



## Sexual Victimization among College Students: Bases for Program Formulation

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**ABSTRACT** This study was conducted to determine the sexual victimization among college students at the Guimaras State College as bases for program formulation. A descriptive correlation research design was employed in this study. Participants size is 100, officially enrolled college students of Guimaras State College- Main Campus at Buenavista, Guimaras in all undergraduate programs in the Academic Year 2015-2016. A researcher revised questionnaire was utilized in this study which consists of personal profile Sexual victimization assessments using the Sexual Coercion Tactics Scale (SCTS). The statistical tools used were frequency count, percentage and Pearson's chi-square. The majority of the participants have ages ranging from 16 to 19 year old belong to the second-year college, 93% did not belong to any indigenous group mostly are Roman Catholic, female, heterosexual and belong to BSBA. Seventy-three percent of the participants were not victimized, and 27% were victimized sexually. Statistically, there was a significant difference in the victimization and profile when classified to sex and course at  $p= 0.05$ . Creation of program that provides awareness, education, prevention programs, and coordination with the community to respond to sexual victimization was recommended.

**Keywords:** *sexual victimization, college students*

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

National attention has recently turned to sexual violence and the problems it poses for the classroom, campus, and community. Actual or threatened sexual assault raises issues for colleges and universities that go beyond those of sexual harassment. Whereas the prevention and management of sexual- harassment incidents are generally considered to fall within the purview of campus policy and procedures, incidents of sexual violence and rape may constitute criminal offenses, require medical attention, and raise special concerns about reporting, record keeping, media attention, and police involvement. Women and girls are the vast majority of victims nearly 1 in 5 women or nearly 22 million have been raped in their lifetimes. Men and boys, however, are also at risk. 1 in 71 men – or almost 1.6 million have been raped during their lives. Women of all races are targeted, but some are more vulnerable than others. 33.5% of multiracial women have been raped, 27% of American Indian and Alaska Native women, compared to 15% of Hispanic, 22% of Black, and 19% of White women.

Victimization was defined as unwanted sexual contact, verbally coerced sex, rape or attempted rape. This may be in the form of sexual misconduct, rape sexual harassment, stalking, physical assault, battery, dating, relationship, domestic, violence, theft, and threat of harm. Campus sexual assault is a significant problem. Women in the traditional age range for college students – from eighteen to twenty- one – are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in any other age group, and college-bound women are at greater risk than their non-college bound peers. Between 20 and 25 percent of college women and 4 percent of college men report having been sexually assaulted during their college years. The rate for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer students is estimated to be slightly higher. Studies of campus sexual assault indicate that many – perhaps most – assaults and attempted assaults are never reported or, if reported, not consistently counted as official. The fact that sexual assaults on campuses largely take place between acquaintances blurs understandings both of consent and of aggression and lessens the outcomes are not much better for cases handled by the criminal justice system. Despite of the progress over recent decades in public and professional understanding of sexual assault and sexual violence, recent research makes clear the persistence and influence of several entrenched myths: it is the victim's fault; most allegations of sexual assault and rape are false and typically motivated by revenge against particular men or against men in general; the presence of drugs or alcohol makes it difficult to investigate allegations or even establish whether an incident actually took place; acquaintance rape is not rape. Some colleges and universities choose to incorporate sexual assault into existing policies governing professional ethics, sexual harassment, or campus violence.



This study was conducted to determine the sexual victimization among college students at the Guimaras State College. Specifically, it sought to determine the: profile of college students according to course, year level, age, sex, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation; the severity of victimization among college students when grouped according to sexual victimization status: a.)novictimization.)unwanted sexual contact, c.)sexual coercion, and d.) rape; and significant difference in the severity of victimization when categorized according to profile.

