Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry (TOJQI) Volume 12, Issue 6, July 2021: 5245-5255

# INVESTIGATION OF THE RAPE MYTH AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS, THAILAND

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### ABSTRACT

Rape myth among college students have been around for decades in Thailand. Although it has both academic and nonacademic purposes, only a few studies have been investigated at the tertiary level. The purposes of this study are to investigate Rape Myth among colleges students and guidelines for preventing and solving rape problem in the university. This study was using a mix-method research. Quantitative sample included 400 colleges students in Bangkok and qualitative sample included 20 representatives of college administrator, instructor, college staff and college student. A set of questionnaires and focus group in-depth interview were used. The research was divided into 8 aspects including general ideas, rape cause, relevant factors, wife or lover rape, risk management, action plan, communication and remedy. The study findings revealed that average rape myth among college students was high, being a female caused rape at any time, any place and at any age, there was nothing to guarantee that acquaintances or intimates would not exploit and rape, no restraint was the major rape cause, process of judgement towards rape crime should be improved and effective, and rape myth would be reduced by good instruction or guidance since childhood. Therefore, the social communication about rape should be designed and improved appropriately. This study reflex rape myth among college students to be changed into human right and gender equality and analysis cause and effect of rape based on current belief in the society. This research suggests for preventing and solving rape problem was to educate college students to respect civil right and sexuality in order to eliminate the obsession with rape myth. The policy suggestion was for education institutes to have a main agency to handle complaints, provide consultation, assistance and remedy for the victims directly. Education institutes should provide courses of moral and ethics, respect for human and dignity and gender equality leading to solve rape myth problem in the university. Keywords: Rape myth, college student, preventive, correcting guidelines.

### INTRODUCTION

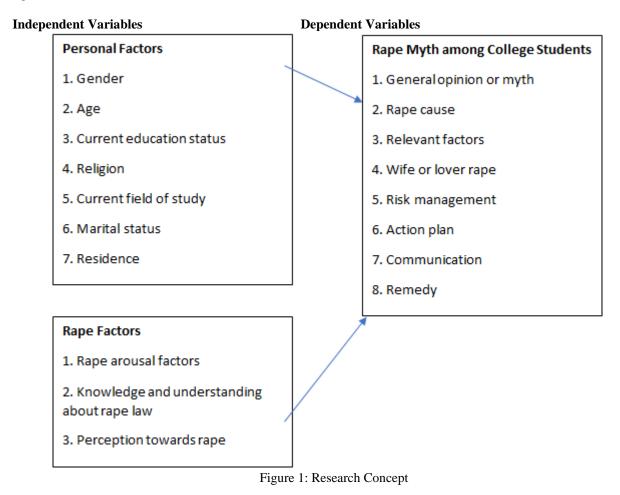
In the United States of America, rape had happened in colleges and was increased continuously. Sexual harassment had been found as forced rape, rape, and attempted rape (Lisa et al., 2016). It was the same as study by Sazelo et. al (2020) which found that sexual violence was like epidemic happened around the world. It sometimes seemed normal events and became rape culture that caused serious life and physical threatening.

The same situation had happened in Thailand where sexual harassment as a kind of violence could happen to anybody. Sexual harassment had occurred many times in the education institute but they were kept hidden from students and the public (Noppawan Prakotwong, 2018). Further to student's sexual harassment data collected in 2013-2017 by Student Protection Center, Office of the Basic Education Commission, there were 53 students sexually abused by their teacher or educational personnel including 21 students in 2013, 7 students in 2014, 5 students in 2015, 12 students in 2016, and 8 students in 2017 (Suriya Kongsanor, 2018).

Further to the study about what was happening in Thai society, it was revealed that universities or colleges in Bangkok had no good management for the arise problem. Their students were at high risk of becoming rape and sexual harassment victim without good attention by the administrator to investigate, arrest and lawfully punish the offenders. In addition, there was no remedy provided for the victims. They were left struggle on their own, gave up at the end, and suffered from different effects like scare, hallucination, suspicion, social phobia, and emotional problems. Some of them lose their lives, got unplanned pregnancy, and risked having sexual transmitted diseases. Rape victims also showed social problems including social phobia, depression, frustration and feeling like an outcast looking at oneself worthless and defiled (Edwards et al., 2011).

Further to the reasons and necessities mentioned above, the researcher, therefore, was interested in studying the acceptance of rape myth and sexual harassment among college students. Findings from this research would help us to understand attitudes and opinions of college students towards rape, and the difference of attitudes among different genders so that we could develop preventive and problem-solving guidelines for the problem and apply the guidelines to plan social service management guideline to prevent and remedy rape problem concretely. The aim of this study is to investigate the rape myth, knowledge and understanding among college students towards rape and to analysis the guidelines for preventing and solving rape problem in the university. Therefore, the conceptual framework of this study

is developing based on rape myth studies by Genevieve et al. (2015) Kathleen (2007) Peterson & Muehlenhard (2004), and Edward et al. (2011). The study had applied relevant variables to develop the following research concepts based on figure 1.



