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

by

NONTYATYAMBO PEARL DASTILE

In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS

in the

Faculty of Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
PRETORIA

June 2004
Dedicated to:

My mother and father

Shinah Nolukhanyo and Nzameko Dastile
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks go to my promoter, Harriét Klopper who has not only been my mentor but also my friend. Thank you for having faith in me when I lacked faith in myself. Most of all thank you for teaching me the true meaning of scholarship by your leading example. I truly have and shall continue to enjoy learning from you.

I would also like to thank my co-supervisor, Linda Davis for encouraging me to do my best and for expecting the very best from me academically. Also thank you for serving in the Research and Ethics committee and offering valuable insights for improving my work.

I would like to recognise the sacrifices made by my husband Sindile and my child Sihle. They made numerous sacrifices that allowed me to reach this point in my life.

I would also like to thank my parents Shinah and David Dastile. Thanks mom and dad for your prayers, encouragement and guidance not only during my studies, but also throughout my life. Without you, this would not have been possible.

Many thanks to my mother in law, Nomvuyo. Thank you for the time you spent with Sihle, the love, kindness and concern. I feel truly blessed to have you in my life.

Thanks also goes to my Head of Department, Mr Mukwevho, for giving me time and leave for all my appointments with my supervisors. Thank you also for your encouragement, advise and experience you have impacted on me. I have truly learnt a lot from you.
Finally, I would like to thank Professor Akenova for believing that I could do this. Thank you for proof-reading earlier drafts of my dissertation and offering suggestions for improvement.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 The position of women in primeval times</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1.1 Male-female relationships</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1.2 Right to land and inheritance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1.3 Prostitution</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 The position of women in the ancient kingdom</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2.1 Women in Babylon</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2.2 Women in Egypt</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2.3 Women in Greece</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2.4 Women in Rome</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Traditional position of women in the world’s major religions…</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3.1 Hinduism</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3.2 Judaism</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3.3 Christianity</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3.4 Islam</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4 The position of women during the middle ages and up to the twentieth century</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4.1 The middle ages (1000 AD to the 16th century)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4.2 The nineteenth century</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4.3 The twentieth century</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4.3.1 The position of women in South Africa</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Sexual harassment</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Rape</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2.1 Stranger rape</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2.2 Date and acquaintance rape</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2.3 Gang rape</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 AIMS OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 GEOGRAPHICAL DEMARCATION OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.6 PROGRAMME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE STUDY...... 41

CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE... 43

2.1 EXTENT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RAPE......... 43
2.1.1 Sexual harassment............................................. 43
2.1.2 Rape.......................................................... 45

2.2 POSSIBLE REASONS FOR SEXUAL VICTIMISATION IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS................................. 48
2.2.1 The social organisation of tertiary institutions............ 48
2.2.2 Socialisation.................................................... 49
2.2.3 Patriarchy....................................................... 50
2.2.4 Role of alcohol.................................................. 50
2.2.5 Victims' failure to report victimization....................... 52
2.2.6 Absence of deterrence.......................................... 53

2.3 NATURE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RAPE............ 54
2.3.1 Sexual harassment............................................. 54
2.3.1.1 Forms of sexual harassment................................ 54
2.3.1.2 Myths about sexual harassment............................ 57
2.3.1.3 Profile of the victim........................................ 60
2.3.1.4 Profile of the perpetrator................................... 61
2.3.1.5 The consequences of sexual harassment.................. 62
2.3.1.6 Prevention of sexual harassment on campuses............. 65
2.3.1.6.1 Victim support services.................................. 65
2.3.1.6.2 Educational campaigns................................... 66
2.3.1.6.3 Encourage reporting....................................... 66
2.3.1.6.4 Disciplinary measures..................................... 66
2.3.1.6.5 Improve security measures............................... 67

2.3.2 Rape.......................................................... 67
2.3.2.1 Types of rape................................................. 67
2.3.2.1.1 Stranger rape............................................... 67
2.3.2.1.2 Acquaintance rape......................................... 69
2.3.2.1.3 Date rape.................................................. 70
3.1.3.4 Reactions to crime ............................................. 103

3.1.4 Application of the lifestyle exposure model of personal victimization.................................................. 104

3.2 THE ROUTINE ACTIVITY APPROACH.......................... 107

3.2.1 Exposition of the routine activity approach..................... 107

3.2.2 Evaluation of the approach........................................ 111

3.2.3 Application of the routine activity approach..................... 114

3.3 THE MALE PEER SUPPORT MODEL............................ 116

3.3.1 Exposition of the male peer support model..................... 117

3.3.1.1 Ideology of familial and courtship patriarchy............. 118

3.3.1.2 Alcohol consumption........................................... 119

3.3.1.3 Male peer support groups..................................... 120

3.3.1.4 Absence of deterrence......................................... 121

3.3.2 Evaluation of the model.......................................... 121

3.4 INTEGRATED MODEL OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND RAPE .......................................... 122

3.4.1 Victim related risk factors........................................ 123

3.4.1.1 Biographical factors............................................. 124

3.4.1.2 Victim-perpetrator relationship.............................. 125

3.4.1.3 The use of alcohol................................................. 126

3.4.1.4 Denial and non-reporting.................................... 126

3.4.1.5 Acceptance of stereotypes about sexual harassment and rape.................................................. 127

3.4.2 Offender related risk factors..................................... 127

3.4.2.1 Male peer support................................................. 127

3.4.2.2 Use of alcohol.................................................... 128

3.4.3 Institutional risk related factors................................. 128

3.4.3.1 Campus activities................................................. 129

3.4.3.2 Level of surveillance........................................... 129

3.4.3.3 Absence of deterrence......................................... 130

3.4.4 Societal risk factors.............................................. 131

3.4.4.1 Legitimisation of sexual victimization...................... 131

3.4.4.2 Patterns of control and dominance.......................... 131

3.4.4.3 The role of significant others............................... 132
3.5 CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH DESIGN