This study was anchored on RA 7610 - An Act Providing for stronger deterrence and special protection against child abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, and for other purposes and RA 7877 or the "Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995" - An Act declaring sexual harassment unlawful in the employment, education or training environment, and for other purposes, specifically describe Section 3 of RA 7877 -Work, education or training-related sexual harassment was committed by an employee, manager, supervisor, agent of the employer, teacher, instructor, professor, coach, trainer, or any other person who, having authority, influence or moral ascendancy over another in a work or training or education environment, demands, requests or otherwise requires any sexual favor from the other, regardless of whether the demand, request or requirement for submission is accepted by the object of said Act. As well as with RA 926the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004. It seeks to address the prevalence of violence against women and children. (VAWC), abuses on women and their children by their intimate partners.

The primary goal of this study was to determine the severity of sexual victimization among college students broke sexual victimization status into four categories, no victimization unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, and rape.

This is also designed to provide information about the institutional program to prevent sexual victimization college students and to help victims overcome other issues among themselves. The independent variables in this study were the profile of college students categorized into course, year level, age, sex, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. The dependent variable in the study was sexual victimization, and the output of this research will be proposed institutional program for college students.

## METHODOLOGY

A descriptive correlation research design was employed in this study to describe the severity of sexual victimization among college students at the Guimaras State College and also to examine the relationship between relationships. The participants of this study were the officially enrolled college students of Guimaras State College-Main Campus at Buenavista, Guimaras in all undergraduate programs in the Academic Year 2015-2016. Participants size 100, which was calculated by using Sloven's formula classified into different courses. A researcher revised questionnaire was utilized in this study. It has two parts; the first part solicits the personal profile of college students according to course, year level, age, sex, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation while the second part will be the questionnaire proper which consist of Sexual victimization assessments using the Sexual Coercion Tactics Scale (SCTS), which assesses sexual coercion used by and used on both men and women since the age of 16 years (Struckman-Johnson et al., 2003). The surveys ask participants to indicate how many times they have either used coercive tactics to get someone to engage in sexual behaviors or how many times they engaged in sexual behaviors because someone used these tactics on them and the gender of the other person involved. 18 different tactics were listed for each of three types of sexual acts (sexual behavior, oral sex, and anal-vaginal sex) on both forms (whether they were the user or recipient of the tactics) of the survey. Victimization status was broken down into four categories, no victimization unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, and rape. In this study, the data was gathered using a researcher revised questionnaire through purposive sampling which was distributed personally upon the willingness of the participants and retrieved by the researchers. The data collected were treated highly confidential. The following statistical tools were used: the frequency count and percentage distribution were used to describe the profile of the respondents and the rate of sexual victimization; Chi-square was used to determine the significant difference in the severity of victimization as a whole and when categorized according to victimization status.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Profile of the participants

The profile of the participants. Results revealed that 77 or 77% have ages ranging from 16 to 19 years old and 23 or 23% were 20 years old and above. Most of the participants were females (62 or 62%), while males were 38%. Most of the participants were 2nd year which was 56%, 21% were 1st year, 20 % coming from the 3rd year and 3% came from 4th year college.

The profile of the participants when categorized as to course, 41% were BSBA, 15% came from InfoTech 10% from BSEd, 9% each both came from BEEd and BS Criminology, 6% from HRST and 5% each came from both BSHRM and BSIT. When categorized according to ethnicity, 93% belongs to Ati and 7% were not Ati. When grouped according to religion, 69% were Roman Catholic, 14% were Baptist, 13% were IFI, 2% were Born Again, 1% was Seventh Day Adventist and another 1% was UCCP. When grouped into sexual orientation, 86% were heterosexual, 13 % were homosexual and 1% was bisexual and all of them were single.

### The severity of victimization among college students broke sexual victimization status.

When participants were placed in mutually exclusive group based on the most severe types of victimization reported, 73% (N=73) reported no victimization, 27% (N=27) reported unwanted sexual contact, 14% (N=14) experienced sexual coercion, and 8% (N=8) reported completed rape, as reflected in Table 3.

Table 1. Item used to Measure Sexual Victimization by type and Victimization Frequency.