### METHODS

This research was a mixed methods research integrated with quantitative and qualitative research methods. The sample group or population in the quantitative research included 200 male and 257 female college students learning at public higher education institutes providing master and doctor degree education, and they had been recruited with quota sampling method so as to have samples from 15 institutes including 1) Chulalongkorn University, 2) Kasetsart University, Bangkhen campus, 3) King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, 4) King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, 5) Thammasart University, 6) Mahidol University, 7) Srinakharinwirot University, 8) Silpakorn University, 9) Suan Dusit University, 10) Chulabhorn Royal Academy, 11) Chitralada Technology Institute, 12) King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, 13) Srisavarindhira Thai Red Cross Institute of Nursing, 14) Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music, and 15) National Institute of Development Administration (data on January 27, 2019). Sample size was calculated with Taro Yamane (1973) method and it came up with 400 samples.

The sample group in the qualitative research included representatives of university administrator, instructor and university personnel who had experience in developing safety policy for the university, and experience in supervising 10 students in their faculty, and 10 college student representatives. These samples were recruited with non-probability sampling using purposive sampling method. Two applied tools using in this research were 1) likert scale rating questionnaire asking about general opinion towards rape, relevant factors, wife or lover rape, risk management, action plan, communication, and remedy. The researcher had verified research validity by using Cronbach (1951)'s coefficient alpha and got 0.75 alpha, and 2) semi-structured interview integrated with structured and pre-determined questions which were widely used in qualitative researches that required flexibility of different questions to collect data and maintained complete and extensive study contents.

Four the data collection methods, this study uses the individual data collection, google form data collection, emails, and tele-conversation. In this study, the applied statistics methods are descriptive statistics including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation, and inferential statistics including correlation, one-way analysis and t-test.

### **RESULTS Rape Myth Among College Students**

The researcher had divided this study into 8 aspects including general opinion or myth, rape cause, wife or lover rape, male rape, risk, action plan, relevant factor, and remedy. The study findings showed that on the whole, average rape myth among college students was high (average = 3.5025). Considering different aspects. For the aspects 1, on the whole, the general opinion towards rape myth among college students was fair. The highest average response, the reason women were raped, was unconsciousness or been inebriated, was high. For the aspects 2, on the whole, the rape myth among college students towards rape cause was fair. Highest average response, rape cause was no restraint, was high. For the aspects 3, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students in term of relevant factors was fair. The highest average response, opinions showing that women were at risk of rape at any time, any place and any age, was high.

For the aspects 4, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students towards wife or lover rape was fair. In aspects 5, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students towards risk management was high. The highest average response, opinion showing that there was nothing to guarantee that intimates or acquaintances would not exploit and rape, was high. For the aspects 6, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students towards action plan was fair. Highest average response, the need to improve process of judgement for rape crime effectively, was high. For the aspects 7, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students towards communication was high. Highest average response, rape would be decreased if men were educated to understand women since they were young, was high. For the last aspects, on the whole, the average rape myth among college students towards remedy was high. Highest average response, opinions and suggestions from this research should be applied for developing and improving appropriate social communication about rape, was the highest.

### The University Preventive and Problem-Solving Guidelines

Based on this study, the university guidelines, there should be college student's attitude correction by providing training and knowledge in order to turn students' sexual oppression value into human right respect and gender equality, eliminate obsession about rape myth and traditional male's role towards female in the current circumstances, and the study had found that 10.8 percent of rape cause derived from lacking of proper nurture.

The rape and sexual harassment data should be disclosed to college students more. College students, university personnel and the public should not be blinded just for protecting the image of university personnel who were subject to be repleted with knowledge, morality and ethics. The college students should dress properly, not too provocatively, be alert of their intimates since most rape-murders were closed-friend, classmate and senior. Only few of them were strangers or people from social media. Alcohol selling and drinking, and drug abuse should be banned seriously in the university and its vicinity because unlawful or conspiring sources, drinking and drug abuse affected drinkers' mental health and nerve. Alcohol and drug made individual lack of conscience and restraint as proved by different studies that 64.5 % of rape derived from lack of self-constraint.

The pornography or any sexual arousal should be banned or controlled in the university and its vicinity. Study had showed that 20% of rape cause derived from pornography and sexual arousal which aroused mental and physical needs. The environment and safety in the university should be improved or modified including cutting some trees, installing light bulb, CCTV, and check point properly. In addition, there should be security guard to take care of the area. The university personnel and college students also should be trained how to report abnormality that might cause rape in the university so as to prevent it beforehand.

### DISCUSSION

### College students' opinion towards rape myth in the university

Based on this study, the analysis had divided college students' opinions towards rape myth in the university into 8 aspects including general opinion or myth, rape cause, wife or lover rape, male rape, risk, action plan, relevant factor and remedy. We had found respondents' opinion towards different aspects as seen in table 1.

Rape myth among	Level of (	Dpinions	Interpretation
college students	$\overline{X}$	S.D.	
1. General opinion	3.020	0.247	Fair
2. Rape cause	2.455	0.917	Low
3. Relevant factors	2.885	0.553	Fair
4. Wife or lover rape	2.710	0.250	Fair
5. Risk management	3.330	0.349	Fair
6. Action plan	3.770	0.535	High
7. Communication	4.020	0.046	High
8. Remedy	4.000	0.226	High
Overall Picture	3.175	0.300	Fair

**Table 1:** Number, percentage, and opinion towards rape myth among college students

In table 1, we had seen that on the whole, respondents had fair opinion towards rape in the university ( $\bar{x} = 3.175$ , S.D. = 0.300). Considering individual aspect had showed high communication ( $\bar{x} = 4.020$ , S.D. = 0.046), remedy ( $\bar{x} = 4.000$ , S.D. = 0.226), action plan ( $\bar{x} = 3.770$ , S.D. = 0.535), risk management ( $\bar{x} = 3.330$ , S.D. = 0.349), general opinion ( $\bar{x} = 3.020$ , S.D. = 0.247), relevant factors ( $\bar{x} = 2.885$ , S.D. = 0.553), wife or lover rape ( $\bar{x} = 2.710$ , S.D. = 0.250) and rape

cause ( $\bar{x} = 2.445$ , S.D. = 0.917) respectively.	College students'	opinions towards different aspects of rape myth in	the
university were showed in table 2.			

