RAPIST & RAPE

Who & Why









EDITED BY:

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Foreword

In 1980, Malaysia only recorded 138 rape cases. Over the years, it has been steadily increasing. The reported cases in 2006 recorded by Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman are 2431. The alarming rate in which the reported rape cases are rising is shocking and causing distress.

It is believed averages of four women are being raped daily. It means, we are losing 4 women – daughters, nurturers, mothers, professionals, our loved ones - to the perpetrators daily. We cannot live in denial that it will only happen to others – not to us. Therefore, we must take effort to understand rape because without doing so, nothing much can be done to stop it.

Much attention is given to the victim and the environment – the clothes the victim wore, the time of the rape and location where the victim was but the perpetrators has always been hidden from the lime light. This research is an effort to understand perpetrators as it is hoped to shed light into the endeavor to reduce the number of rape in our country.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel Samuel and Rohana Ariffin for conducting the research and putting together this piece of work.

ERA Consumer is pleased to come out with this thoroughly researched publication which we believe will educate the members on rapist and rape.

DATUK MARIMUTHU NADASON PJN, AMN, AMP, PJK

President

ERA Consumer Malaysia

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This book is based on a study that was carried out on convicted rapists in four prisons in Malaysia. Though the original report was more academic in nature, this book has been simplified to make it more readable for the general public. The book provides some information on the background of the rapists, their family background and some of their perception towards women.

Women are not responsible for men's actions

Anon

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ABSTRACT

The number of rape incidents in the country is showing an increasing trend. It is reported that an average of four women get raped everyday in Malaysia. As the rapists are the perpetrators of the crime, it is hoped that an insight into their thoughts, feelings, perception and attitude would help reduce the number of rape incidents in our country. The objectives of the study include obtaining a socio-economic profile of the rapists, understanding the family background of the rapists and outlining programmes which can help combat the rise of rape incidents. The study intends to outline the profile of a Malaysian rapist. A total of 90 convicted rapists from Seremban, Johor Bahru, Kajang and Sungai Buloh prisons were interviewed. Majority of the offenders were Malay and were aged between 45 to 55 years old. The most common types of rape were incest and acquaintance rape. The victims were 16 years and below. The study showed that the rapist originates mainly from the rural areas and has low education levels. They are mainly married. Most of them reported good relationship with their mothers but not their fathers. Their views concerning females in general were degrading and humiliating. These views affected their overall perception and attitudes towards women. Though rape is a violent crime, the responses from the convicted rapists show that they see rape as a sexual act.

1 INTRODUCTION

The official statistics on rape in Malaysia show an increasing trend. The number of reported cases was 138 in 1980. By 1994, the reported numbers rose to 912. In 2000, the reported cases totaled 1217 and the numbers continued to increase to 2431 cases in 2006 (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Number of rape cases from 1997 to 2006

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
No. Of Reported Rape Cases	1429	1539	1457	1217	1386	1431	1479	1760	1931	2431

Source: Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman, 2007

On the breakdown by race, the available statistics were from Jan-May, 2003 (Table 1.2). The highest number was that of the Malays (66.3 percent), followed by the Others (15.3 percent), Chinese (10.5 percent) and Indians (7.8 percent). Most of the cases classified as "Others" were natives of Sabah and Sarawak, while the rest, which were recorded in Peninsula Malaysia, were mainly foreign workers comprising of Indonesians.

Table 1.2: National rape cases by states and ethnic groups for Jan to May, 2003

State	Total	Ethnic Groups					
State	Cases	Malay (%)	Chinese (%)	Indian (%)	Others (%)		
Perlis	2	2	0	0	0		
Kedah	45	42	0	0	3		
Penang	18	12	3	2	1		
Perak	40	31	3	5	1		
Selangor	123	79	12	17	15		
Wilayah Persekutuan	37	22	4	9	2		
Negeri Sembilan	30	18	6	4	2		
Melaka	23	17	3	2	1		

Johor	124	89	23	4	8
Pahang	35	29	1	3	2
Terengganu	14	14	0	0	0
Kelantan	26	25	0	0	1
Sabah	45	4	4	0	37
Sarawak	26	6	3	0	17
TOTAL	588	390 (66.3)	62 (10.5)	46 (7.8)	90 (15.3)

Source: Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman

The number of cases reported in different states from the year 2000 to 2003, and 2006 showed similar trends, with Selangor and Johor recording the highest numbers and Perlis, the lowest (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3: National rape cases by states for the years 2000 to 2003, 2006

State			Year		
State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2006
Perlis	12	10	13	11	28
Kedah	110	123	132	119	221
Penang	61	75	73	70	115
Perak	91	79	100	118	183
Selangor	216	269	253	280	421
Wilayah Persekutuan	67	97	120	77	142
Negeri Sembilan	59	82	62	69	103
Melaka	43	43	57	67	125
Johor	194	234	235	312	343
Pahang	74	79	79	70	143
Terengganu	48	48	45	38	127
Kelantan	52	74	70	66	152
Sabah	109	94	115	111	199
Sarawak	81	79	77	71	129
TOTAL	1217	1386	1431	1479	2431

Source: Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman

It was reported that an average of four women were raped daily in just the first five months of 2003 in Malaysia (Sunday Star, 20th July, 2003). For the years 2000 until 2003, the highest number of rapists fell under the friend/acquaintance category. The next highest group was boyfriends. Strangers formed the third highest category. However, for the first four months of 2003, strangers had committed more rape cases compared to boyfriends. This is a new trend and the recent spate of brutal rape-cum-murder cases (Canny Ong, Noor Suzaily Mukhtar and Nurul Huda Ghani) are witnesses to this type of rape (Table 1.4). Similar trends also found in Table 1.4.1.

Table 1.4: Relationship between perpetrator and victims for the years 2000-2003

Relationship	Year				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	
Acquaintance/ Friend	457 (37.6)	541 (38.9)	572 (40)	721 (48.7)	
Boyfriend	239 (19.6)	272 (19.6)	252 (17.6)	290 (19.6)	
Stranger	207 (17)	201 (14.5)	215 (15)	246 (16.7)	
Father	67 (5.5)	77 (5.5)	77 (5.4)	72 (4.9)	
Stepfather	38 (3.1)	52 (3.7)	40 (2.8)	42 (2.8)	
Uncle	34 (2.8)	42 (3.0)	65 (4.5)	42 (2.8)	
Brother-in-law	30 (2.5)	23 (1.7)	21 (1.5)	20 (1.4)	
Grandfather	4 (0.3)	5 (0.4)	13 (0.9)	11 (0.7)	
Neighbour	65 (5.3)	86 (6.2)	45 (3.1)	33 (2.2)	
Unknown	76 (6.2)	87 (6.4)	131 (9.1)	2 (0.1)	
TOTAL	1217	1386	1431	1479	

Source: Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman

Table 1.4.1: Relationship between perpetrator and victims for the years 2004-2006 and for the period January to April 2007

	Year						
Relationship	2004 No. (%)	2005 No. (%)	2006 No. (%)	2007 No. (%) Jan - April			
Acquaintance/ Friend	984 (41.3)	823 (32.5)	1209 (34)	383 (37.8)			
Boyfriend	367 (15.4)	517 (20.4)	716 (20.1)	214 (21.1)			
Stranger	585 (24.6)	723 (28.6)	1038 (29.2)	251 (24.8)			

Father	99 (4.2)	88 (3.5)	101 (2.8)	20 (2)
Stepfather	60 (2.5)	46 (1.8)	70 (2)	1 (0.1)
Uncle	64 (2.7)	54 (2.1)	61 (1.7)	18 (1.8)
Brother-in-law	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grandfather	7 (0.29)	1 (0.04)	7 (0.2)	1 (0.1)
Neighbour	67 (2.8)	128 (5.1)	144 (4.1)	22 (2.2)
Unknown	20 (0.08)	3 (0.12)	19 (0.53)	5 (0.5)
TOTAL	2381	2531	3555	1012

Source: Nanyang Siang Pau, June 28, 2007 1

What is considered rape in this country? In Malaysia, rape is categorized as a violent crime with a specific legal definition. Under Section 376 of the Penal Code, rape is defined as the penetration of the male sexual organ into the female sexual organ without the consent of the woman. Statutory rape involves under-aged women (those who are below 16) and, in these cases, rape is said to occur with or without a woman's consent.

Why study rapists?

