for sexual cooperation?	5	1.3	388	98.7	393	100.0
5. <u>Experienced Threat</u> : have you ever experienced the threat of physical abuse or blackmail for a sexual relationship, such as dating, touching, kissing, hugging or having sexual intercourse?	<u>5</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>98.7</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>100.0</u>
6. <u>Experienced Sexual Coercion</u> : have you ever been forced to have sexual intercourse by use of physical force or a weapon?	<u>9</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>97.7</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>100.0</u>

4.4 PERPETRATOR PROFILE

To find out the perpetrator profile of sexual harassment, the respondents experiencing each type were asked to identify the abusers. Table 4 shows the perpetrator profile of each type of sexual harassment reported by the victims.

252 respondents, the majority of verbal harassment victims, reported other students were the perpetrators. 5 informed that lecturers, officials and labor workers were abusers. Only 1 reported a guard was an abuser.

155 victims of non-verbal harassment identified the students as the perpetrators. 38 identified officials as the perpetrators. 15 reported that the

perpetrators were labor workers. 13 said the abusers were guards, and 4 were verbally harassed by the lecturers.

123 respondents who had experienced physical harassment reported that students were perpetrators. 14 indicated that officials were abusers. 2 reported that the abusers were lecturers. 1 respondent reported that a guard in the university was an abuser. 1 respondent was abused by a labor worker in the university.

4 respondents had experienced sexual bribery, reporting the perpetrators were students, and 2 identified lecturers as the perpetrators. 2 victims of threat or blackmail identified students as the perpetrators, and only 1 identified a lecturer as the perpetrator. 8 victims of sexual coercion reported they were abused by other students.

Table 5. Perpetrator Profile Identified by Sexual Harassment Victims

	Perpetrator Profile				
	Students	Lecturers	Official	Laborers	Guards
1. Verbal harassment	252	5	5	5	1
2. Non-verbal harassment	155	4	38	15	13
3. Physical harassment	123	2	14	1	1
4. Sexual bribery	4	2	-	-	-
5. Threat	2	1	-	-	-
6. Sexual coercion	8	-	-	-	-

4.5 NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The respondents experiencing sexual harassment were asked to identify symptoms caused by the sexual harassment. Table 5 shows the negative effects of sexual harassment. 175 (63.9%) respondents felt uncomfortable and strained, 51 (18.8%) felt lost confidence, 45 (16.5%) felt lost concentrate on study and doing activities, 23 (8.4%) felt anxious and it caused them to be sick, 22 (8.1%) felt discouraged and powerless, 17 (6.3%) felt embarrassed or guilty, 14 (5.2%) did not want to go to the university, 11 (4.1%) wanted to move to a new university and felt

that they had low performance on study, 4 (1.5%) though about self-punishment or committing suicide.

Table 6. Negative Effects of Sexual Harassment

	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	no. (%)		no. (%)		no. (%)	
1. Felt uncomfortable or strained	175	63.9	99	36.1	274	100.0
2. Felt lost confidence or reluctant to join activities or groups	51	18.8	220	81.2	271	100.0
3. Felt lost concentrate on study or doing activities	45	16.5	228	83.5	273	100.0
4. Felt anxious and it caused sickness, headache, stomachache etc.	23	8.4	251	91.6	274	100.0
5. Felt discouraged	22	8.1	250	91.9	272	100.0
6. Felt embarrassed or guilty	17	6.3	254	93.7	271	100.0
7. Didn't want to go to the university or felt isolation	14	5.2	257	94.8	271	100.0
8. Used to think about moving to a new university	11	4.1	260	95.9	271	100.0
9. Felt low performance on study or doing activities	11	4.0	261	96.0	272	100.0
10. Thinking about self-punishment or committing suicide	4	1.5	267	98.5	271	100.0

4.6 PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPERIENCED AMONG THE RESPONDENTS' FRIENDS

To find out the prevalence of sexual harassment among the respondents' friends, the respondents were asked whether they knew other female students who had personally experienced some types of sexual harassment. Table 6 shows the

prevalence of sexual harassment experienced by other female students. 251 (66.4%) said they knew other female students who had experienced some types of sexual harassment. 193 (51.1%) reported other female students were non-verbally harassed. 172 (45.6%) knew of other female students who experienced verbal harassment. 116 (30.7%) knew other female students experiencing physical harassment, 20 (5.3%) knew the other female students who had experienced an offer of good job, good grade or money. 10 (2.6%) knew other female students forced to have sexual intercourse. 8 (2.1%) knew other female students who had experienced threat or blackmail due to their refusing sexual relationships. 6 (1.6%) knew of other female students who had experienced an offer of help in bad situations or punishment.