<b>Rape myth among college</b>	i opinion io	1	vel of Opin	Sincennis in it	$\overline{\mathbf{x}}$	Interpretatio	
	TT: 11				TT* 1 1	х	-
students in term of general	Highly	Agree	Not	Disagre	Highly		n
opinion	Agree		sure	e	Disagree		
1. It was not true that women	20	75	137	80	58	2.80	Fair
usually told their rape experience	(5.0)	(18.8)	(41.8)	(20.0)	(14.5)	(0.267)	
2. Woman was raped because she	52	178	106	40	24	3.49	High
lost conscious or drunk.	(13.0)	(44.5)	(26.5)	(10.0)	(6.0)	(0.247)	
3. Woman who liked drinking was	49	117	87	107	40	3.07	Fair
aware that she was at risk of rape or	(12.3)	(29.3)	(21.8)	(26.8)	(10.0)	(0.175)	
sexual harassment.							
4. Most rape murders were	52	112	144	68	24	3.25	High
strangers.	(13.0)	(28.0)	(36.0)	(17.0)	(6.0)	(0.191)	
5. Most rapes were coincident	41	77	109	94	79	2.77	Fair
more than planned ones.	(10.3)	(19.3)	(27.3)	(23.5)	(19.8)	(0.131)	
6. Woman being with a man	26	134	117	67	56	3.02	Fair
privately in a lonely place was	(6.5)	(33.5)	(29.3)	(16.8)	(14.0)	(0.115)	
willing to have sexual intercourse.							
7. Some women lied to be raped in	35	64	147	102	52	2.82	Fair
order to hide something.	(8.8)	(16.0)	(36.8)	(25.5)	(13.0)	(0.141)	
Overall						3.02	Fair
						(0.175)	

Table 2: Number, percentage, and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of general opinion.

In table 2, most respondents had fair general opinion towards rape myth among college students ( $\bar{x} = 3.02$ , S.D. = 0.175). Considering individual aspect had showed that respondents had opinion towards question number 2, woman was raped because she was unconscious or inebriated, the most and with the highest average ( $\bar{x} = 3.49$ , S.D. = 0.247). The followings included high opinion towards question number 4, most rape murders were strangers ( $\bar{x} = 3.25$ , S.D. = 0.191), fair opinion towards question number 3, woman who liked drinking was aware that she was at risk of rape ( $\bar{x} = 3.07$ , S.D. = 0.175), fair opinion towards question number 6 Woman being with a man privately in a lonely place was willing to have sexual intercourse were strangers ( $\bar{x} = 3.02$ , S.D. = 0.141), fair opinion towards question number 1, it was not true that women told their rape experience ( $\bar{x} = 2.80$ , S.D. = 0.267), and respondents had fair opinion towards question number 5, most rapes were coincident more than planned ones ( $\bar{x} = 2.77$ , S.D. = 0.131) with the least average respectively.

In table 3, most respondents had low opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of rape cause ( $\bar{x} = 2.445$ , S.D. = 0.917). Considering individual aspect had showed that respondents had opinion towards question number 11, rape usually derived from no restraint, the most ( $\bar{x} = 3.84$ , S.D. = 0.986). The followings were fair opinion towards question number 8, woman was raped because she dressed provocatively ( $\bar{x} = 2.84$ , S.D. = 0.868), low opinion towards question number 9, some women actually wanted to be raped, ( $\bar{x} = 2.05$ , S.D. = 0.865), and respondents had the least opinion towards question number 10, rape was considered undesired sexual intercourse not a serious murder ( $\bar{x} = 1.98$ , S.D. = 0.968) with lowest average respectively.

Rape myth among college		L	evel of Op	inion		$\overline{x}$	Interpreta
students	Highly	Agree	Not	Disagree	Highly		tion
In term of rape cause	agree		sure		disagree		
8. Woman was raped because she	39	115	82	69	95	2.84	Fair
dressed provocatively.	(9.8)	(28.7)	(20.5)	(17.3)	(23.8)	(0.868)	
9. Some women actually wanted to	-	16	132	109	143	2.05	Low
be raped.		(4.0)	(33.0)	(27.2)	(35.8)	(0.865)	
10. Rape was considered undesired	24	23	68	91	194	1.98	Low
sexual intercourse not a serious	(6.0)	(5.8)	(17.0)	(22.8)	(48.5)	(0.968)	
murder.							
11. Rape usually derived from no	136	147	64	23	30	3.84	High
restraint.	(34.0)	(36.8)	(16.0)	(5.8)	(7.5)	(0.986)	
Overall						2.445	Low
						(0.917)	

Table 3: Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of rape cause

In table 4, most respondents had fair opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of relevant factors ( $\bar{x} = 2.885$ , S.D = 0.553). Considering individual aspect showed that respondents had high opinion towards question number 13, being a woman was the risk to be raped any time, any place and at any age, with the highest average ( $\bar{x} = 3.48$ , S.D = 0.546). The followings were high opinion towards question number 15, offering bribe to change the judgement made men not afraid of the law and legal punishment ( $\bar{x} = 3.44$ , S.D = 0.392), low opinion towards question number 12, relevant factor or rape primarily derived from women's action ( $\bar{x} = 2.33$ , S.D = 0.656), and low opinion towards question number 14, being the woman with any kind of sexual intercourse experience led to be raped, with the least average ( $\bar{x} = 2.32$ , S.D = 0.560) respectively.