Almost all earlier studies both western and local ones on the topic of rape have concentrated on incidents of rape, the effects on the victims and ways to help victims cope with the issues surrounding rape. There is a dire need to change our understanding of the issues. In order to obtain a more holistic view of the issues, we feel that there should be a paradigm shift, whereby the focus should be more on the rapists. As the rapists are responsible for the rape, perhaps an insight into their thoughts, feelings, perceptions and attitudes would help us to understand this issue and hopefully help towards reducing the number of rape incidents in our country.

As we shift our focus to the perpetrators, a number of questions come into mind. Some of them are: who are these rapists and why do they rape?; would it be possible to obtain some profile of these male predators?; why are the rapists mainly Malay men?; could this be due to more reporting by the Malay community or merely due to population distribution?; what are the reasons for choosing their victims?; what precedes the rape incidents?

With these questions in mind, we managed to get to interview almost all convicted rapists in prisons in a few of the southern state of Malaysia. An earlier study conducted by us in 1997 had looked at a group of rapists in the Taiping and Penang prisons. Thus, we expand

.

¹ The statistics here differ from Table 1.1 as the information was obtained from different sources.

our field research to the south. The earlier study was conducted by a team led by Rohana, which focused on rape, the rapists and the roles of related agencies, mainly in Penang. It included looking at the mechanisms of various agencies involved in handling rape cases, procedures, interviews with rape survivors and interviews with rapists. However as an exploratory study, only 42 rapists were interviewed in the Taiping and Penang prisons.

The 1997 study had helped us to reformulate some areas that need a deeper examination especially into the motives of the rapists. The present study continued to delve more deeply into issues highlighted in the earlier study.

This book hopes to provide a greater understanding of the background of the rapists, with the main objective of attempting to outline their profiles. At present, articles and books studying on the rapists in Malaysia is very limited or almost non-existent.

Prisons that we had visited to interview the 90 convicted rapists



Source: http://www.prison.gov.my/melayu/carta/instt.html

1. Seremban Prison 2. Kajang Prison 3. Sungai Buloh Prison 4. Johor Bahru Prison The study was conducted over a period of 10 months in the year 2003. A total of four prisons were visited and 90 convicted rapists interviewed.

The 90 convicted rapists interviewed were from the Seremban, Johor Baru, Kajang and Sungai Buloh prisons. The breakdown of the number of prisoners from each prison is shown in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5: Number of rapists interviewed at various prisons

Prisons	Number of convicted rapists interviewed	
Seremban	6	
Johor Bahru	23	
Kajang	40	
Sungai Buloh	21	
TOTAL	90	

A questionnaire comprising of open and close-ended questions was prepared to ensure uniformity of the questions asked. The questionnaire comprised six sections. Section A covered all general questions pertaining to socio-demographic information. Questions asked included race, age, marital status, educational background, type of rape committed and place where they were brought up. Section B looked at the family background. This section also included questions on the rapists' views of their parents and siblings. Section C touched on the school background, Section D on their sexual history and Section E focused on the rape incident. This section mainly looked at the rapists' frame of mind during the incident. The last section, Section F, looked at the attitude of the rapists. Other than open and close-ended questions, the questionnaire also included a set of questions aimed at understanding the rapists' attitude towards women. The answers to these questions were placed on a Likert-scale ranging from 1 to 5; 1 representing "strongly agree" to 5 representing "strongly disagree".

The study only focused on convicted rapists serving time at the Seremban, Johor Bahru, Kajang and Sg. Buloh prisons. The convicted rapists were selected by the wardens/officers-in-charge and sent to us for the interviews. In Seremban and Johor Baru, all convicted rapists housed in the prisons were interviewed. However, in Sungai Buloh and Kajang, those rapists appearing to be not of sound mind as a result of their incarceration and those who could not speak either Bahasa Malaysia or English were not selected for the interview. These decisions were made solely by the wardens/officers-incharge. The data collection process was over a period of 10 months from February to November 2003. The interviews were conducted over a total of 96 man-hours during the semester holidays.

Limitations

We would like to state that since the study comprised only 4 prisons, the findings cannot be generalized to all convicted rapists in other prisons in Malaysia. Future studies involving and analyzing more rapists in other prisons could offer a better in-depth understanding and insight into some of the issues. A one-off interview with the rapists is insufficient as we could only manage to obtain some indicators of their background and reasons for committing the offence.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

Incidences of rape are reported everyday in the newspapers. Rape can occur anywhere. Victims of rape are of different ages, races, social and religious backgrounds. The rapists are also from diverse backgrounds. Most rapists are known to the victims. Known rapists include fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, brothers, relatives and boyfriends.

The word rape comes from the Latin word *rapere*, which means to steal. In many societies and traditions, rape is seen as crime causing injury not only to the women but to the man, in that his "property" (wife or daughter) has been "sexually spoilt" by another (Allison & Wrightsman, 1993). This thrust in the definition has shifted in recent years and has looked at rape not only as a sexual crime but also as a violent one



According to the Malaysian Penal Code Section 375, a man is said to have committed rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman under the following conditions or circumstances:

- First Against her will
- Secondly Without her consent.
- Thirdly With her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person whom she is interested in, in fear of death or of hurt.
- Fourthly With her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband, and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.
- Fifthly With her consent, when, at the time of giving such consent, by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome

- substance, she is unable to understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent.
- Sixthly With or without her consent, when she is under sixteen years of age.
- Penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape.

Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife by a marriage which is valid under any written law is not considered rape. However, a woman:

- a. living separately from her husband under a decree of judicial separation or a decree nisi not made absolute; or
- b. who has obtained an injunction restraining her husband from having sexual intercourse with her, shall not be considered his wife for the purpose of this section.

A Muslim woman living separately from her husband during the period of "iddah", will also not be considered to be his wife for the purpose of this section.

Malaysian Penal Code Section 376, punishment for rape states that, whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years or not more than 20 years, and also be liable for whipping.

A number of positive amendments to the penal code have been tabled but have yet to come into force. A few pertinent ones will be highlighted here:

- i.It is also considered rape if consent is obtained from the victim by using the man's position of authority over her or because of professional relationship or other relationship of trust in relation to her. (Section 375)
- ii.If rape is committed on a pregnant woman, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years and not more than thirty years and shall also be liable to whipping. (Section 376)
- iii. Punishment for incest is for a term of not less than eight years and not more than thirty years, and whipping of not less than ten strokes. (Section 376)
- iv. Husbands (during the subsistence of a valid marriage) causing hurt or fear of death in order to have sexual intercourse with his wife shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years.

Another proposed amendment is to lower the age of consent from sixteen to twelve, which means the perpetrator, will be punished if he commits rape with or without the victims' consent only when she is under twelve years of age.

However, girls above the age of 12 are, under the proposed amendments able to consent to having sexual intercourse. There have been no studies carried out to show conclusively that girls who have attained the age of twelve have reached physical, emotional and intellectual maturity to be able to give the required consent and to know the implications of consenting to having sexual intercourse. Under the current law, the question of consent does not arise when the victim has not completed 16 years of age and yet majority of the victims are sixteen and below. The implications of lowering the age of consent would be great especially in the light of the recent cases of abduction and rape in the country (e.g. the Nurin case).

Theories on rape

Many theories have been put forward to understand why rape occurs in societies. These theories can be classified under three common aetiologies. They are psychopathological, physiological and socio-cultural explanations (Lottes, 1988; cited in Rohana et.al., 1997).

Psychopathological

This perspective assumes that rapists are men who are psychologically unstable and maladjusted. Kraft-Ebing, the pioneer in the study on sexual disorder concluded, "most rapists were degenerate, imbecilic men". (Brownmiller, 1975)

However, Koss and Leonard (1984) after reviewing psychological studies on sexually aggressive men concluded that there was little evidence to support this notion. Schwendinger (1983) noted that although there are evidences of a small number of rape offenders being psychotic, the majority were not (cited in Lottes, 1988).

Physiological

This perspective assumes that the male's uncontrollable desire for sex (which is unfulfilled) can cause aggression. This creates an image of the rapist as a sex-starved maniac prowling on women. Symons (1979) argued that rape is motivated by the desire for sex. Man, he says, will rape if force is the only way to obtain sex and if they feel that the negative consequences resulting from rape, is low.

Socio-cultural

Three socio-cultural factors are identified as influencing the sexual aggressive nature of men. They are the patriarchal system, gender socialization and legitimate violence.

The Patriarchal System

Proponents of this perspective state that all forms of sexual aggression by men against women take place in societies where social inequalities between the genders exist. In this perspective, rapists are viewed as men who are influenced by the dominant societal attitudes of men towards women (Rohana et. al, 1997).

