

The study : "Societal reaction to the raped victims: The case of university students" has two main objectives : First, to study the relationship between social background variables such as sex, race, residence etc. and societal reaction to the raped victims. And second, to construct and test a causal model of societal reaction to the raped victims. In this research, social rejection was used as an indicator of societal reaction.

A sample of 334 university students was drawn from three universities in Bangkok. Questionnaires were employed for data collection.

The relationship between sex and social rejection of the raped victims was statistically significant. But no statistically significant relationships were found between the other social background variables and the dependent variable related with.

The causal model was composed of 8 concepts : (1) social rejection of the raped victims (2) importance of sexual matter to women reputation (3) premarital sexual permissiveness (4) sexual equality (5) close friends' rejection of the raped victims (6) premarital sexual permissiveness of close friends (7) extramarital sexual permissiveness and (8) attribution of causality and responsibility to the victims. In the process of reliability and validity testing, sexual equality was divided into sexual equality in socio-economic matters and sexual behavior equality.

The socio-economic dimension of sexual equality, close friends' rejection of the raped victims and the attribution of causality and

responsibility to the victims were three variables that had direct effect upon social rejection of the raped victims. Sexual equality in socio-economic matter had the strongest effect and the weakest one was the attribution of causality and responsibility to the victims. In addition, sexual equality in socio-economic matters also had an indirect effect on the dependent variable through the attribution of causality and responsibility to the victims. In conclusion, the causal model could explain 20.63 percent of the total variance in social rejection of the raped victims.

Because of a statistically significant relationship between sex and social rejection of the raped victims was found, the causal model then was repeatedly tested. For the male subsample the result was similar to the whole sample. However for female subsample, attribution of causality and responsibility to the victims had no effect on the social rejection to the raped victims while importance of sexual matter to women reputation did. Additionally, indirect effects of both sexual equality variables through importance of sexual matter to women reputation were found.

It was concluded that the model could explain more variance of social rejection of the raped victims in the case of the female subsample than the male subsample.