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ATTITUDE TOWARD RAPE AS A FUNCTION OF PERSONALITY TYPES, EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND RELIGION.

P.O. OLAPEGBA and O. OLUMUYIWA

Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Abstract

This study examined the attitude of people toward rape as a function of some psychosocial variables (personality types, educational status, and religion). Participants in the study were made up of 200 people (118 males & 82 females), Attitude Toward Rape (ATR) Scale and the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire were used for data collection. Results show that there is no significant difference in the attitude of introverts and extroverts on rape, $t=-1.56$, $df=198$, $p>.05$. Subjects with higher educational status have significantly higher anti-rape attitude, $t=3.06$, $df=198$, $p<.05$. Males have higher anti-rape attitude than females, $t=2.29$, $df=198$, $p<.05$.

Introduction

Over the years, the subject of rape has attracted a lot of research interest across countries and discipline. Focus often change from one aspect of the phenomenon to the other and research interest have modified some traditional view of this phenomenon. Defining rape may not be as simple as it looks, this is brought about by diverse orientations of authors and researchers, the legal approach or definition may differ from psychological, religious, and cultural definitions, the cultural values and norms of a particular society may also influence how rape is defined.

Traditionally, rape is viewed as an act that is sexually motivated (Matoesian 1993), in other words, the perpetrator is seen as someone that desires sexual contact but is socially handicapped to go about it in the "normal" way, this is more or less a psychopathological view of rape (Scully, 1990). However, this traditional view of rape is gradually giving way to a more generally acceptable view that sees rape as an act motivated by power (Anderson et al 2001), this has root in the social tradition of male

domination and female exploitation (Ward 1995).

Most countries now define rape as non-consensual penetration of the vagina and anus by penis, hand or other object (Lees 1997), in spite of this clear definition of rape, attitude of people still differ, the attitude of people about rape often depend on which side of the divide they belong to. For instance, research findings have shown that there exist gender differences in the attitudes towards rape, while males believe that rape has to do with sex females are of the opinion that it has more to do with power (Ward 1995).

Few issues elicit a wide variety of opinion and beliefs among the general populace, as does the topic of rape. Rape can and does men different things to many people, it has been suggested that the attitude of people toward rape are important for understanding victims. Rape has been described as the outstanding factors in a chain of events whose outcome is often sexual violence, and frequent all over the world.

Rape between two people who may even be dating each other is called

acquaintance rape or date rape. Such attacks may outnumber those between strangers by as much as three to one (Kilpatrick and Best 1990).

Levine (1959) distinguishes between three types of rape. Rape resulting from seduction, premeditated sexual assault, and abduction.

Seduction is classified as a rape when a gussi female (the gussi and group of people that are found in the southwestern part of Kenya) chooses to bring the act to the public, premarital sex is forbidden but this does not stop gussi boys from trying to entice girls to intercourse. Premeditated sexual assault, this is a situation whereby one or more boys attack a single girl in sexual intercourse. The third type of rape occurs in the context of ABDUCTION when a gussi man is unable to present the bride wealth necessary for a normal marriage and cannot persuade a girl to run away from home and marry secretly.

Research into marital rape is one of the few direct links between research on rape and domestic violence as much of the evidence come from research on battered men and women. Marital rape within group of men/women who are physically abused by their partner. Marital rape could be the most common form of rape and that is particularly likely to occur when the man or the woman is being battered by his or her partner.

The understanding of rape focuses on the socialization process and psychological variables. The relationship between parents and children among individuals fit Abraham's conclusion concerning the etiology of rape. The son has a closed and dependent relationship with his mother, the father is aloof from all his children but especially his daughter. The father's main function is to punish, which means that for the girl her early connection with men is one of avoidance and fear on the other hand, the

relationship of the boy with his mother is characterized by dependence and seduction.

Rape as a weapon of terror in war appears to have been with us from time immemorial. Historically, rape has accompanied wars of religion revolution and has flourish irrespective of nationality or geographical location (Brownmillers 1979). In the traditional African setting a warrior was entitled to do as he pleased with women of the tribes he conquered. The women were considered as part of the spoil of war. In biblical times, women were also considered in a similar view and the status of women captured in war by the Hebrews was clearly stated as can be seen from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 20 verse 14 and chapter 21 verse 10-14.

Rape is a classic act of terrorism, it does not only assaults and destroys a woman but also humiliates and intimidates her family and community (Eisen, 1984).

Brownmiller, (1970) has described the fate of women as double problem thus women are raped in peace time because they are seen as object and during war, they are raped because they are seen as enemies.

Rape has been outlawed as criminal offence under international law and the domestic laws of almost every nation in the world. Yet, it continues as a common act and women are the victims. Under the Nigerian criminal code, rape is defined in section 357 as the unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent or if the consent is obtained by force or by means of false and fraudulent un-representation as to the nature of the act or in the case of married women by impersonation of her husband. "The maximum punishment for rape as provided for under section 358 of the criminal code is life imprisonment with or without whipping.