Rape myth among college students		L		$\bar{x}$	Inter		
In term of relevant factors	Highly	Agree	Not	Disagree	Highly		pretat
	agree		sure		disagree		ion
12. Relevant factor or rape primarily	12	50	114	106	118	2.33	low
derived from women's action.	(3.0)	(12.5)	(28.5)	(26.5)	(29.5)	(0.656)	
13. Being a woman was the risk to	119	113	56	66	46	3.48	high
be raped any time, any place and at	(29.8)	(28.2)	(14.0)	(16.5)	(11.5)	(0.546)	
any age.							
14. Being the woman with any kind	26	28	117	106	123	2.32	low
of sexual intercourse experience led	(6.5)	(7.0)	(29.3)	(26.5)	(30.7)	(0.560)	
to be raped.							
15. Offering bribe to change the	74	142	104	45	35	3.44	high
judgement made men not afraid of	(18.5)	(35.5)	(26.0)	(11.3)	(8.8)	(0.392)	
the law and punishment.							
Overall						2.885	Fair
						(0.553)	

**Table 4:** Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of relevant factors

In table 5, most respondents had fair opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of wife or lover rape ( $\bar{x} = 2.710$ , S.D. = 0.225). Considering individual aspect showed that respondents had fair opinion towards question number 19, some women reporting rape were trying to have some negotiations in their family, ( $\bar{x} = 3.00$ , S.D. = 0.205) with the highest average. Followings were fair opinion towards question number 17, girlfriend rape was forcibly sexual intercourse with one's ex-girlfriend who did not want to do it again, ( $\bar{x} = 2.74$ , S.D. = 0.275), fair opinion towards question number 16, wife or lover rape was just normal sexual intercourse which was possible but it happened at the wrong place and the wrong time, ( $\bar{x} = 2.68$ , S.D. = 0.226), and low opinion towards question number 18, wife rape should not be guilty since the current law did not take man as guilt, with the least average ( $\bar{x} = 2.45$ , S.D. = 0.275) respectively.

**Table 5:** Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of wife or lover rape

Rape myth among college students		Lev	el of Opin	ion		$\bar{x}$	Interpret
in term of wife or lover rape	Highly	Agree	Not	Disagre	Highl		ation
	agree		sure	e	y disag ree		
16. Wife or lover rape was just normal sexual intercourse which was possible but it happened at the wrong place and the wrong time.	20 (5.0)	73 (18.2)	143 (35.8)	88 (22.0)	79 (19.0)	2.68 (0.226)	fair
17. Girlfriend rape was forcibly sexual intercourse with one's ex-girlfriend who did not want to do it again.	26 (6.5)	94 (23.5)	106 (26.5)	99 (24.8)	75 (18.8)	2.74 (0.225)	fair
18. Wife rape should not be guilty since the current law did not take man as guilt.	25 (6.3)	51 (12.8)	115 (28.7)	95 (23.8)	114 (28.5)	2.45 (0.275)	low
19. Some women reporting rape were trying to have some negotiations in their family.	42 (10.5)	76 (19.0)	162 (40.5)	80 (20.0)	40 (10.0)	3.00 (0.205)	fair
Overall						2.710 (0.225)	Fair

In table 6, most respondents had fair opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of risk management ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.330, S.D. = 0.232). Considering individual aspect showed that respondents had the highest opinion towards question number 25, there was nothing guarantee that acquaintance or intimate would not exploit and rape ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.69,

S.D. = 0.225). The followings were high opinion towards question number 20, nightlife was risk area of rape ( $\bar{x} = 3.61$ , S.D. = 0.264), high opinion towards question number 24, actually, women could learn how to reduce risk of rape but they were careless ( $\bar{x} = 3.39$ , S.D. = 0.193), fair opinion towards question number 23, almost every single woman had knowledge, understanding, skill and potential to protect oneself from rape properly ( $\bar{x} = 3.27$ , S.D. = 0.187), fair opinion towards question number 21, going out late with a man implied that the woman was willing to take risk from sexual intercourse ( $\bar{x} = 3.09$ , S.D. = 0.232), the fair opinion towards question number 22, raped women were aware of rape risk but did not care to protect one selves ( $\bar{x} = 3.05$ , S.D. = 0.231) with the least average respectively.

