

# ATTITUDES OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, SUAN SUNANDHA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY, TOWARDS SEXUAL HARASSMENT BEHAVIORS, THAILAND

**Phanee Rojanabengjakun<sup>1</sup>, Jatuporn Ounprasertsuk<sup>2</sup>, Pongsak Jareanngamsamear<sup>3</sup>,  
Tipvarin Benjanirat<sup>4</sup>, Roongtawan Muangmoon<sup>5</sup>, Jirawat Sudsawat<sup>6</sup>  
and Pantira Chanmanee<sup>7</sup>**

*College of Allied Health Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University,  
Samut Songkram Campus, Thailand  
E-mail: phanee.ro@ssru.ac.th*

## ABSTRACT

A study on students' perspectives and opinions in the College of Allied Health Sciences at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University addresses sexual harassment issues. The objectives were to study: 1) The primary aim is to examine the opinions of students about sexual harassment. 2) To evaluate the extent to which cognitive factors are involved, understanding sexual harassment and behavior 3) to investigate the relationship between individual characteristics and students' perspectives on sexual harassment conduct; the sample size is 278. The research findings revealed that a significant majority, specifically 71 percent, consisted of females who were in the age range of 19-20 years. Furthermore, these individuals were identified as 2nd-3rd year students in the Community Health program. 1) The researchers discovered students' overall attitudes toward sexual harassment behavior. The overall results were of moderate magnitude. 2) Level of knowledge factor: an analysis of sexual harassment behavior revealed that 79.0% of individuals exhibited a high level of understanding in this area. 3) Correlation between individual characteristics and students' attitudes towards sexual harassment conduct. There was a negative correlation between age and the occurrence of sexual harassment among individuals who experienced it due to their attire.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, Sexual Harassment, Behaviors, Sexual Expression

## INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment is a prevalent issue in today's society. Whether it is inside educational institutions or other organizations, those in positions of authority typically take advantage of this gap to influence those under their control. The necessary knowledge and skills to safeguard oneself from becoming a victim of sexual harassment, regardless of gender (Turan et al., 2011). According to Rujan and Ha Rueansong (2021), it causes both physical and emotional discomfort. Additionally, in the digital era, when anybody can have access to it, threatening conduct can arise effortlessly (Oguz Polat & Zeynep Reva, 2021). Alternatively, one might adhere to legal protocols and formally document the incident as prescribed by the law (Sriraksa, 2018). Individuals who have experienced injustice should refrain from identifying themselves as "victims" and instead assert their problems. To provide punishment, one must appear and address the perpetrators. Additionally, it aids society in proactively stopping offenders from inflicting harm on others. Therefore, we must prioritize law enforcement and

discipline within educational institutions (Suksupee & Noichan, 2020) and provide training in self-care skills to ensure safety. According to a study, self-protection is a key factor. (Ngampunya and Sawangwong, 2019). So, the researcher will find out the objectives: 1) The primary aim is to examine the opinions of students about sexual harassment. 2) To evaluate the extent to which cognitive factors are involved, understanding sexual harassment and behavior 3) to investigate the relationship between individual characteristics and students' perspectives on sexual harassment.

### **OBJECTIVE**

1. The primary aim is to examine the opinions of students about sexual harassment.
2. To evaluate the extent to which cognitive factors are involved, understanding sexual harassment and behavior.
3. To investigate the relationship between individual characteristics and students' perspectives on sexual harassment.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

An investigation into the opinions and beliefs of students is needed to address issues related to sexual harassment. The researcher conducted a thorough examination of relevant articles, theories, and research, including theories and concepts related to attitudes, behaviors, and sexual harassment. Used for the development of a theoretical framework to guide research. Attitude, in essence, encompasses an individual's cognition, understanding, and emotions towards a particular subject. The outcome of a stimulus or setting often induces a response from an individual, and they behave towards that object in a manner that either upholds or opposes it. (Digital School Thailand, 2021). An individual's behavior reflects their subconscious mind. An individual's behavior is a reflection of their subconscious mind. Factors of Attitude Features Psychological disposition is defined as the mindset that leads to motivated actions. There are both favorable and unfavorable aspects; once this occurs, altering it becomes exceedingly difficult. (Shaw & Wright, 1967). This has a significant impact on an individual's cognitive processes, feelings, and the wider community. The violations committed by the oppressors instill fear and have a negative effect on the process of making decisions. (Thipsing and Chalakbang, 2020). Learn how to prevent sexual harassment and what to do if it becomes a problem. So, should prepare you will be to defend yourself against unwanted behaviors. (Balick, 2010). So, the analysis of it reveals as a conceptual framework as follows:

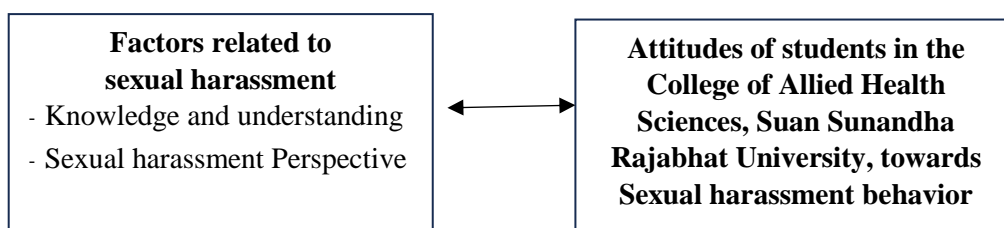


FIGURE 1 Conceptual framework :Attitudes of students in the College of Allied Health Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, towards sexual harassment Behaviors

## METHODOLOGY

The study focuses on students' opinions and beliefs and addresses sexual harassment-related issues. This is a form of study that involves conducting surveys to collect data. To compare personal aspects such as gender, age, and level of study (ranging from 1st year to 4th year) with the entire curriculum of the College of Allied Health Sciences at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, we used a sampling method known as proportionate random sampling with a sample size of 278. The study involved three main components: 1) gathering personal information such as gender, age, academic year, and program; 2) focusing on the individual's knowledge and comprehension of sexual harassment conduct; 3) administering a questionnaire to gather general opinions; and 4) involving using correlation analysis, which also employs Pearson correlation statistics. We determined the content's IOC value to be 0.74 and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient to be 0.74. This research project involves conducting a statistical analysis of the data.

## FINDINGS

Part 1: To find the personal factors, 70.50 percent of the individuals were female, and their age ranged between 19 and 20 years. 76.6 percent were first-year students, followed by 39.21 percent who were third-year students. Most of the individuals majored in various fields. The field of public health accounted for 35.25 percent, while public health and health promotion accounted for 26.98 percent.

Part 2: Knowledge Analysis Results Understanding sexual harassment behavior. The study revealed that the respondents most accurately answered three items: criticizing body proportions, flirting, harassing, and typing sexual messages. The sample incorrectly answered the top 3 items: voyeuristic gaze, non-consensual physical contact, and sending obscene pictures or videos.

Part 3: There was a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 1.05 and a standard deviation (S.D.) of 92.63, which was at a low level. When analyzing the data for each item, it was found that the highest mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) was Sexual harassment typically originates from a close acquaintance. Close acquaintances (SA) typically initiate sexual harassment, followed by individuals who have experienced it. There will be instances of altered behavior compared to the past. (VS), respectively.

Part 4: The analysis results found that the victim of sexual harassment due to clothing (SC) has a positive relationship with their level of education (LV). Most people in society tend to blame victims of sexual harassment (RS). The majority of sex occurred with someone close to you (SA), with correlation coefficients of 0.128 and 0.126. The statistical significance level of 0.05 does not link the field of study with sexual harassment. The correlation coefficient of 0.14, which is very small, indicates a negative relationship between sexual harassment and victimization due to dress (SC). In Thai society (SH), sexual harassment is considered inappropriate. It has a negative relationship with being sexually harassed by those who are harassed due to the way they dress (SC) and talk about obscene stories. Public indecency is not sexual harassment (SS), with correlation coefficients of -0.155 and -0.126 of very small magnitude.