Table 7. The Prevalence of Sexual Harassment among Other Female Students Whom the Respondents Know Personally

	YES		NO		Total
	no. (%)		no. (%)		no. (%)
<i>Question: "Do you know other female students who have personally experienced the incidents below?"</i>	251	66.4	127	33.6	378 100.0
1. Experienced sexual looking at limbs or body which made them feel unhappy, frustrated or fearful.	193	51.1	185	49.9	378 100.0
2. Experienced listening to a dirty joke, getting unwanted comments on figure, or be annoyed by an improper flirtation.	172	45.6	205	54.4	377 100.0
3. Experienced touching of limbs or body which made them feel they were sexual harassed.	116	30.7	262	69.3	378 100.0

(table continued)

Table 7. (Continued)

	YES		NO		Total	
	no.	(%)	no.	(%)	no.	(%)
4. Experienced an offer of good job, good grade or money etc. in turn for sexual cooperation.	20	5.3	357	94.7	377	100.0
5. Experienced sexual coercion by physical force or weapon.	10	2.6	368	97.4	378	100.0
6. Experienced the threat of physical abuse or blackmail for sexual relationships.	8	2.1	370	97.9	378	100.0
7. Experienced an offer of help in a bad situation or punishment	6	1.6	372	98.4	378	100.0

4.7 RESPONDENTS' OPINIONS

Table 7 shows 21 respondents' opinions which could be grouped in to 3 main aspects: the prevention and protection of sexual harassment, the negative feeling to sexual harassment, and the strong punishment of sexual harassment. 12 respondents suggested that the university should create some measures to protect and prevent the students from sexual harassment; 5 respondents were concerned about the sexual harassment as a serious problem, and 3 respondents requested a strong punishment setting for the perpetrators.

Table 8. Respondent's Opinions about Sexual Harassment

Respondents' opinions	no.
1. Develop some measures or regulations to protect and prevent the students from sexual harassment such as campaigns to raise awareness on sexual harassment, regulations to protect sexual harassment in the university and self-protection of women.	12

(table continued)

Table 8. (Continued)

Respondents' opinions	no.
<u>Examples of respondents' opinions</u>	
<i>"University should have some effective measures or regulations to protect female students from sexual harassment."</i>	
<i>"Sexual Harassment is a serious problem and it should not happen in the university then we should have some measures to prevent the students."</i>	
<i>"In the present, there are many types of sexual harassment; It should have a campaign on sexual harassment to raise awareness of people in the society."</i>	
<i>"To prevent from the sexual harassment, women should have some weapon to protect themselves from the perpetrator."</i>	
<i>"It should have some measures and women should have proper dressing."</i>	
2. Concern about the sexual harassment as serious problem.	5
<u>Examples of respondents' opinions</u>	
<i>"In general, students dressing improper way were a target group of sexual looking of limbs and body. Although I was in a proper dressing, I was sexual harassed while sitting at cafeteria near the faculty of economy."</i>	
<i>"Sexual harassment may be a funny thing for someone's attitude, but for the victims, they never like such thing."</i>	
<i>"Non-verbal harassment is a normal incident of the society that I could not prosecute or take any action to the perpetrators, so I tried to avoid from them and reviled them in my mind."</i>	
<i>"Education in the university did not improve mentality of students; there were some group of male students verbal harassed female students."</i>	
(table continued)	

Table 8. (Continued)

Respondents' opinions	no.
<i>"It is a bad thing when experiencing in the sexual harassment, not only they were physical abused but also mentality."</i>	
3. Set up a strong punishment to the perpetrators.	4
<u>Examples of respondents' opinions</u>	
<i>"It should set a strong punishment for the perpetrator. Sexual harassment can become a serious problem."</i>	
<i>"The perpetrators should be punished to stop their sexual harassment behaviors."</i>	
<i>"The perpetrators should be executed and their penis should be cut."</i>	
Total	21

4.8 CONCLUSION

The research finding shows sexual harassment incidents were prevalent in the university. There was high percentage of the prevalence of sexual harassment both among respondents and among their friends. The majority of respondents (85%) had direct experience of at least one type of sexual harassment. Verbal, non-verbal and physical harassment were the first-three types which around 44-74% of the respondents had faced. 11 students experienced sexual bribery. 5 students experienced threat of physical abuse or blackmail, and 9 students experienced sexual coercion. The prevalence of sexual harassment among other female students was reported. 66% of the respondents revealed sexual harassment incidents also occurred among other female students whom they knew personally. For the negative effects of sexual harassment, the respondents who had direct experience in sexual harassment accepted they got negative effects of the sexual harassment: 64% felt uncomfortable or strained, 19% felt lost confidence or were reluctant to join activities or groups, 17% felt they lost concentration on study or doing activities. For the perpetrator profile, the most frequent victims of each type identified students as abusers. For

respondent's opinions, 21 respondents expressed their opinions which could be grouped into 3 aspects: asking for some measures or regulations to prevent and protect students from sexual harassment, expressing negative feelings on sexual harassment, and supporting strong punishment of the perpetrators. This finding of the study will be summarized and discussed in the next chapter.