There are various reasons why rape continues to flourish in spite of international and domestic laws which make it an offence.

Browmiller (1975) argued that rape is an instrument of social control, a conscious process of intimidation by which all men keep all women in a state of fear.

Several factors may contribute to the underreporting of rape offences, many victims may decide not to report because they believe that reporting wouldn't do any good, that the criminal justice system is not particularly effective in handling rape cases (Ashworth and Feldman - Summer, 1978). They will suffer embarrassment as a result of reporting (Hynn, 1974). That they will not be believed by law enforcement officials (Gritts, 1973) or the assailant will retaliate (Amir, 1971, Mac Donald, 1971) There is evidence that such outcome may in fact occur in many cases.

Many female rape victims unfortunately get pregnant and have babies as a result of their being raped. This invariably causes a tremendous amount of psychological strain and stress. In Bosnia, it has even been alleged that Muslim women have been systematically raped in order that they produce Serbian children this being a form of ethnic cleansing (Cosmopolitan news report, April, 1993).

There appears to be little doubt that societal attitude about rape contributed a great deal to the victims feelings of guilt and shame, since most victims share attitudes about rape similar to theories held by society in general (Calhoun, Cann, and Selby 1976). Disturbance in functioning are very frequent. These include loss of appetite, change in sleep pattern (Insomnia, nightmares, early awakening sexual dysfunction and social withdrawal). These reactions often begin immediately following the rape and can continue for an indefinite period of time. Changes in lifestyle noted by many author (Burgess and Holmstrom, Katz and Mazur, 1979) many rape victims may vary from obsessively checking doors to see if they are locked and refusing to go out alone, to

changing telephone numbers, moving one's residence or changing jobs. Kilpatrick, Dean G et al, (1981) in a longitudinal study found that victims of rape are significantly more anxious, fearful, and suspicious.

Evidence regarding the perception of people about rape is readily apparent by reviewing any number of popular magazines (Calvert, 1974, Solemo, 1975, Brownmiller, 1975). It has been suggested that perception or attitude of people toward rape are important for understanding not only their behaviour concerning the victims and or offender (Brownmiller, 1975) Borden, Lynn, A. et al, (1988), found that men were less empathic and sensitive in their attitudes toward rape than were women. However, Brownmiller (1975) has consequently argued that beliefs in the society such as all women want to be raped, women falsely accuse innocent men of rape, and women provoke rape by their physical appearance have led to the victimization of women, women who had been abused by males were now being rejected by their supposed male protectors (Ronasson, 1986).

We cannot conclude that only females fall victim of been raped, studies in cases of rape have shown that males could also fall victims of been raped, Ruchlain, Vladislav. V. Eisemann, Martin, Hagglot and Bruno, (1988), conducted a study to examine the level of posttraumatic stress among juveniles. They found that out of 100 priests in new foundland 7 priest plus 2 ex-priests were indicted for sexually abusing young boys. Today we are beginning to learn about the sexual abuse of large number of males too (Prentky and Quinely, 1988, Walker, 1988).

Reported cases of rape in university of Ibadan, and other parts of the state are relatively few (Action group on adolescent healthy, 2000). It is however known that rape and other forms of sexual violence do occur on our campus and among married couples. From a recently conducted survey 27%

sexual assault was reported at the university of Lagos medical students campus of which 80% are clinical students. (AGAH- Lagos, 2000).

Most commonly occurring are date and strangers rape. Three students of the University of Agriculture Abeokuta were expelled from the institution over their involvement in a rape incident (Campus horizon, October, 30 2000). Incidence of strangers rape have been reported in the female hall of residence, but occur mostly in poorly illuminated roads and path, gang rape was common in the past however, with a decline in cult activities the incidence has fallen drastically (AGAH; 2000).

Despite the negative health and psychological effects of rape on victims, people still hold different attitude about the phenomenon, what then are the factors informing the attitude of people toward rape? Will personality, religion and demographic variables such as sex, educational status affect individual attitude toward rape?

Hypotheses

1. Subjects who are extraverts will significantly have higher anti rape attitude than subjects who are introverts.
2. Subjects with higher educational status will significantly have higher anti rape attitude than subjects with lower educational status.
3. Male subjects will significantly have higher anti rape attitude than female subjects
4. There will be joint and interactive effects of sex and personality types on subjects' attitude toward rape.

Methods

Design

The research design is an ex-post facto design. Personality types, educational status and religion are the independent variables

observed on attitude toward rape which is the dependent variable.

Subjects

The total number of subjects who participated in the study was 200, of these 118 were males, and 82 were females. The age range is between 15 and 46 years. The data collected shows that 153 subjects were Christians, 44 muslims, 1 traditional and others were 2. Educational status of subjects varies between school certificate 24, NCE/OND 38 while B.Sc /B.Ed. 88 subjects. Marital status of subjects were 142 singles, 57 married and 1 of the subjects was divorced.