Many feminists and sociologists argue that societies that are dominated by the patriarchal system will contribute to gender inequality and as long as there is gender inequality, inevitably there will be rape. This is because rape is more or less a direct function of the degree to which females are politically and economically powerless relative to



men (Davis, 1975; Metzger 1976). Koss and Harvey (1989) state that at the level of society, rape can be seen as a "manifestation of gender inequality and as a mechanism of the subordination of women."

Sanjay (1981) in her study among 95 tribal societies revealed that in rape prone societies, the power and authority of females were lower, males expressed contempt for women as decision makers and toughness and aggression were highly valued male characteristics.

Under this view, rape becomes a means by which some men want to remind women of their place in a male-dominated society and therefore "is nothing more or less than a conscious process of intimidation by which all men keep all women in a state of fear" (Brownmiller, 1975:5; cited in Rohana et.al, 1997).

Gender Socialization

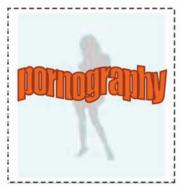
Related to the patriarchal system is the view that traditional gender attitudes encourage rape. Teh (1987) argues that women are taught early in life to be dependent both emotionally and economically on men. Men, on the other hand, become aware early in life that their birthrights accord them privileges to dominate and conquer the world.



Source: Rohana, 2006.

They are taught that to be a real man is to be strong, tough, powerful, independent and capable of succeeding even at the expense of others (lbid). Weis and Borges (1977) argue that sex-role socialization is responsible to a large extent in shaping men into assailants and women into victims.

• Legitimate Violence



There has been much debate as to whether pornography does contribute to rape and sexual violence. Straus (1989) (cited in Rohana et.al, 1997) states three interrelated factors as to why feminist scholars believe that pornography leads to violence against women.

Firstly, pornography is seen as both reflecting and promoting male dominance against women. Secondly, women are perceived and shown as objects, which can be abused and exploited sexually, and thirdly, pornography presents violence against women in a

positive light. Morgan (1980) (cited in Baron and Straus, 1989:95) stated that women are shown as enjoying themselves in being coerced, brutalized and raped.

The various kinds of sexual predators

There are many types of rapists, namely power rapists, anger rapists, sadistic rapists, gang rapists, date or acquaintance rapists, child rapists and those committing incest.

In theory, the rape committed by power rapists, anger rapists and sadistic rapists can be classified as stranger rape.

Stranger rape

Teen raped after befriending youth

NIBONG TEBAL: A 15-year-old girl was raped a few hours after making friends with a youth who contacted her on the cellphone for the first time.

The girl, from Tanjong Piandang, Perak, had accepted the youth's invitation for a date and was later taken to a rubber estate at Kampong Besar near here where she was raped.

South Seberang Prai OCPD Supt Zainal Abd Aziz said the incident happened between 5pm and 6.30pm on Saturday.

He said the youth then took her to meet five of his friends at a stall.

Supt Zainal said the girl stayed on and the five friends took her to a house at about 2am on Sunday.

One of the friends then raped her while the rest molested her, said Supt Zainal.

This is a newspaper report on a 15 year old girl who was raped by a youth she just met. (The Star February, 27, 2007)

Stranger rape is committed by an offender who is not known or has a very short acquaintance with the victim. In such cases, the victim can be attacked and sexually assaulted anywhere and at anytime. This type of rape could also lead to the murder of the victims. According to Deputy Superintendent Ong Chin Lan, Head of the Special Investigation Unit for Sexual Assault, rapists are becoming more violent (New Straits Times, July 20, 2003). Recent instances of such cases are the brutal rapes and murders of Canny Ong and Noor Suzaily Mukhtar.

bes.online::: Posted by: Wan Suhaidda on Wednesday, February 23, 2005



Shah Alam - Aircraft Cabin Cleaning Supervisor Ahmad Najib Aris was sentenced to death by the Shah Alam High Court for murdering US-based IT analyst Canny Ong Lay Kian in June 2003.

Ahmad Najib, 29, was also sentenced to the maximum 20 years' jail and ordered to be given 10 strokes of the rotan for raping Ong.

Justice Datuk Muhamad Ideres Muhamad Rapee ordered the jail term to commence from June 20 2003, the day he was arrested. Ahmad Najib was found guilty of raping and murdering Ong, 28, at KM11.2 Jalan Klang Lama between 1 am and 5 am on June 14 2003. He appeared calm when Justice Muhamad Ideres passed the sentence.

The trial lasted 46 days beginning on Sept 15 2003 and ended May 20 last year when the prosecution closed its case. The trial, which was given wide publicity, had horrified the nation with its tales of abduction, rape, murder and the dumping of the body into a manhole and burning it.

The prosecution called 44 witnesses, including Ong's parents, and at the end of the prosecution's case, the judge ordered Ahmad Najib to make his defence. However, Ahmad Najib stunned everyone when he chose to remain silent.

In 2002, out of a total of 1931 cases reported, 215 were stranger rapes (11 percent) (www.rmp.gov.my). Statistics show that incidences of stranger rapes are the ones that are often the least frequently reported. According to Groth and Birnbaum (1979) in their study

on 500 convicted rapists, in nearly all cases of stranger rape, elements of power, anger and sadism are present.

i) The power rapist

The power rapist suffers from great personality insecurity, has an overwhelming fear of impotence and doubts his own masculinity. He often compensates these inadequacies of his by controlling others and believes that women like to be raped. He often has a few dates with the women prior to raping them and may also ask for a date after the rape.

ii) The anger rapist

The anger rapist believes that he must retaliate for an imagined wrong or loss. This rapist usually senses a deep conflict within his own personality which compels him to commit unplanned and explosive assaults and attacks towards randomly selected victims. He uses sex and beating to vent his rage and anger and views his actions as a means of degrading his victims.

iii) The sadistic rapist



This type of rapist seeks revenge and punishment from another person by the use of violence and cruelty. The victim is typically only a symbol of the source of his anger. His attacks are often ritualistic and victims are traumatized, suffer extreme physical injuries and in many cases, are murdered.

Source: www.inkymess.com/imgs/inkings/stopviolenceaga

The gang rapist

This rapist rapes in the company of his peers. Reducing the victim to the low status of an object, the gang rapist seeks confirmation of his own masculinity and expresses power and authority over another person, validating his superior position.

In true gang behaviour, the first person to rape the victim is the gang leader. The age of the victim usually reflects the age of the gang members.



Source: www.istockphoto.co



Star Tuesday January 30, 2007

Girls gang-raped by boyfriends and friends

KOTA TINGGI: Two 15-year-old girls were gang raped by their boyfriends and friends in two separate cases last week.

Kota Tinggi acting OCPD Deputy Supt Muhammad Shamsuddin said, in both cases, the girls had followed their respective boyfriends home..

DSP Muhammad said that in the first case on Jan 23, the victim met up with her boyfriend at 6pm after sports practice in school.

He said she then followed the boyfriend to his house where they had sex.

"Her boyfriend, 15, later asked her to sleep with two of his friends as well to settle his debts.

"She was then raped repeatedly by the two, who were aged 15 and 17. She was later sent home at 8.45pm. She, however, only lodged a police report on Jan 26," he added.

Police detained all three boys the same day.

DSP Muhammad said the second incident happened on Jan 25.

"The victim met up with her boyfriend in his 20s at Plaza Kota Tinggi. She then followed him home to his house in Kampung Lukut Cina, where she claimed he raped her three times.

"After that, two of the suspect's friends took turns to rape her before sending her home at 1am," he added

DSP Muhammad said police had identified the three suspects.

'Date' or acquaintance rape

In this type of rape, the offender is known to the victim. From the reported rape cases of 2002, this category was by far the largest. Out of a total of 1431 reported cases, 493 (34 percent) were committed by acquaintance, 252 (18 percent) by boyfriends, and 79 (6 percent) by new acquaintances. 2 In some cases, the victims only knew the offender for a period of time while in other instances, the victim could have known the offender for just a

² The focus here is on non-family relationships, as incest will be discussed separately.

couple of hours. Many of these rape cases involve victims below the age of 16 and are classified as statutory rape.

This rapist forces unwanted sexual advances on the victim. This type of rape is increasingly recognised as a problem among teenagers and young adults. It is usually grossly underreported, partly because the victim is often portrayed as deserving of punishment.

Child rapists

Children are naive and by the time they reach nine years of age, their loyalty, and desire to please and gain the trust of adults are traits which are often manipulated by offenders to accomplish their goal of molestation.