**Part 4 Table 2** Correlation analysis also employs Pearson correlation statistics

Factors	SO	SH	SC	SS	RS	WS	SA	VA	US
SO	1								
SH	.727**	1							
SC	-.141*	-.105*	1						
SS	-.181**	-.126*	.743**	1					
RS	.715**	.686**	-.244**	-.201**	1				
WS	.687**	.784**	-.220**	-.221**	.784**	1			
SA	.661**	.656**	-.362**	-.306**	.794**	.741**	1		
VA	.716**	.760**	-.250**	-.228**	.779**	.776**	.795**	1	
US	.630**	.738**	-.250**	-.239**	.738**	.754**	.769**	.797**	1

\*Confidence level at 0.5

## CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The level of knowledge is a factor. An analysis of sexual harassment behavior revealed that 79.0% of individuals exhibited a high level of understanding in this area. The majority of instances of sexual harassment happened to those who were in close proximity to the victims, with the highest average being 1.34, followed by victims of sexual harassment themselves. A shift in behavior will occur, with an average rate of 1.24 that differs from previous patterns. However, the majority of individuals in society remain unaware of the issue of sexual harassment. Secondly, it is important to note that attributing blame for sexual harassment to the victim based on their clothes is inappropriate, and discussing sexual stories related to Oguz Polat and Zeynep Reva (2021), who informed that anybody can have access to sexual stories that are the outcome of a stimulus concerned (Digital School Thailand, 2021). Then, the mindset of attitude features psychological disposition is defined to lead to motivated actions as per the scales for the Measurement of Shaw & Wright (1967). As a result, the violations committed by the oppressors instill fear and have a negative effect on the process of making decisions aligned with Wichiansak Thipsing and Wannika Chalakbang (2020). To focus on the law to provide punishment, one must appear and address the perpetrators connected with Thipawan Sriraksa (2018) about public obscenity and sexual harassment, which are distinct offenses at a low level. The more you know about and understand sexual harassment behavior, the better prepared you will be to defend yourself against unwanted behaviors, in line with Balick (2010). The study found a negative correlation between individual characteristics and students' attitudes towards sexual harassment conduct and negatively related to conflict management with Jatuporn Ounprasertsuk (2020). Specifically, individuals who experienced sexual harassment due to their attire were more likely to be older.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author would like to express his gratitude to Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand, for financial support, colleagues at the College of Allied Health Sciences, Samut Songkhram Campus, Thailand for their support. Corresponding author: Phannee Rojanabenjakun, E-mail: phannee.ro@ssru.ac.th

## REFERENCES

- Balick, D. (2010). Harassment Free Hallways: How to Stop Sexual Harassment in School. Washington D.C.:American Association of University Women Educational Foundation.
- Digital School Thailand. (2021). Attitude. Retrived from [http://www.digitalschool.club/digital-school/health4-6/health5\\_1/lesson7/7\\_1.php](http://www.digitalschool.club/digital-school/health4-6/health5_1/lesson7/7_1.php).
- Ngampunya, P. and Sawangwong, B. (2019). Behavioral Self-Defense in Drugs of Students at Faculty.
- Ounprasertsuk, J. (2020). The Big Five Personality and Conflict Management Style of Students: A Case Study Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Ramphaibarni Research Journal, Volume 14, Issue 2, May - August 2020.
- Oguz Polat & Zeynep Reva. (2021). Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors of University Students Regarding the Harassment on Social Media in Turkey. International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE) Volume 8, Issue 10, October 2021, PP 42-52.
- Rujan, Ha Ruean Song. (2021). Social change: social problems. Retrieved from <http://pikul.sw2.ac.th/images/user/root/soc31101/4soc.pdf>.
- Shaw, M.E., & Wright, J.M. (1967). Scales of the Measurement of Attitude. New York: McGraw-Hill Boom Company.
- Sriraksa, T. (2018). Legal problems regarding cases of sexual harassment by monitoring causing annoyance and intimidation (Master's degree thesis, Sripatum University, Bangkok). Retrieved from <http://dspace.spu.ac.th/bitstream/123456789/5529/9/Chapter%20%20.pdf>.
- Suksupee, K. & Noichan, W. (2020). Behavior survey Disciplinary offenses of students Police Administration Branch Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Crime and Safety Journal, Year 2, Issue 2.
- Thipsing, W. and Chalakbang, W. (2020). The Strategies for Preventing Sexual Harassment of Students in Schools under the Secondary Educational Service Area Offices in the Northeast Region of Thailand. Journal of Roi Et Rajabhat University Volume 14 No.1.
- Turan, N., Polat, O., Karapirli, M., Uysal, C., Turan, S.G., Tippett, N. (2011). The new violence type of the era: Cyber bullying among university students Violence among university students. Neurology, psychiatry and Brain 17, 21 - 26.