Subjects were randomly selected from the population of students (university, polytechnic and secondary schools) and workers in the private and public sector within the city of Ibadan.

Instrumentation

Two instruments were used in this study; these are attitude toward rape scale (ATR) and the Eysenck's personality questionnaire (EPQ) extraversion scale.

The questionnaire consists of three (3) sections. Section A comprises of the demographic variables such as age, sex, marital status, occupational status and religion while section B is an adapted attitude toward rape scale by Field (1978). On cross validation of the scale a pilot study was conducted. 34 items were tested on 50 subjects. Eleven (11) items were valid with a reliability coefficient of 0.62, the standardized item Alpha of 0.61.

The section C of the questionnaire was adapted from the Eysenck personality questionnaire (EPQ). Furthermore, Eysenck and Adelaja (1977) used the Alpha coefficient statistical method to establish the reliability of the extraversion scale of Eysenck personality questionnaire (EPQ) in Nigeria. The result obtained was favourable,

given a reliability coefficient of 0.61 for male and 0.68 for females in a pilot study conducted by the researcher a cross validation was carried out, the result was also favourable, given a reliability coefficient of 0.64 for Alpha and 0.75 for the standardized item Alpha.

Statistical Analysis

The t-test for independent means and the analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypothesis stated in this study.

Results

Result in table 1 shows that there is no significant difference in the attitude toward rape of introvert and extroverts ($t = -1.56, df = 198, p > .05$).

Table 1: Summary table of t-test showing extraverted and introverted subjects attitude toward rape.

Group	N	Freq.	SD	DF	T-obj	P
Introverts	88	27.8	5.91	198	-1.56	>.05
Extravert	112	29.2	6.54			

Table 2: Summary table of independent t-test score showing the attitude toward rape of subjects with higher educational status and subjects with lower educational status.

Group	Educational status	N	Freq.	SD	DF	T-obj	P
School Cert. and low	low	112	29.8	6.48	198	3.06	<.05
B.Sc/B.Ed. and above	High	88	27.1	5.72			

Table 3: Summary table of independent t-test showing the score of male and female attitude toward rape.

Group	N	Freq	SD	DF	t. obt	P
Male	118	29.4	6.81	198	2.29	<.05
Female	82	27.4	5.27			

Table 4 : Summary table of 2x2 ANOVA showing the effects of sex and personality types on subjects' attitude toward rape.

Source	SS	MS	DF	F	P
Ref	144.64	144.64	1	3.74	NS
Personality	32.53	32.53	1	841	NS
Sex & personality	46.16	46.16	1	1.19	NS
Error	7580.46	38.68	196		
Corrected total	7803.782		199		

Table 2 shows that there was a significant difference in the attitude toward rape of subject with lower educational status and subjects with higher educational status. ($t=3.06, df=198, p<.05$).

Table 3 shows that males will have a significant higher anti-rape attitude than females. ($t=2.29, df=198, P<.05$)

From Table 4, the results show that there is no joint effects of sex and personality types on individual attitude rape. $F(1,199) = 3.74, p. NS$

The result also shows that there is no significant joint effects of personality on individual attitude toward rape $F(1,199) = 841, P.NS$.

Finally, the result also shows that there is no interaction effects of sex and personality on subjects attitude toward rape $F(1,199)= 1.19, P. ns$.

Discussion and Conclusion

With reference to the result presented in the above tables, hypotheses 1 and 4 were rejected while hypotheses 2 and 3 were confirmed. The result of this study in regard to the first hypothesis is that there is no significant difference in the attitude of individual who are extroverts and individual who are introverts toward rape. This however, is not consistent with two typological theory of personality, which emphasizes two discrete type tendencies in any situation (Jung, 1933). This present study has conclusively confirms that individual personality type (introvert/extroverts) attribute is not a contributory influence on attitude toward rape.

From the result shown in table 2 it is evident that differences exist in the attitude toward rape of individuals with lower educational status and individuals with higher educational status. This finding is a confirmation of Macklellar (1979) Medea and Thompson (1974). They suggested that people's view of rape is related to their

knowledge about rape. They implied that by increasing people's knowledge about rape. (e.g. through public educational programmes) these attitude may be altered. However it expresses the fact that individual educational status can influence attitude toward rape, which means that people's views of rape can be related to their knowledge about rape in our society.

Furthermore, table 3 shows that differences exist between males and females when it comes to attitude toward rape, this means that male subjects will significantly have higher anti rape attitude than individual female subjects. Larsen and Knud, S. (1987) carried out a study on attitude toward rape, findings suggest that males are more exceptional to rape than are females. This however is not consistent with the differences provided by Brownmiller (1975) that men are more likely to have a favourable view of rape than females.

Finally, no significant interaction effect of sex and personality was found in the attitude of individual toward rape. The study conclude that joint interaction of sex and personality have no significant influence in determining individuals' attitude toward sex however, efforts should be made in planning enlightenment campaign to make people aware of their sexual rights and the protection they have under the law.

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