At an older age, victims may threaten the offender with disclosure. The actual physical attractiveness of the female child has little if anything to do with whether the child becomes a victim (Wallace, 1996).

These rape offenders or child abusers do not fit into any stereotype image.





Mohamed Abbas Danus Baksan, 47, pleaded guilty to raping Nurul Huda, a Standard Four pupil.

(Source: www.corpun.com/myj00401.htm)



Nurul Huda, a Standard Four pupil of Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Tiram Duku.



Source: The Sun, August 16, 1999.

Incest

There is never a more vulnerable victim than a powerless child, especially when the child is abused by a caretaker e.g. a parent or stepparent, a grandparent, an uncle or an aunt.

Often the rape of a child, especially incest that involves the child's family members, is viewed with revulsion and disgust by many cultures and religions. In 2006, incest accounted for 7 percent (239 out of 3555 cases) of the total rape cases reported for that year.

The issue of incest is complex and its occurrence prevalent in all societies. It is also one of the most under-reported forms of crime. There are several reasons why incest is perpetrated in Malaysia. First, there is the persistent notion that women are nothing but sexual objects. Secondly, the notion of "malu" or shame inhibits the reporting of such cases. This is exploited by the perpetrator who assumes that the victim will remain silent. Thirdly, the economic factor: who will take care of the family if the breadwinner is reported and incarcerated for such an act? Fourthly, the decision to report is dependent on the victim's

ability to harbour such dark family secrets and would only report it once the guilt of harbouring such secrets and shame becomes untenable and unbearable. This last point has been disputed by other sociologists but it is generally believed that these are the factors why more Malays are entangled in such cases. Another factor is because of the dynamics of such cases: the victims are usually young children who are either threatened or manipulated into acquiescence or silence; parents may not be trained to recognize signs of sexual abuse in children; parents who know of the incident may not report it due to the lack of support systems available; or a host of other factors.

By definition, incest is the "sexual intercourse between persons closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry" (cited in Katz and Mazur, 1979). In Malaysia, incest is classified as rape under Section 376 of the Penal Code. If victims are below the age of 16, these cases are also viewed as statutory rape. Though reported cases of incest are considered high, Singh (1996) stated that often crimes committed against children are ignored or overlooked.

Generally, it is believed that incest is a problem, which occurs within families at the lower socio-economic levels, living in rural or low-cost housing areas, which are often overcrowded. Many studies conducted overseas confirm the fact that incest occurs in families of low socioeconomic levels (Molnar & Cameron, 1975; Maish, 1972 cited in Katz and Mazur, 1979). On the other hand, Kinsey's (cited in Katz and Mazur, 1979:256) study of sexual offenders showed that 70-77% of sexual offenders were in the upper and uppermiddle working class. A study conducted by Hadi (1996) showed that incest in Malaysia is more prevalent in families of lower socio-economic levels. This was also confirmed from the findings of Rohana et.al. (1997).



Monday February 5, 2007

Bomoh held over rape of stepdaughters

Alor Star police have arrested a 64-year-old bomoh to help in investigations into a rape case involving his two stepdaughters.

The man was arrested in Simpang Kuala, near here, on Saturday.

One of the victims, then aged 17, lodged a report on Nov 21 last year after a doctor who examined her at Alor Star Hospital confirmed that she was three months' pregnant.

The teenager was taken to the hospital by a relative after she complained of pain in the kidney.

The stepfather fled the house on the same day.

Pendang acting OCPD Asst Supt L. Pubadi said five days later, her sister, then aged 12, also lodged a report that she was also raped.

The suspect has been remanded for seven days.

Farawak Tribune, Kuching, 4 November 2003

Convicted rapist gets another 12 years By Standley Dikod



OFF TO PRISON ... Zulkarnain (white shirt) being escorted out of the court after sentence of twelve years for raping his 11-year-old stepdaughter.

KUCHING – A 40-year-old man was sentenced to 12 years' jail yesterday after he admitted raping his step-daughter. Last year, he was also given a jail sentence for raping an elder sister of the girl. Zulkarnain Ramle of Kampung Sourabaya Hulu, Petra Jaya pleaded guilty before the Sessions' Court judge Supang Lian yesterday to the charge of raping his 11-year-old stepdaughter three years ago. On March 6 last year at about 11.30 am while at the children's ward Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), the victim's mother was informed by her daughter that she was raped by her stepfather sometime in 2000.

Based on this, she lodged a police report at the Gita police station and the victim was taken to the SGH for a medical examination. The court was also told that the rape took place when the victim's mother and sister were not at home. The man was arrested on the same day and yesterday, he admitted raping the 11-year-old girl. Before passing her sentences, Judge Supang said that as a father to the child, he should have protected and looked after the girl. But instead he raped her.



Profile of rapists in Malaysia

Few studies have been carried out to attempt a profiling of the rapists in this country. One such attempt was conducted by Jamaluddin (1997) when he carried out a study on eight prisoners at the Alor Setar prison in Kedah. Although the numbers that were studied was small (since there were 80 rapists in prison at that time) he claimed to have conducted a qualitative study on them. His findings appeared similar to the study carried out by Rohana et.al. also in 1997.

Jamaluddin's findings (pg. 79-135) showed that all the rapists had low educational attainment, for example; Form 3 and below, thus their jobs were also those of the lower stratum. All originated from poor rural families with more than 5 children. The age of the rapists ranged between 24-50 years while their victims were all below sixteen years of age. Only two of the rapists were stranger rapists, raping their victims as an afterthought, when their main purpose initially was to rob the household. The others were all known to the victims because they were fathers or friends. Thus a relationship between the rapists and victims had already been formed for some time and in all cases the victims trusted their perpetrators because of such relationships!

All the rapists had little religious upbringing, led liberal lifestyles, mixing freely (especially with factory women), visiting prostitutes in Thailand, and had watched many pornographic materials in the past. With the exception of one rapist, the rest did not have any previous convictions.

The 1997 study on rape by Rohana et.al. included a chapter (chpt. 7: pg 192-243) on the rapists and what their views were on rape and women. Forty-two rapists were interviewed in Taiping and Penang prisons. Their ages ranged between 20-69 years old whilst their victims were largely below 16 years. Most of them were married or had a partner before they were jailed. Similar to the findings of Jamaluddin as indicated above, almost all were from rural areas. Gauging the responses given, they seemed to have childhood relationships ranging from normal to happy with their parents and siblings.

The education levels reached by the majority were below lower secondary. Over 80 percent of the rapists knew their victims and thus there was the element of trust between the victims and the perpetrators. But in this





Source: Rohana, 2006.

study, the rapists (over 60 percent) were reluctant to admit having watched pornography. And again, the majority had refused to respond to the researchers as to whether they had visited prostitutes. In fact, from their point of view, prostitutes were "dirty!" They considered

prostitutes as women who had given sex "freely" (albeit with a price) to other men! It would seem that rapists too have their own moral standards!

Most of the rapists felt that they had not done anything wrong as the sexual act between them and the victims was mutual.³ They claimed that no force was used on the victims. In fact most of the rapists considered rape to have taken place only if there was a threat or use of force on the victims. Naturally, deception and unequal power relations were considerations which did not come within the ambit of understanding of these rapists. Many of the rapists interviewed were very glib conversationalists and were very convincing in their tales of unjust imprisonment!

Statistics in Malaysia and those by the Royal Police Reports (PDRM) to the public often give a macro picture of the men who raped and their relationship to the victims. In addition, the perpetrators' race and place of rape were also stated (see PDRM reports over the years). Similarly a study by AWAM (2002) on rape covered a wide range of opinions of the related agencies and some members of the public. There was no study of the rapists themselves. However, all statements pertaining to the rapists were based on the analysis of the statistics provided in the annual reports of PDRM. The micro (profile) picture of rapists is important too. For instance, the occupation and income of rapists tend to be skewed towards the lower income group. Younger rapists (below 30 years old), even those involved in gang rape, tend to receive lighter sentencing compared to older rapists (say 40 years and above).

Also interesting was a constant pattern of the majority of rapists having been Malays over the last twenty years and that there seems to be no indication of a decreasing trend. However, the age of rapists shows no consistent pattern ranging from 14 to 70 years although somewhat concentrated in the age group of 35-50 years. What seems to be a regular pattern is that of the rapists managing to gain the trust of the victims in the relationship which enabled them to exploit subsequently and commit rape. Needless to say that in cases of rape perpetrated by other relatives/employers/ agencies; unequal power relations made it impossible or difficult for the victims to resist the predators' aggressive action.