Rape myth among college students		Lev	el of Opin	ion		$\bar{x}$	Interpr
in term of risk management	Highly	Agre	Not	Disagr	Highl		etation
	agree	e	sure	ee	У		
					disagr		
					ee		
20. Nightlife was risk area of rape.	82	156	97	53	12	3.61	high
	(20.4)	(39.0)	(24.3)	(13.3)	(3.0)	(0.264)	
21. Going out late with a man implied	41	117	133	57	52	3.09	fair
that the woman was willing to take risk	(10.3)	(29.3)	(33.3)	(14.1)	(13.0)	(0.232)	
from sexual intercourse.							
22. Raped women were aware of rape	36	104	139	86	35	3.05	fair
risk but did not care to protect one self.	(9.0)	(26.0)	(34.8)	(21.5)	(8.8)	(0.231)	
23. Almost every single woman had	32	162	117	61	28	3.27	fair
knowledge, understanding, skill and	(8.0)	(40.5)	(29.3)	(15.2)	(7.0)	(0.187)	
potential to protect oneself from rape							
properly.							
24. Actually, women could learn how	90	101	115	63	31	3.39	high
to reduce risk of rape but they were	(22.5)	(25.3)	(28.7)	(15.8)	(7.8)	(0.193)	•
careless.							
25. There was nothing guarantee that	110	135	102	27	26	3.69	high
acquaintance or intimate would not	(27.5)	(33.7)	(25.5)	(6.8)	(6.5)	(0.255)	-
exploit and rape.							
Overall						3.330	fair
						(0.232)	

**Table 6:** Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of risk management

For the table 7, on the whole, most respondents had high opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of action plan ( $\bar{x} = 3.770$ , S.D. = 0.535). Considering individual aspect had showed that respondents had high opinion towards question number 29, process of judgement highly needed to be improved to manage rape crime effectively ( $\bar{x} = 4.41$ , S.D. = 0.627) with the high average. The followings were high opinion towards question number 31, proper instruction and knowledge about how to face with rape crime would reduce rape ( $\bar{x} = 3.83$ , S.D. = 0.042), high opinion towards question number 27, you believed that having good plan to avoid rape would keep women safe ( $\bar{x} = 3.81$ , S.D. = 0.487), high opinion towards question number 28, if women insisted and applied appropriate method against rape effectively, no men would rape them ( $\bar{x} = 3.73$ , S.D. = 0.543), fair opinion towards question number 30, rape happened when the victim consented rape and rape-murder could not restrain ( $\bar{x} = 2.89$ , S.D. = 0.526), and lowest opinion towards question number 26, struggles of rape victim were mostly unserious ( $\bar{x} = 2.52$ , S.D. = 0.695) with the lowest average respectively.

Rape myth among college students		Le	vel of Op	inion		$\overline{x}$	Interpre
in term of action plan	Highly	Agre	Not	Disagre	Highly		tation
	agree	e	sure	e	disagre		
					e		
26. Struggles of rape victim were mostly	19	62	133	79	107	2.52	fair
unserious.	(4.8)	(15.5)	(33.3)	(19.8)	(26.8)	(0.695)	
27. You believed that having good plan	88	185	96	27	4	3.81	high
to avoid rape would keep women safe.	(22.0)	(46.3)	(24.0)	(6.8)	(1.0)	(0.487)	
28. If women insisted and applied	82	166	117	31	4	3.73	high
appropriate method against rape	(20.5)	(41.5)	(29.3)	(7.8)	(1.0)	(0.543)	_
effectively, no men would rape them.							
29. Process of judgement highly needed	233	114	41	8	4	4.41	high
to be improved to manage rape crime	(58.3)	(28.5)	(10.3)	(2.0)	(1.0)	(0.627)	_
effectively.							
30. Rape happened when the victim	26	95	136	95	48	2.89	fair
consented rape and rape-murder could	(6.5)	(23.8)	(34.0)	(23.8)	(12.0)	(0.526)	

Table 7: Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of action plan

not restrain.							
31. Proper instruction and knowledge	115	145	106	26	8	3.83	high
about how to face with rape crime would	(28.7)	(36.3)	(26.5)	(6.5)	(2.0)	(0.042)	
help reduce rape.							
Overall						3.770	high
						(0.535)	_

In table 8, on the whole, most respondents had fair opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of communication ( $\bar{x} = 4.020$ , S.D. = 0.046). Considering individual aspects showed that respondents had high opinion towards question number 32, rape myth would be reduced if men were educated how to understand women since childhood ( $\bar{x} = 4.04$ , S.D. = 0.053) with the highest average. The followings were high opinion towards question number 34, people in the society would respect feminism if we had continuous social communication ( $\bar{x} = 4.02$ , S.D. = 0.074), high opinion towards question number 33, patriarchy value caused improper myth ( $\bar{x} = 3.94$ , S.D. = 0.046) with the least average respectively.

 Table 8: Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of communication

Rape myth among college students		Le	vel of Op	oinion		$\bar{x}$	Interpreta
In term of communication	Highly	Agre	Not	Disagre	Highly		tion
	agree	e	sure	e	disagre		
					e		
32. Rape myth would be reduced if men	120	189	80	7	4	4.04	high
were educated how to understand women	(30.0)	(47.3)	(20.0)	(1.8)	(1.0)	(0.053)	
since childhood.							
33. Patriarchy value caused improper	120	158	105	14	3	3.94	high
myth.	(30.0)	(39.5)	(26.3)	(3.5)	(0.8)	(0.046)	
34. People in the society would respect	109	202	82	3	4	4.02	high
feminism if we had continuous social	(27.3)	(50.5)	(20.5)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(0.074)	
communication.							

In table 9, on the whole, respondents had high opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of remedy ( $\bar{x} = 4.000$ , S.D. = 0.226). Considering individual aspect showed that respondents had highest opinion towards question number 44, opinion and suggestion from this research should be applied to develop and improve proper social communication about rape ( $\bar{x} = 4.35$ , S.D. = 0.176) with the highest average. The followings were highest opinion towards question number 43, you believe it was important that we had short, medium and long term remedies for rape victims ( $\bar{x} = 4.24$ , S.D. = 0.146), highest opinion towards question number 45, proper communication about rape among college students would help reduce rape myth ( $\bar{x} = 4.21$ , S.D. = 0.148), high opinion towards question number 36, there should be proper remedy for the rape victims instead of letting it go ( $\bar{x} = 4.10$ , S.D. = 0.228) respectively.