No Victimization Frequency = 73%	Unwanted sexual contact Frequency = 27%	Sexual Coercion Frequency = 14%	Rape Frequency = 8%
	Engaged in unwanted sexual behavior (kissing, fondling, petting) but not sex with someone because he or she: Tried to talk you into it repeatedly Told a lie Questioned your sexuality Said there must be something wrong with you if you didn't Threatened to break up with you Threatened to blackmail you Threatened to harm themselves They used their authority or position Took advantage of you being drunk or high Purposely gave you drugs or alcohol Blocked your retreat Used physical restraint Tied you up Threatened to physically harm you Threatened you with a weapon	Engaged in unwanted oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone because he or she: Tried to talk you into it repeatedly Told a lie Questioned your sexuality Said there must be something wrong with you if you didn't Threatened to break up with you Threatened to blackmail you Threatened to harm themselves They used their authority or position	Engaged in unwanted oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone because he or she: Took advantage of you being drunk or high Purposely gave you drugs or alcohol Blocked your retreat Used physical restraint Tied you up Threatened to physically harm you Threatened you with a weapon

### Significant difference in the severity of victimization when categorized according to profile

Statistically, there is a significant difference in the victimization, sex, and course at  $p=0.05$ . Findings further showed that victimization, when categorized according to unwanted sexual contact were found to be statistically significant with sex and course at  $p=0.05$  when categorized according to sexual coercion were statistically significant with the course at  $p= 0.05$  and no significant difference when categorized to rape. There is a positive correlation which means that the participants are mostly female who partici

**Table 3. Difference on victimization (Chi-Square).**

	Value	Df	Sig.
Age	.179	1	.672
Year Level	6.544	3	.088
Ethnicity	.009	1	.923
Religion	6.288	5	.279
Sex	9.783	1	.002
Sexual Orientation	.507*	2	.776
Course	14.848*	7	.038

\**p*<05 level of significance

**Table 4. Difference in unwanted sexual contact (Pearson Chi-Square)**

	Value	Df	Sig.
Age	9.345	6	.155
Year Level	18.551	12	.100
Ethnicity	1.890	6	.930
Religion	33.106*	18	.016
Sex	6.580	6	.361
Sexual Orientation	9.884	6	.130
Course	50.164	36	.059

\**p*<05 level of significance

**Table 5. Difference on sexual orientation (Pearson Chi-Square)**

	Value	Df	Sig.
Age	3.928	4	.416
Year Level	14.875	8	.062
Ethnicity	6.462	4	.167
Religion	2.121	12	.999
Sex	2.884	4	.577
Sexual Orientation	1.296	4	.862
Course	31.630*	20	.047

\**p*<05 level of significance

**Table 7. Difference on Rape (Pearson Chi-Square)**

	Value	Df	Sig.
Age	1.600	2	.449
Year Level	.381	2	.827
Ethnicity	-	-	-
Religion	1.600	6	.953
Sex	2.311	2	.315
Sexual Orientation	3.556	2	.169
Course	11.333	6	.079

\**p*<05 level of significance

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the findings of the study, the following conclusions were made: the majority of the participants have ages ranging from 16 to 19 years old which belong to the second-year college, 93% did not belong to any indigenous group mostly are Roman Catholic, female, heterosexual and belong to BSBA; seventy-three percent of the participant were not victimized and 27% were victimized sexually and; statistically, there was a significant difference in the victimization and profile when classified to sex and course at  $p = 0.05$ .



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the limitation, the investigation provides some initial information about the variable that are related to sexual victimization among college students. These findings have important implication in sexual victimization and risk reduction programming further the following were recommended:

1. Creation of program that provides:
  - a. awareness and education on sexual victimization among college student especially given that to willing participants.
  - b. technical assistance, consulting, and training services on debriefing for willing participants especially willing victim;
  - c. prevention programs for all incoming students;
  - d. train campus law enforcement or security staff;
  - e. educate campus discipline committee on the unique dynamics of these crimes, and
  - f. a coordinated community response to enhance victim assistance and safety while holding offenders accountable.
2. Further study may be conducted in relation to other parameters such as substance use and health risk.

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