4.1 METHODOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION

4.1.1 Qualitative research methodology

4.1.2 Case study

4.2 MEASURING INSTRUMENT

4.2.1 Interviews

4.3 SAMPLING STRATEGY

4.3.1 Sampling technique

4.3.2 Composition of the sample

4.3.3 Description of the sample

4.4 THE PROCESS OF INTERVIEWING

4.4.1 Setting for the interviews

4.4.2 Procedures followed during the interview

4.4.3 Probing

4.4.4 The research participant’s behaviour

4.4.5 Duration of the interviews

4.5 ETHICAL ISSUES

4.6 TECHNIQUES FOR ANALYSING AND INTERPRETING DATA

4.6.1 Techniques used to interpret and analyse data

4.7 CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 5: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

5.1 INTERVIEW DATA

5.1.1 Research participant A

5.1.2 Research participant B

5.1.3 Research participant C

5.1.4 Research participant D

5.1.5 Research participant E

5.1.6 Research participant F
5.1.7 Research participant G…………………………………………... 178
5.1.8 Research participant H…………………………………………… 180
5.1.9 Research participant I……………………………………………. 182
5.1.10 Research participant J……………………………………………. 184

5.2 CASE ANALYSIS......................................................... 186

5.2.1 Sexual harassment......................................................... 187

5.2.1.1 Biographical details................................................. 187

5.2.1.2 Nature of sexual harassment................................. 190

5.2.1.2.1 Type of harassment.......................... 190

5.2.1.2.2 Incident related factors......................... 194

5.2.1.2.3 Work ethics..................................... 197

5.2.1.3 Reporting the incident........................................... 198

5.2.1.4 Consequences of victimization........................... 202

5.2.1.4.1 Emotional consequences......................... 202

5.2.1.4.2 Social consequences............................. 206

5.2.1.4.3 Financial consequences......................... 207

5.2.1.5 Possible prevention or reduction of future incidents... 208

5.2.2 Rape................................................................. 212

5.2.2.1 Biographical details............................................. 212

5.2.2.2 Nature of rape................................................. 216

5.2.2.2.1 Type of rape........................................ 216

5.2.2.3 Incident related factors.................................... 221

5.2.2.3.1 The role of money.................................. 227

5.2.2.3.2 Involvement with the perpetrator after the incident............................................. 227

5.2.3 Reporting the incident................................................ 228

5.2.4 Consequences of rape............................................... 236

5.2.4.1 Emotional consequences.............................. 236

5.2.4.2 Physical consequences.................................... 243

5.2.4.3 Social consequences..................................... 245

5.2.4.4 Financial consequences.............................. 246

5.2.4.5 Role of counseling.................................... 247

5.2.5 Possible prevention/reduction of future incidents............ 249
5.3 CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE STUDY

6.1.1 Aim 1

6.1.2 Aim 2

6.1.3 Aim 3

6.1.4 Aim 4

6.1.5 Aim 5

6.1.6 Aim 6

6.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

6.2.1 Small sample size

6.2.2 Language barrier

6.2.3 Sensitive nature of sexual victimization

6.3 POSSIBLE THEMES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

6.3.1 Research at other universities with bigger samples

6.3.2 Incident-related factors

6.3.2.1 Victim related incident factors

6.3.2.2 Offender related incident factors

6.3.2.3 Institutional related risk factors

6.4 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RAPE ON CAMPUSES

6.4.1 Prevention programmes directed toward victims

6.4.1.1 Reporting sexual harassment and rape

6.4.1.2 The need for victim support services

6.4.1.3 Educating victims, female students in general, parents and the university community

6.4.2 Prevention programmes directed toward perpetrators of sexual harassment and rape on campus

6.4.2.1 Codes of conduct or work ethics amongst university staff members

6.4.2.2 Disciplinary procedures

6.4.2.3 Educating male students and lecturers
6.4.2.4 Addressing alcohol abuse

6.4.3 Prevention directed towards the institution (University of Venda)

6.4.4 Role of the police

6.5 CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

APPENDIX A: Study Advertisement

APPENDIX B: Workshop on the Prevalance of sexual harassment and rape on campuses

APPENDIX C: Informed consent letter

APPENDIX D: Interview schedule

DIAGRAM

1 Integrated model of sexual harassment and rape
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 vroueestudente by die Universiteit van Venda met spesifieke verwysing na seksuele teistering en verkragting

Naam : Nontyatyambo. P. Dastile

Promotor : Harriët 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 geëksplorieer. ’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
agt 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-gestrukteerde onderhoude gevoer.

Op grond van die ontleding en interpretaasie van die data is gevind dat die
meeste seksuele teistering- en verkragtingsinsidente op kampus plaasvind
tussen individue wat mekaar ken. Verdere analysering van die data dui
daarop dat slagofferverwante risikofaktore (soos ouderdom, jaarvlak,
residensiële status, slagoffer-oortreder verhouding, slagofferdeelname en
posisie in die klas, ontkening en nie-rapportering, die aanvaarding van
stereotipes rakende seksuele teistering en verkragting asook die gebruik van
alkohol), oortrederverwante risikofaktore (soos manlike portuurgroeponder-
steuning 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 opvoedings-
programme, 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.