Table 9: Number, percentage and opinion towards rape myth among college students in term of remedy

Rape myth among college students		Le	evel of O	pinion		$\bar{x}$	Interpreta
In term of remedy	Highl	Agre	Not	Disagre	Highly		tion
	У	e	sure	e	disagre		
	agree				e		
35. Time would cure raped women to	52	126	135	67	20	3.31	fair
adjust themselves and live their lives.	(13.0)	(31.5)	(33.8)	(16.8)	(5.0)	(1.054)	
36. There should be proper remedy for	149	167	70	4	10	4.10	high
the rape victims instead of letting it go.	(37.3)	(41.8)	(17.5)	(1.0)	(2.5)	(0.897)	
37. On the whole, we still lacked of good	143	153	83	11	10	4.02	high
remedy for the rape victims.	(35.8)	(38.3)	(20.8)	(2.8)	(2.5)	(0.950)	
38. Remedy sometimes was like	73	85	168	43	31	3.31	fair
aggravation, repeated torture, and recall	(18.3)	(21.3)	(42.0)	(10.8)	(7.8)	(1.124)	
for the rape victim.							
39. Good understanding and	122	129	126	17	6	3.86	high
denunciation by the public would help	(30.5)	(32.3)	(31.5)	(4.3)	(1.5)	(0.953)	
reduce myth.							
40. Well-trained and well-prepared personnel to	114	170	91	25	-	3.93	high
handle rape would help remedy and solve rape	(28.5)	(42.5)	(22.8)	(6.3)		(0.872)	
problem.							
41. People in the society should	100	121	149	12	18	3.68	high
encourage males to provide primary	(25.0)	(30.3)	(37.3)	(3.0)	(4.5)	(1.024)	
remedy for rape victim.							

42. Remedy for rape victim at the crime	139	149	92	12	8	4.00	high
scene should be suitable for the incident.	(34.8)	(37.3)	(23.0)	(3.0)	(2.0)	(0.938)	_
43. You believe it was important that we had	178	142	77	3	-	4.24	high
short-, medium- and long-term remedies for rape	(44.5)	(35.5)	(19.3)	(0.8)		(0.783)	
victims.							
44. Opinion and suggestion from this research	195	152	53	-	-	4.35	high
should be applied to develop and improve proper	(48.8)	(38.0)	(13.3)			(0.704)	
social communication about rape.							
45. Proper communication about rape	163	169	56	12	-	4.21	high
among college students would help	(40.8)	(42.3)	(14.0)	(3.0)		(0.791)	
reduce rape myth.							
Overall						4.000	high
						(0.226)	

# Suggestion for developing preventive and correcting guidelines against rape problem in the university *Attitude of college students towards rape*

Rape could be analyzed in different aspects. Regarding to legal aspect, this behavior was considered sex-related offence, and the offender was subject to be legally punished. In term of psychological aspect, rape was considered individual's sexual expression disorder related with sexual development disorder and individual's mental health. In term of social science, rape derived from traditional sexual oppression value turned into human right respect and gender equality at present. Rape possibly caused obsession of traditional role of male towards female and came up with rape myth.

In addition, different media played major role in sexual expression increasingly. We, therefore, had currently seen serious rape crime, rape in the university, on contrary, was hid from college student, university personnel and the public in order to protect image and interest of education institutes. College students had heard about rape from other media like television or social media. It was mostly found that intimates or family member were rape-murder, just a few of them were strangers or people from social media.

### **RAPE CAUSE**

### Lack or self-constraint

The study revealed that 64.5% of rape cause derived from lack of self-constraint which complied with concept of Jakphong Choopetch (2005) pointed out that crime elements caused by 3 main factors and 1 common element including physical and social factor influencing somebody become an offender when he was aroused by condition variable or mental factor (lacking of conscience and morality), and 1 common element as chance to commit rape crime which complied with the study by Curt R.Bartol (1991), the study about rape behavior caused by temporarily losing self-constraint influenced by alcohol or behavioral change. Since alcohol suppressed self-conscience, the individual had only instinctual need and showed oppressed emotion as venting sexual desire.

### The availability of pornography

The study showed that 20.0% of rape cause derived from the availability of pornography at present time when information technology as internet network was advanced in spite of having pornography control law. The problem was not solved, especially pornography in the internet and different social media. Likewise, statistics data also showed that teenagers and youths in Thai society were at risk because they were not mature enough to identify good media and analyze its content. They possibly accepted and mislead that content in the media was right and appropriate. Teenagers tended to follow and apply those misleading with their routine life and expressed inappropriate attitude and behavior, and made different mistakes like unplanned pregnancy, sexual harassment, and HIV infection or having sexually transmitted disease (Eaton et al., 2012; Harkness et al., 2015; Owens et al, 2012).

