

**4037457 SHPE/M : MAJOR : POPULATION EDUCATION ; M.Ed .**

**( POPULATION EDUCATION )**

**KEY WORDS : DEGREE OF VIOLENCE / RAPE / YOUNG OFFENDERS**

**SUCHITRA LUENGWATTANANUNTH : THE PRINCIPAL  
FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEGREE OF VIOLENCE IN SEXUAL  
ASSAULTS BY YOUNG OFFENDERS. THESIS ADVISORS : CHAIWAT  
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The purpose of this research was to research the degree of violence in rape crimes and the factors related to them. The sample population was 385 offenders of sexual assaults in the Central Correctional Institution for Young Offenders aged 18 to 25. Questionnaires were used as a research instrument to collect the data. Statistics used in analyzing the data in this research are frequency, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and the stepwise multiple regression techniques. The researcher also conducted 10 in-depth interviews in order to understand the phenomena of the degree of violence in rape.

The quantitative research found that the majority of the sample population assaulted in a minimum degree of violence about 66.8 percent. The outside places, self-control, and motives are positively related to the degree of violence in rape. The relationship between offenders and victims is a negative factor. Outside places represents the most related variable in the degree of violence in rape. All 4 factors were capable of forecasting 20.4 percent of degree of violence in rape. According to the qualitative research, degree of violence in rape was related to the relationship between the offenders and the victims. If the victims defended themselves against the offenders, there was a higher degree of violence. The other relevant factors are places and timing. Most offenders interviewed reported that their increase in negative behavior originated with fighting, use of cigarettes, alcohol leading to narcotics. They felt these behaviors may have led to the rape offense. Friendship is the most influential factor in the sexual perception of the sample population and this factor leads to the misunderstandings about sex.

In conclusion, the research findings indicated the freedom between men women, timing, and places are the most important factors related to the safety of the women. These findings can be used as information in developing the quality of life in the society. The responsible departments should initiate campaigns promoting appropriate sexual behavior.