Conclusion

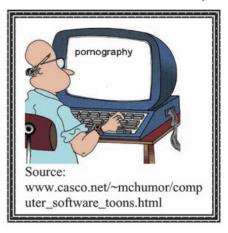
There has been a wide array of literature on rape and its effects on victims/survivors. But it is timely now for researchers and writers to study the male mind on gender relations and the rapists' worldview as well as their views on gender relations. Most rapists have categorically stated that it was sex that drove them to commit the act. Sexual stimulants like

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³ The term normally used by the rapists is "suka sama suka", indicating mutual consent.

pornography was one of the contributing factors towards raping the nearest available victim including own daughters and relatives. However a bigger picture needs to be understood.

What of the macro structure that perpetuates the male myth of manhood and virility? What of the big profit derived by industries (mass media, pornography etc.) that reinforce women as sex objects or even objects of possession and pride? What is it that makes the rapists so self-centered that he only thinks of himself without thinking of the consequences on the victims?



Why then is the Malay male so prone to committing sexual violence on women including their own children? Has there been a change in living conditions and has unequal gender relations developed between men and women, and between parents and children? Has there been such a drastic change in sexual values and norms that the male and more so the rapists feel that it is acceptable to engage in such dastardly acts? Alternatively, could this have been the mindset of the past too but more opportunities are available now for more cases to be reported? We can ask many questions and perhaps some answers can be derived through, amongst others, studying the rapists and the predator mindset of the men in general.

3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

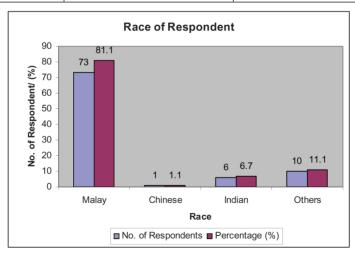
Introduction

This chapter looks at some aspects of the demographic, family background and socio-economic profile of the respondents. As stated earlier, a total of 90 convicted rapists were interviewed as respondents for this study.

Demographic and socio-economic profile

Table 3.0: Race of respondents

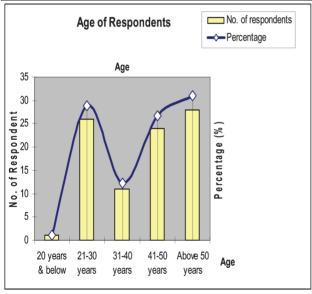
Race	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Malay	73	81.1
Chinese	1	1.1
Indian	6	6.7
Others	10	11.1
TOTAL	90	100



Malays constitute the majority (81.1 percent) followed by the Others (11.1 percent). The number of reported cases among the Chinese is low in proportion to their population. The statistics shown is also similar with the trend in the reported National Rape Cases (see Chapter 1) where the majority is Malay followed by the category known as Others. However, the National Statistics discloses more Chinese convicted for rape when compared to the Indians unlike the table above. As stated in the earlier chapters, respondents were those convicted for rape and sentenced to a jail term.

Table 3.1: Age of respondents

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
20 years & below	1	1.1
21-30 years	26	28.9
31-40 years	11	12.2
41-50 years	24	26.7
Above 50 years	28	31.1
TOTAL	90	100

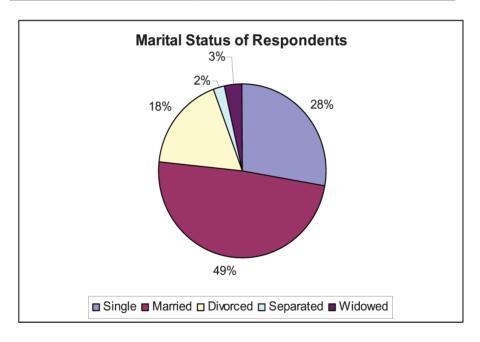


The highest group of offenders falls into the above 50 age group, followed closely by those aged between 21-30 years old. If we look at the percentages above the age of 41, they make up 57.8 percent of the offenders. Could this be related to the middle-age syndrome? One often thinks of the older as getting wiser but it seems that some older persons use their knowledge and power for manipulation, control and intimidation. Usually the perpetrator is in a more powerful position viz-a-viz the victim, for example, the father,

brothers and uncles. The younger age group offenders are mainly those involved in acquaintance and date rapes. Among the 90 cases, the youngest offender was 20 years old and the oldest, 72 years old.

Table 3.2: Marital status of respondents at point of imprisonment

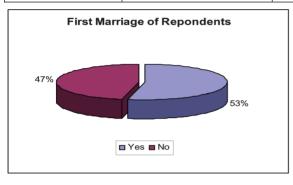
Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	25	27.8
Married	44	48.9
Divorced	16	17.8
Separated	2	2.2
Widowed	3	3.3
TOTAL	90	100



At the point of imprisonment, a fair number of the rapists were married (48.9 percent). The next ranked group is the single men (27.8 percent). A significant number were or had been married before (72.2 percent). This group includes the married, divorced, separated and widowed. It is common for the wives of rapists to divorce them after they have been jailed for over a year.

Table 3.2.1: First marriage of respondents

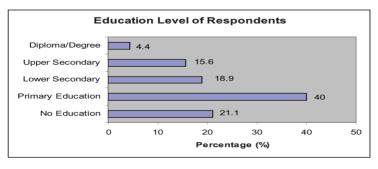
First Marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	48	53.3
No	17	46.7
TOTAL	65	100



A higher percentage of respondents were married only once (53.3 percent). However, more than 46 percent were married more than once (46.7 percent).

Table 3.3: Educational level of respondents

Educational Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No Education	19	21.1
Primary Education	36	40.0
Lower Secondary	17	18.9
Upper Secondary	14	15.6
Diploma/Degree	4	4.4
TOTAL	90	100



Over 61 percent of the respondents had lower or no education, i.e. either never been to school or with only primary education. It is generally men in the lower socio-economic strata that are jailed for most crimes including sexual ones. Sociologists tend to hold the view that criminals come from underprivileged backgrounds such as those from congested, high-density living and poor life opportunities. All these factors reflect the situation of the powerless class. (Wilson and Seaman 1977: 298-299)

Table 3.4: Occupation of respondents' fathers

Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Village Work	54	60
Business	8	8.9
Felda/Felcra	6	6.7
Government Servant	11	12.2
Others	11	12.2
TOTAL	90	100



Coming from rural areas, more than half of the respondents had fathers who were involved in village work (60 percent). This finding also concurs with the fact that they only had lower educational levels due to lack of opportunities.

Table 3.4.1: Occupation of respondents' mothers

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)			
Housewife	53	58.9			
Village Work	26	28.9			
Felda/Felcra	2	2.2			
Others	9	10			
TOTAL	90	100			



The mothers / female caretakers were mostly housewives (58.9 percent). Those who were working were involved mainly with village work (28.9 percent).

Table 3.5: Occupation of respondents prior to arrest

Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Business	34	37.8
Felda/ Felcra	24	26.7
Lorry Driver	11	12.2
Others	21	23.3
TOTAL	90	100

Almost all respondents were from the lower stratum of the job hierarchy, which commensurate with their educational levels as in Table 3.3. The businesses they were involved in were mainly petty trade and hawking. The category "Others" include professionals and richer businessmen.

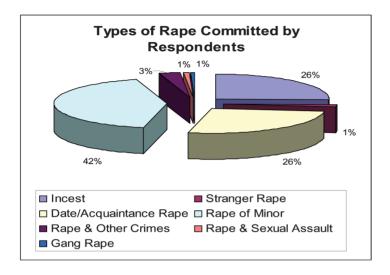
Table 3.5.1: Salary of respondents prior to arrest

Salary Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less RM 1000	52	57.8
RM 1001-2000	24	26.7
RM 2001-3000	8	8.9
RM 3001-4000	3	3.3
Above RM 4000	3	3.3
TOTAL	90	100

Over 84.5 percent earned less than RM 2,000.00 per month, with 57.8 percent earning less than RM 1,000.00. Those earning RM 3,000.00 and above made up a very small number (6.6 percent).

Table 3.6: Types of rape committed by respondents

Types of Rape	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Incest	40	44.4
Stranger Rape	2	2.2
Date/Acquaintance Rape	41	45.6
Rape of Minor	66	73.3
Rape & Other Crimes	5	5.6
Rape & Sexual Assault	1	1.1
Gang Rape	1	1.1



Majority of the respondents (73.3 percent) committed rape on girls below 16 years of age. Of these, date/acquaintance rape and incest predominated. As indicated by national figures (see Chapter 1), rape by acquaintance/friend and boyfriends are the highest reported cases. The categories "Rape and other crimes" and "Rape and sexual assault" can also be considered as Stranger Rape. In most of these cases recorded by us, the offenders' main intention was to rob either the home or the individual of her belongings. Rape, they claimed, was an afterthought as the opportunity was available. Thus they were trying to say that it was not a premeditated action.