The above complied with the study by Pinyapong et al., (2020) about pornography media consumption among youths which pointed out that Facebook and YouTube were the most widely used by youths because these websites were popular among male and female youths. The finding complied with survey report by www.facebook.com which found teenagers aged 16-24 years old in Thailand used Facebook the most at 42%. The most consumed pornography among these youths included porn movie or clip which were increased continuously, and they could be downloaded easily. These porn clips were shared with and without consent. Further to data in 2008, the most searched word on www.google.com was "Sex Clip" at 4,150,000 times, "Porn Clip" at 1,530,000 times, and "Rape Clip" at 645,000 times. Previous research had found that most frequented site of pornography consumption were at home (57.72%), and on smart phones which complied with the study by Chotikorn (2008) pointed out that most college students consumed pornography on their smart phones and at home most frequently.

### Rape derived from lack of good nurture

The study had showed that 10.8% of rape caused by lack of good nurture which complied with report by Department of Mental Health (2020) which pointed out that rape was primarily caused by family background of the murder including improper parenting leaving the child alone without good taught about socialization and morality, and parental violence. Family was the fundamental institution to produce good citizens for the nation. Parenting or family institution was the fundamental to create one's characteristics, personality, physical and mental development, intelligence or wisdom,

emotion and socialization. All of these depended on parenting. It was usually said that mother and father were the first teachers of their children.

Even in school age, parents also acted like teachers who were teaching different lessons including good manner and consciousness. Family was the primary social unit because it was the first institution to lay fundamental for other social institutions. No any institution could replace the family. Father and mother, therefore, were subject to give love, warmth, different knowledge, and taught to their children so as to develop good citizens to the nation, and maintain future democracy. Further to our depth interview about the cause of rape, we had found different causes as below,

### 1) Person who committed crime.

The study had showed different motives of rape including alcohol drinking which made the person unconscious or not afraid to commit crime, influence from peer which made the person committed rape crime, or some mental problem like the need of acceptance, need of power over others, or aggressive and violent behaviors. These acts caused pain, suffer and revenge to the rape victim, and brought about sense of power or winner to the offender. Rape causes influencing the offender were below.

- (1) Sexual arousal was showed as explosive sexual impulse. Offender had been showing normal behavior but he was usually shy, had immature personality, and was not self-confident to make friend with female.
- (2) Sexual perversion as sadism caused offender to express sexual aggressive diffusion. Offender's sexual desire was aroused by struggle or opposition of the victim. Further to offender's parenting background, we usually found that the offender used to be tortured and it led to sexual disorder or sexual deviation.
- (3) Rape was caused by aggressive conduct disorder. Offender was not actually a sexual criminal, but he showed aggressive conduct because he wanted to have power over the victim. Most offenders usually had antisocial behavior caused by broken family or child torture.
- (4) Rape was caused by mental disorders including paranoid, and organic brain diseases that caused behavioral changes and misconduct without conscience.

As we applied psychoanalysis to describe offender's behavior, we could explain human behavior changes based on different emotion suppressed by subconscious mind, especially sexual desire. These changes were developed differently periodically since infancy. Any development disorder might cause emotional disorder in adulthood and might be sexual disorder. These disorders led to sex offence such as rape at the end.

Further to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory focused on mental structure including id, ego and superego, offender or offender was the one who could not control offender's id. The offender might not be able to change or replace offender's id need as what was socially acceptable. Offender's behavior, therefore, was based on offender's undefined id caused by over suppression that became behavioral disorder at the end. Offender's behavioral disorder might be caused by offender's disorder ego caused by serious mental conflict between id and superego (Choophikulchaichapilaman, 2005).

Therefore, it is concluded that rape behavior derived from sexual instinct suppressed under offender's subconscious mind and shown as inconsistency of id, ego and superego. In addition, offender with sexual disorder would show fixation with psychosexual developmental phase during childhood. Freud believed that primary satisfaction in childhood consisted of basic and sexual needs which he named it Lipido. This satisfaction in normal people would be evolved periodically based on child development from one organ to the other such as from mouth to anus. If there was fixation at any period of development, it would be embedded in individual's subconscious mind, it would become permanent disorder till the end of one's life, sexual deviation and rape crime. For example, offender who had sexual aggressive diffusion sexually aroused by victim's struggle or opposition would be pleased and want to have sexual intercourse violently.

This study had tested Freud's theory (1905/1960) and found that sexist humor might relate to female's insecurity. Previous expanded study had showed correlation between unfriendly sense of humor and aggression. We had found few samples (3%) gave 10 points for sexist humor and they enjoyed listening the joke. This study, therefore, showed that pleasure of sexist humor related to sexual intercourse had close correlation with attitude and belief towards rape. In contrast, female's enjoyment of sexist humor had positive correlation with belief towards sexual intercourse and acceptance of interpersonal violence. Women also had found that joke was less enjoyable, acceptable and less disgusting than male's one but female did not tend to tell the joke significantly.

### 2) Victim

The study had found it was true or untrue that woman who seduced the guy was the cause of rape because individual offender had got different rape motives. Some offenders raped crying and scared victim, and the others raped arrogant victim, had violent behavior, and targeted seductively dressed victim. Rape cause possibly came from the victim. Most victims wore long hair, tie a ponytail or put on a hair bun which were easily snatched. They also wore clothes that were easy to take off, always talked on the phone and were reckless. Most rape victims were students and college students that complied with characteristics of vulnerable victim of crime or attach as victim instigation. Important data of the victim could be used for the investigation (Choophikulchaicalpeelaman, 2005).

