

**VICTIMISATION OF FEMALE STUDENTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA WITH SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND
RAPE**

by

NONTYATYAMBO PEARL DASTILE

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Dedicated to:

**My mother and father
Shinah Nolukhanyo and Nzameko Dastile**

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1	Integrated model of sexual harassment and rape.....	

Title : **Victimisation of female students at the University of Venda with specific reference to sexual harassment and rape**

Name : Nontyatyambo. P. Dastile

Supervisor : Harriét F. Klopper

Co-supervisor : Prof. Linda Davis

Department : Criminology, University of Pretoria

Degree : Magister Artum

SUMMARY

In this study the nature and consequences of the sexual victimisation of female students at the University of Venda with specific reference to sexual harassment and rape were explored. To serve as a theoretical background for the study, an integrated model of sexual harassment and rape was formulated. In this model various victim related risk factors, offender related risk factors, institutional related risk factors as well as societal related risk factors, were highlighted as possible factors that may contribute to sexual harassment and rape of female students on campus.

Ten research participants who met the requirements of the study were selected by means of purposive theoretical sampling. Requests for research participation were made through the use of posters as well as the facilitation of a workshop on the campus of the University of Venda. Two victims of sexual harassment and eight female students, who were subjected to rape on campus, participated in the study. In order to obtain in-depth information on the nature of the research participants' experiences, face-to-face semi-structured interviews were conducted.

Based upon the analysis and interpretation of the data it became evident that most sexual harassment and rape incidents occur on campus between individuals who know each other. Further analysis of the data indicate that victim related risk factors (such as age, level of study, residential status, victim-offender relationship, victim participation and position in class, denial and non-reporting, the acceptance of stereotypes regarding rape and sexual harassment as well as the use of alcohol), offender related risk factors (such as male peer support and the use of alcohol), institutional related risk factors (such as participation in campus activities, the level of surveillance and absence of deterrence) as well as societal related risk factors (such as the legitimisation of sexual victimisation and the role of significant others) interact with each other and contribute to sexual harassment and rape on the campus of the University of Venda. The findings also show that victims of sexual harassment and rape suffer emotional, physical, social as well as financial consequences as a result of the incidents.

Based upon the findings, certain conclusions with regard to the aims of the study were reached and recommendations for further research were also made. Emanating from the feedback from the research participants, recommendations regarding prevention aimed at the victim, perpetrator and the institution (the University of Venda) were also made. The need for the empowerment of female students through educational programmes, the necessity to dispel the stereotypes surrounding sexual harassment and rape as well as the need to encourage the management of the University of Venda to take serious note of sexual victimisation on campus and to implement policy to protect women at this institution, were also emphasised.

- Titel** : **Viktimisasie van vrouestudente by die Universiteit van Venda met spesifieke verwysing na seksuele teistering en verkragting**
- Naam** : Nontyatyambo. P. Dastile
- Promotor** : Harriét F. Klopper
- Mede- promotor** : Prof. Linda Davis
- Departement** : Kriminologie, Universiteit van Pretoria
- Graad** : Magister Artum

OPSOMMING

In hierdie studie word die aard en gevolge van die seksuele viktimisasie van vroulike studente by die Universiteit van Venda met spesifieke verwysing na seksuele teistering en verkragting geëksploreer. 'n Geïntegreerde model van seksuele teistering en verkragting is geformuleer om as teoretiese agtergrond vir die studie te dien. In die model is verskeie slagofferverwante risikofaktore, oortrederverwante risikofaktore, institusioneelverwante risikofaktore asook samelewingsverwante risikofaktore uitgelig as moontlike faktore wat tot seksuele teistering en verkragting van vroulike studente op kampus kan bydra.

Tien navorsingsdeelnemers/respondente wat aan die vereistes van die studie voldoen het, is geselekteer by wyse van doelgerig teoretiese steekproeftrekking. Versoeke vir deelname aan die studie is gedoen deur die gebruik van plakkate asook die fasilitering van 'n werkswinkel op die kampus van die Universiteit van Venda. Twee slagoffers van seksuele teistering en

aght vroulike studente wat slagoffers van verkragting op kampus was het aan die studie deelgeneem. Ten einde in-diepte inligting rakende die aard van die navorsingsdeelnemers/-respondente se ervarings te verkry, is aangesig-tot-aangesig semi-gestruktureerde onderhoude gevoer.

Op grond van die ontleding en interpretasie van die data is gevind dat die meeste seksuele teistering- en verkragtingsinsidente op kampus plaasvind tussen individue wat mekaar ken. Verdere analisering van die data dui daarop dat slagofferverwante risikofaktore (soos ouderdom, jaarvlak, residensiële status, slagoffer-oortreder verhouding, slagofferdeelname en posisie in die klas, ontkenning en nie-rapportering, die aanvaarding van stereotipes rakende seksuele teistering en verkragting asook die gebruik van alkohol), oortrederverwante risikofaktore (soos manlike portuurgroepondersteuning en die gebruik van alkohol), institusionele risikofaktore (soos deelname aan kampusaktiwiteite, die vlak van waarneming en die afwesigheid van afskrikking) asook samelewingsverwante risikofaktore (soos die legitimisering van seksuele viktimisasie en die rol van betekenisvolle ander) met mekaar in interaksie verkeer en tot seksuele teistering en verkragting op die kampus van die Universiteit van Venda bydrae. Die bevindings dui verder daarop dat slagoffers van seksuele teistering en verkragting emosionele, fisieke, sosiale asook finansiële gevolge as gevolg van die insidente lei.

Na aanleiding van die bevindings is tot bepaalde gevolgtrekkings met betrekking tot die doelstellings van die ondersoek gekom en aanbevelings rakende verdere navorsing gemaak. Voortspruitend uit die terugvoer van die navorsingsdeelnemers/respondente, is aanbevelings rakende voorkoming gerig op die slagoffer, die oortreder sowel as die instelling (die Universiteit van Venda) ook gemaak. Die behoefte aan bemagtiging deur opvoedingsprogramme, die behoefte om stereotipes rakende seksuele teistering en verkragting te ontmoedig asook die behoefte om die bestuur van die Universiteit van Venda aan te moedig om ernstig aandag te skenk aan seksuele viktimisasie op kampus asook om 'n beleid te implementeer om vroue op kampus te beskerm, is beklemtoon.