Table 3.7 shows the relationship between the age of the offenders and the type of rape committed. It can be seen clearly that while younger men are normally date/acquaintance rape offenders, older men are normally incest offenders. In the case of the younger men, most times it is a boyfriend – girlfriend relationship with the man claiming of not knowing that it is an offence to have a sexual relationship with girls aged 16 years and below. And some of the police reports were made by the parents of the girl (or had coerced the girl to do so). The main reason for the parents to do so was because they disapproved of the relationship between their daughter and a man of low occupation.

The mean age of the perpetrator is 41.74 years. Most of the offenders (36.7 percent) that committed incest are more than 40 years of age while those who committed acquaintance rape are mostly (24.4 percent) aged 40 years and below. This finding shows that of the two most common types of rape committed, acquaintance rape involves rapist of younger age while incest involves elderly perpetrators. The mean age of incest perpetrator is 47.65 years while the mean age of date/ acquaintance rapist is 37.31 years. This indicates that

most of the rapists in Malaysia are of older age unlike in other countries. For example, in the United States, statistics show that 80 percent of the rapists are under the age of 30 years and 75 percent are under the age of 25 years (http://tkdtutor.com/08Strategy.Rape.htm). On the contrary, in Malaysia, there are only approximately 26.7 percent rapists below 30 years and only approximately 13.3% are under 25 years. Surprisingly in Malaysia, most of the rapists (55.6 percent) are of age 40 years and above and from this group of rapists, 54.7 percent are of age 50 and above.

Table 3.7: Relationship between age of respondents and type of rape committed

Age / Type of Rape	Incest	Date / Acquaintance	Stranger	Gang	Rape & other crimes	Sexual Assault
20 years & below		1				
21-30 years	3	17	1	1	4	
31-40 years	4	5	1		1	
41-50 years	15	9				
Above 50 years	18	9				1

Table 3.8 shows the relationship between Race of the Respondents and Type of Rape committed. For all races, incest and date/acquaintance rape predominate.

Table 3.8: Relationship between race of respondents and type of rape committed

Race / Type of Rape	Incest	Date / Acquaintance	Stranger	Gang	Rape & other crimes	Sexual Assault
Malay	34	31	2	1	4	1
Chinese	1					
Indian	2	3			1	
Others	3	7				

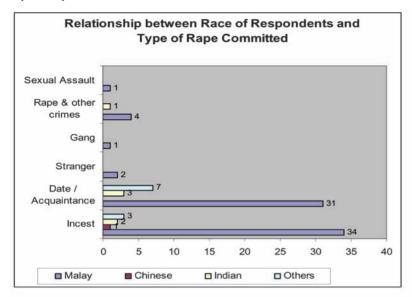


Table 3.9: Place where respondents grew up

Type of Place	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Urban	26	28.9
Rural	64	71.1
TOTAL	90	100

Majority of the respondents grew up in rural areas including Felda schemes (71.1 percent). The "overcrowded rat syndrome" common to the life of the lowly accomplished / poor becomes one of the main causes why the majority of criminals originated from such background. However in our study, this does not seem the case as the rural areas and Felda are not overcrowded in the sense of population density. In many societies, 5 percent of such population will tend to have personalities which are either domineering or



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⁴ In our study, the poor refers to those who lack opportunities in the rural areas and those who miss out on opportunities in the urban areas. In either case, they are prone to crime out of frustration and also for survival.

prone to crime. They will turn to crime if the underprivileged class is perpetuated and socioeconomic opportunities are deprived (Wilson & Seaman, ibid: 308)

Table 3.10 shows us the relationship between the place where the respondents grew up and the type of rape committed. It can be seen that while the majority of those from the rural areas are incest offenders, the urban ones are mainly date/acquaintance rape offenders. Perhaps with the rapid urbanization in Malaysia, the category of rape and origins of the rapists would shift due to the "overcrowded rat syndrome", with younger men coming from high density flats and condominiums.

Table 3.10: Relationship between place where respondents grew up and type of rape committed

Place / Type of Rape	Incest	Date / Acquaintance	Stranger	Gang	Rape & other crimes	Sexual Assault
Rural	35	25		1	2	1
Urban	5	16	2		3	

Table 3.11: Judgment given to the respondents

Judgment	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
5 years	6	6.7
6-10 years	30	33.3
11-15 years	33	36.7
16-20 years	21	23.3
TOTAL	90	100

Sixty percent of the respondents were sentenced to more than 10 years of imprisonment. In most instances, respondents received both prison sentences and caning for committing rape. Under the Amended Rape Laws of 1989, the minimum number of years a rapist can be sentenced to is 5 years and the maximum 20 years.

Those aged 55 and above are not caned. The minimum strokes of caning received by the respondents in our study are one stroke and the maximum 16 strokes.



Source: http://www.weedenco.com/wel ling/archive/li/v06i17lilogo.as

Table 3.12 shows the relationship between the sentences received by the respondents and the type of rape committed. The heaviest punishments are meted out on offenders of incest. It can be seen from this table that 70 percent of the incest offenders are sentenced to more than 10 years imprisonment.

Table 3.12: Relationship between judgment received and type of rape committed

Judgment / Type of Rape	Incest	Date / Acquaintance	Stranger	Gang	Rape & other crimes	Sexual Assault
5 years	1	4		1		
6-10 years	11	15			4	
11-15 years	16	14	2			1
More than 15 years	12	8			1	

Table 3.13 looks at the relationship between the judgment received and the age of the respondents. It can be seen that more of the younger offenders received 5 years imprisonment compared to the older offenders. The pattern is not obvious but the judgment of the older offenders seems to be skewed towards lengthier sentences. This could be due to the fact the older ones committed incest and were given stiffer penalties.

Table 3.13: Relationship between judgment received and age

Judgment / Age of Respondents	20 years & below	21-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	Above 50 years
5 years		4	1		1
6-10 years	1	11	3	8	7
11-15 years		7	5	8	13
More than 15 years		4	2	8	7

Characteristics and family background of respondents

This section looks at the family background of the respondents, which includes their views of their parents and siblings.

Table 3.14: Number of siblings of respondents

	•	, ,
No. of Siblings	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 5	35	38.9
6-10 siblings	48	53.3
More than 10	7	7.8
TOTAL	90	100



Source: Rohana, 2004

Over 61 percent of the respondents come from families with more than 5 siblings. They come from relatively large families, as the national Malaysian average is around 2.3 siblings per family. The question to ask here would be whether there is negligence in the socialization of children in a bigger family? Were they neglected and not instilled with appropriate positive human values when they were growing up?

Table 3.15: Marital status of respondents' parents

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Divorced	32	35.6
Married	58	64.4
TOTAL	90	100

Most of the respondents are from 2-parent families although more than one-third come from homes where the parents are divorced. Psychologists and police practitioners adhere to the view that there is some genetic determinant, which turns a person into a criminal (Samenov, 1984; Douglas and Olshaker, 1996). According to these writers, most of the criminals have experienced either or some of these factors: lonely childhood, physical abuse, unwanted by parents and obsessed by sexual fantasies.

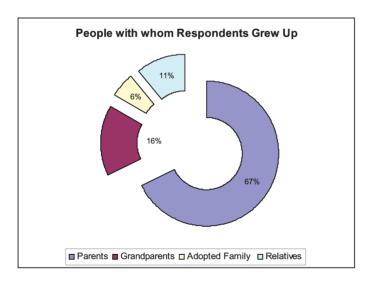
Table 3.16: Respondents' view of parents' relationship

Relationship	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Unhappy	12	13.3
Unhappy	11	12.2
Neutral	14	15.6
Нарру	27	30.0
Very Happy	26	28.9
TOTAL	90	100

Twenty five percent of the respondents come from unhappy families while 58 percent perceived that they come from happy ones. The category "Neutral" means "biasa-lah" meaning normal childhood. As was found in our earlier study (Rohana et. al, 1997), it is not easy to get the respondents to talk about their childhood and family background. It is easier for them to indicate that all was well when they were growing up. Only a few who were really affected by their childhood experiences would talk about them openly. Usually, the grouses were against the father more than the mother.