Victim characteristics were considered very important for investigating serial criminal cases. Characteristics data of the victim could reflex the criminal's subconscious mind and how to choose victim. For example, offender chose prostitute as victim to revenge female. In addition, it is also related with different imaginations embedded in subconscious mind of the offender and the way he chose victim such as victim with short or long hair, thin or chubby, along with marital status of the victim such as divorced, separated or not separated and so on. In case of victim who knew the offender,

the victim would tell his/her sorrow or problem to the offender, and it led to seduction and rape crime. Furthermore, victim's lifestyle was also another factor to meet the offender face to face or become rape target. Some victims might work or have lifestyle to meet, assemble or work with different people were risk getting close to the offender. In addition, residence or neighborhood was also very important because there was high rate of crime and chance to become rape victim. Physical and mental health also enabled someone to become rape victim easily (Ryan & Kanjorski, 1998).

The study also complied with the study by Lonsway & Fitzgerald (1994). Theory of sexual harassment and becoming the victim focused on role of rape and sexual harassment. Myth of rape was wrong attitude and belief towards rape which was widely and unstoppingly happened, it showed unacceptance and aggression towards females. Acceptance of the myth was assessed by some measures, and the investigator had checked its correlation with different variables and interventions. Although there were extensive researches about this, but terminology and rape measure acceptance (RMA) were not accurate theoretically and psychometrically enough. Although it was a controversial, we focused on research which was not exaggerated because it was highly important for understanding about sexual attack. Therefore, proposed theoretical terminology of rape myth, literature review towards acceptance of rape myth, and guideline for future research. We especially insisted that the research needed to more carefully integrate improved and better development and application of theoretical aspect and procedure not duplicated in social norms regarding sexual behavior among college students. Aronowitz et al, (2012), had investigated previous acceptance of rape myth, developed primary behavioral skill, data, and motive model. It was a cross-sectional study at northeastern university, with 237 students consented to respond online questionnaire about social norm towards sexual behavior, future perspective and rape myth acceptance (RMA). Most samples, female at 41%, believed that raped women when drunk, they were responsible, males had more RMA, men who had less knowledge about sex tended to accept rape myth, and women should be educated how to prevent/avoid rape.

This research also complied with the study by Krittaya Laowprasopwattana (1999). We had found that most samples, aged 20-21 years old, being freshmen or junior year students, had been sexually harassed because they shared the same living place, environment, dressing style, nightlife style, meeting place and time, and they were sexually harassed by the stranger. Their sexual harassment experiences were not so different and seemed normal which influenced Thai women who adopted western culture with their socialization, though, value and behavior.

#### 3) Social causes

Widespread of pornography, along with alcohol and drug, caused unlawful or conspiring sources. Alcohol and drug affected the brain, drinker and drug addict usually lacked of conscience and self-restraint, and tended to commit rape crime. This was parallel with the study by Prakotong (2018), which was a mixed methods research integrated qualitative and quantitative research methods having 434 samples from 5 ministries, 5 state enterprises as sample group. Qualitative research had 10 sample groups from 5 ministries and 15 state enterprises, and 66% of them joined our research.

Out study had found that sexual harassment, cultural structure, working, the environment, and proportion of male and female caused the trouble. Rape victim decided to consent the harassment by pretending not interested, walking away, and avoid facing. Some victim did not take it personal to conceal the problem because the victim was scared of revenge by the offender. This revenge would affect to their career, income, and physical and mental health. We concluded that there was actually sexual harassment in the ministry and state enterprise but problem awareness was significantly low.

### CONCLUSIONS

This study founded that rape myth among college students was positive. They agreed that females were at risk of rape at any time, any place and any age. Rape cause derived from the offender. The victim, social condition, motive, chance, time and venue influenced rape crime commit. Therefore, recommended proper measures as below to correct attitude towards rape myth among college students. We should provide good knowledge and training about human right and gender to college students in order to eliminate improper rape myth obsession. Women should not dress provocatively and be careful of the intimates. Selling alcohol and drug, pornography and sexual arousal media should be banned at the university and its vicinity. Offense statistics data should be revealed to the public. University should improve its environment so as to reduce risk of rape in the university.

By the way, we could also analyze different aspects including rape crime was considered illegal sexual crime, and offender was subject to be legally punished. In term of psychology, rape crime was individual's sexual disorder related to sexual and mental development disorder. In term of sociology especially in developing country, we had found changed sexual value and some behaviors of people in the society but traditional social norm in term of law was still the same which made people confused in practice. For example, sexual oppression value was turned into human right and gender equality at present. Some men possibly obsessed with the traditional value. Media also played major role to conceal sexual problem increasingly. Therefore, could reflex rape myth among college students to be changed into human right and gender equality, so we could analyze cause and effect of rape based on current belief, attitude and concept in the society.

For the Policy Recommendation, our policy recommendation towards rape myth among college students where the educational institutions should have complaint center for college students to report rape or sexual harassment, provide consultation, assistance and remedy seriously, mentor victim on lawsuit to the offender. The university administrator should develop training course teaching about moral and ethics, human right, gender equality, and non-sexual

harassment to others so that college students would learn and understand the true meaning of non-sexual harassment and how to protect oneself or avoid being the offender. For the future, the next research should investigate about influencing variables towards rape committed by college students so as to develop guideline for solving the problem, analyze chance of rape committed by college student in the university so as to prevent rape beforehand. Suggested research methods included multiple regression analysis or structural equation modeling: SEM.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank to Mahidol university, Thailand for permit to use research facilities and supporting in this research. \*This article is the part of the dissertation on "Rape Myth among college students" of Mahidol university.

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