Table 3.17: People with whom respondents grew up

With whom	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Parents	61	67.8
Grandparents	14	15.6
Adopted Family	5	5.6
Relatives	10	11.1
TOTAL	90	100



Majority of them lived with their parents while over 26 percent lived with others such as grandparents and relatives. Relatives normally would be their uncles and aunts (related to either parent).

Table 3.18: Description of mothers/female caretakers

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Unhappy	8	8.9
Unhappy	2	2.2
Fairly Happy	21	23.3
Нарру	28	31.1
Very Happy	31	34.4
TOTAL	90	100

Tables 3.18 describe the mothers/female caretakers who brought up the respondents. Only 11.9 percent described their mothers as unhappy. Majority (88.8 percent) described their mothers as happy and very happy.

When asked further what sort of temperament their mothers/caretakers possessed, over 84 percent of they described them as very calm to calm. Only 15 percent felt that these caretakers were often angry or very angry.

When probed further on these women as to their manner of speaking, over 92 percent said that they were soft-spoken. They see their mothers as people who are gentle and warm and very caring.

Further questions were asked if they could communicate with these women. Over 84 percent felt they can easily communicate with them while a small minority replied otherwise. In a related question as to the openness of these women, over 75 percent replied that they are very open or open, while the rest said that that they are fairly reserved to very reserved.

Thus our study shows that the respondents seemed to have a positive view of their mothers /caretakers and that the evaluation of their overall relationship with them is in the positive.

Hence, our findings are contrary to findings by Grubin & Gun (1990) (cited in NST, 20th July, 2003). That study indicated that rapists are affected by perverse and difficult relationships with their mothers. They are said to share a very complicated love-hate relationship where the mothers are described as rejecting, domineering, punitive, overprotective and seductive.

The respondents were then questioned on their relationship with their father /male caretakers.

Table 3.19: Description of Fathers/Male Caretakers

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Unhappy	7	7.8
Unhappy	14	15.6
Fairly Happy	27	30.0
Нарру	23	25.6
Very Happy	12	13.3
No response	7	7.8
TOTAL	90	100

Twenty three percent of the respondents described their fathers/male caretakers as very unhappy and unhappy. Compared to the female caretakers, ten percent more male caretakers were described as being unhappy. Furthermore, compared to female caretakers, fewer male caretakers were described as happy (20 percent less).

Seven (7.8 percent) of the respondents did not respond to the description of the male person who brought them up. This is because there was no male caretakers/ fathers present while they were growing up or if there was, he had no role to play in bringing them up (was absent from their lives). Subsequently, we asked about the temperament of fathers/male caretakers. Thirty three percent described male caretakers as often angry or very angry. More than half stated that the male caretakers were calm, which is again less as compared to female caretakers by 20 percent. We then questioned further about the manner of speaking of these men. About 30.1 percent or a third said that they are very harsh or crude, while 15 percent said that their male parent is soft spoken.

More than thirty eight percent of the respondents stated that they found it difficult to talk to their fathers. When compared to the responses on the female parents, we can see that the respondents communicated better with their mothers/female caretakers. However, the majority (63 percent) has a positive view of their male parent.

In a subsequent question as to how open their male parents/caretakers are to them, half or 50 percent of the respondents felt that their fathers were uncommunicative while a lesser percentage (42.3 percent) felt that they were open and communicative.

As a brief conclusion, the overall feedback revealed that the respondents have a better relationship with their mothers. From the responses, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents have a positive relationship and outlook about their mothers compared to their fathers.

Psychiatrists Dr. Mahadevan and Dr. Chen (interviewed in NST, 20th July, 2003) stated that fathers of rapists either play an insignificant role or impart negative sexual influences like forcing sex on the mother when he comes home drunk and angry. Often these men as children have seen their fathers beating their mothers or inflicting other forms of abuse. Such family background leaves rapists with poor social skills and an inability to sustain a healthy relationship with women.

Table 3.20: Relationship between respondents and siblings

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Bad	3	3.3
Bad	6	6.7
Fairly Good	20	22.2
Good	30	33.3
Very good	23	25.6
No response	8	8.9
TOTAL	90	100

The table above looked at the relationship between the rapist and his siblings. Eight (8.9 percent) of the respondents did not respond because they were either the only child or they did not grow up with any of their siblings.

More than 50 percent of the rapists indicated good or very good relationship between them and their siblings.

When asked further to elaborate on their communication with their siblings, 58 percent of the rapists indicated good / very good communication between them and their siblings. Meanwhile 32.2 percent responded negatively and stated that they communicate only when necessary. This seems to indicate that they still had ties with their siblings even though they are in prison.

Respondents' school experiences

The following section discusses the primary and secondary school experiences of the respondents.

Table 3.21: Respondents' description of primary school experiences

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very sad	7	9.9
Sad	7	9.9
Fairly okay	10	14.1
Good	25	35.2
Very Good	22	30.9
TOTAL	71	100

Table 3.21 looks at the primary school experiences of the rapists. Only 71 responses were obtained, as nineteen respondents (21.1 percent) had never been to school. More than 60 percent had good feelings concerning their primary school experiences. Similarly more than 60 percent of the respondents had enjoyed their primary education while 22.6 percent hated or did not like their schooling experience.

Table 3.22: Respondents' description of secondary school experiences

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very sad	1	2.9
Sad	6	17.1
Fairly okay	6	17.1
Good	11	31.4
Very Good	11	31.4
TOTAL	35	100

Table 3.22 looked at the secondary school experiences of the rapists. Only 35 responses were available, as 55 respondents did not attend secondary school. Nineteen of the respondents never went to school whilst 36 stopped schooling at the primary level due to poverty. About 60 percent reported good experiences in their secondary schools.

When asked further on their feelings in school during that period, similarly more than 60 percent of the respondents answered that they enjoyed their secondary school education, while 19 percent replied in the reverse.

Table 3.23: Respondents' exposure to violence during their growing years

Experience Violence	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	36	40.0
No	54	60.0
TOTAL	90	100

Forty percent were exposed to violent experiences during their growing up years. Their experiences included physical abuse at home (fathers beating mothers, fathers beating the respondents) and physical fights in schools among students or among peers in their villages or towns.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that overall, the findings of this chapter show that the respondents had little education and were mainly from rural areas. Their occupation was also of the lower stratum of society. The respondents had good relationship with their mothers but the relationship with their fathers was comparably not as good. The respondents were mostly married and they were mainly from the 41 to more than 50 years age group. The types of rape that are common in Malaysia are incest and date/acquaintance rape.

4

SEXUAL HISTORY, PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF RESPONDENTS

Introduction

This chapter looks at the sexual history, views, perceptions and attitudes of the respondents. It is interesting as well as important to know and understand the respondents' views and attitudes towards their victims and women in general.

Sexual history of respondents

Table 4.0: Age of first sexual experience of respondents

Age	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 10 years	1	1.1
11-15 years	10	11.1
16-20 years	34	37.8
21-25 years	27	30
Above 25 years	18	20
TOTAL	90	100



With regards to the age when the respondents had their first sexual experience, it can be observed from the table above, that 50% had their first sexual experience between the ages of 10 to 20 years. Thirty percent had their first sexual experience between the ages of 21 to 25 years.

Table 4.1: Number of female partners of respondents

Number	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)		
Only 1	14	15.6		
2-4 partners	53	58.9		
5-10 partners	5	5.6		
More than 10 partners	18	20		
TOTAL	90	100		



The respondents were then asked on the number of female partners they have had prior to their arrest. The highest group (58.9 percent) stated that they have had between 2-4 partners. About 20 percent claimed to have more than 10 partners! Thus in the final count, 80 percent have had a relationship with 2 partners and more. It is uncertain whether these men had a high levels of promiscuity or whether since the interviewers were mainly females, it was a matter of showing their prowess or manhood.

Table 4.2 to 4.2.4 takes a look at the physical characteristics of the female partners chosen by the respondents. For the 14 respondents who have had only one partner, the physical attributes they referred to are those of the victim of rape.

Table 4.2: Characteristics of female partners chosen by respondents (beauty)

Characteristics	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Ugly	0	0
Ugly	0	0
Presentable	46	51.1
Beautiful	9	10.0
Very Beautiful	19	21.1
No response	16	17.8
TOTAL	90	100



Source: The Star, 4 June 2007.

Sixteen of the respondents (17.8 percent) did not respond as they felt that none of the physical characteristics were important to them when looking for female partners. However 51.1 percent described average looks as an important characteristic while a third (31 percent) emphasized the need for beauty to be an important characteristic for choosing their partner.

Table 4.2.1: characteristics of female partners chosen by respondents (body shape)

Body Shape	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Shapeless	0	0
Fat	6	6.7
Fairly slim	43	47.8
Slim	13	14.4
Very slim	12	13.3
No response	16	17.8
TOTAL	90	100





Around 75 percent preferred slim women out of which 27.7 percent would like their women very slim. This indicated that rapists in general preferred slimmer women.

Table 4.2.2: Characteristics of female partners chosen by respondents (Hair)

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Characteristics	No. Of Respondent S	Percentage (%)		
Very short hair	3	3.3		
Short hair	10	11.1		
Fairly long hair	24	26.7		
Long hair	8	8.9		
Very long hair	29	32.2		
No response	16	17.8		
TOTAL	90	100		



Only 14 percent preferred shorthaired women while 41.1 percent preferred those with long to very long hair. To 17.8 percent of the respondents, the length of hair is not an important characteristic.

Table 4.2.3: Characteristics of female partners chosen by respondents (Skin color)

Skin Color	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very dark	2	2.2
Dark	16	17.8
Tanned	31	34.4
Fair	13	14.4
Very fair	11	12.2
No response	17	18.9
TOTAL	90	100



Source: Woman magazine, undated

On this characteristic, 17 (18.9 percent) of the respondents did not respond as they claimed that skin color does not matter at all when selecting a partner.

Twenty per cent preferred dark skinned women and if we total up those who prefer the dark and tanned females, they represent 54.4 percent. However, 26.6 percent preferred fair skinned women. Thus rapists still adhere to the "hitam manis" concept that was acceptable in the Malay society of the past.

Table 4.2.4: Characteristics of female partners chosen by respondents (Age)

Age of Partner	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
40 & above	3	3.3
30-39 years	9	10.0
20-29 years	25	27.8
10-19 years	22	24.4
Below 10	1	1.1
No response	17	18.9
TOTAL	90	100





In terms of age, those preferring women between 20-29 years of age ranked the highest (27.8 percent). Followed closely are those preferring women between 10-19 years of age (24.4 percent). Together they formed 52.2 percent of respondents preferring women

between the age group of 10-29 years. As observed in our earlier study (Rohana et.al. 1997), the National Statistics showed that in 1995, 60 percent of the victims were 16 years and below. This is still the trend today. In fact, looking at more recent cases, victims are getting very much younger.

Table 4.3 shows the breakdown of the respondents whose victims were 16 years and below in age. It is ironic to see that 82 percent of respondents over the age of 50 raped girls aged 16 and below. As older girls/women cannot be tricked /manipulated by these men, they have turned their attention to younger girls.

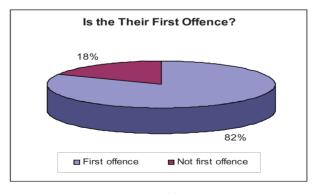
It could be worse if the amendment of the penal code on the age of consent to be brought down to 12 years old comes into effect. This would mean that it would only be considered as rape for a girl aged above 12 years old, if it can be proved that she did not give consent. If it seems like some form of consent was obtained, it would not be considered rape (unlike before where it is considered rape if the girl is below the age of 16, as the question of consent does not arise).

Table 4.3: Age of respondents whose victims were 16 years and below

Age of	20 &	21-30	31-40	41-50	Above 50
Respondents	below	years	years	years	years
Victims 16 years & below	-	19 (73 %)	6 (54.5%)	18 (75%)	23 (82%)

Table 4.4: Is this their first offence?

First Offence	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
First offence	74	82.2
Not first offence	16	17.8
TOTAL	90	100

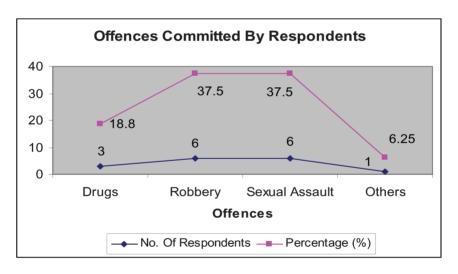


Most of the respondents said that this is their first offence. There is no way to verify this, because most of the jail records were not accessible to us. The few records that we managed to check often showed that this was not their first offence. Usually they have been incarcerated before in relation to other offences such as stealing and sexual assault.

There is no known rate of recidivism by types of crimes in Malaysia but in many countries, the average rate of recidivism is around 20-30 percent (Alex, 1996)

Table 4.4.1: Offences committed by respondents (N=16)

Offences	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Drugs	3	18.8
Robbery	6	37.5
Sexual Assault	6	37.5
Others	1	6.25
TOTAL	16	100



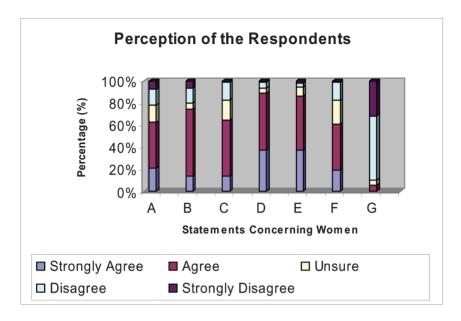
This table describes the types of offences committed by the 16 respondents who have been imprisoned before. Among them, 37.5 percent were involved in robberies and sexual assault.

Perception of respondents towards women

The following section highlights the perception of the respondents towards seven statements concerning women. The responses towards these statements were placed on a Likert-scale of 1 to 5; 1 being "strongly agree" and 5 being "strongly disagree".

Table 4.5: Perception of the respondents

	Statements Concerning Women	Strongly Agree (1) N (%)	Agree (2) N (%)	Unsure (3) N (%)	Disagree (4) N (%)	Strongly Disagree (5) N (%)
А	Women have been created to fulfill men's desires	(21.1)	(41.1)	(15.6)	(14.4)	(7.8)
В	Women are qualified to be leaders	(13.3)	(61.1)	(5.6)	(13.3)	(6.7)
С	Women are as beautiful as flowers	12 (13.3)	46 (51.6)	16 (17.6)	15 (16.7)	1 (1.1)
D	Men are meant to lead women	34 (37.8)	46 (51.6)	4 (4.4)	5 (5.6)	1 (1.1)
E	Women need to be taught and shown the right way	32 (37.8)	46 (50.0)	8 (8.9)	3 (3.2)	2 (2.2)
F	Women are temptresses	17 (18.9)	38 (42.2)	19 (21.1)	15 (16.7)	1 (1.1)
G	Women enjoy being treated roughly	0 (0.0)	5 (5.6)	4 (4.4)	52 (57.8)	29 (32.2)



These statements were analyzed using factor analysis and three factors were extracted using the varimax-rotated principal component analysis. In other words, these seven statements can be categorized into 3 factor groups: Factor 1: power of dominance (statements 4 & 5); Factor 2, power of sexual desires (statement 1 & 7); Factor 3: power of submission (statement 2, 3 & 6).

The results were cross-tabulated between the statements above and various demographic, socio-economic and sexual characteristics. It was found that the correlation between incest cases and statement 6 (Women are temptresses) was highly significant at P < 0.00.

Most respondents seemed to endorse/agree to all the statements above. The only statement that showed some difference was the fact that 81 percent disagreed that women should be treated roughly. They also agreed that women could be leaders as stated in statement 2. Maybe this is due to the fact that they were interviewed by women researchers

Although their views towards their mothers/female caretakers were positive, their views towards women in general were degrading. For example, more than 60 percent agreed that women have been created to fulfill men's desires (statement 1). More than 80 percent agreed that women need to be taught and shown the right way and this is related to the statement that men are meant to lead women (statement 4).

More than 60 percent agreed that women were the temptresses. This statement also concurs with the fact that many of them felt that women were responsible for the incidents of rape. From the following statements, we can see how these offenders perceived the role played by women in the rape incidents that took place.

A 57-year old who raped a 14-year old girl stated "Jika makanan sudah dihidang, kalau saya tak makan, lalat akan turun. Biar saya yang makan", implying that the girl was "ripe and ready" for the picking and since she is available, he might as well make good use of the opportunity. Similarly, a 55-year old who raped his 15-year old neighbor as his wife had reached menopause, stated "Nak tidur, bantal pun sampai, kita pun tidurlah".



Again, in this statement, the man is implying that when a woman/girl is available, do not waste the opportunity.

Qualitative perception and attitude

This section looks at the open-ended responses for four questions dealing with perception and attitude of the respondents.

The first question looked at the definition of rape from the respondents' perspective.

Table 4.6: Definition of rape from the respondents' perspective

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No response	29	32.2
It is a hostile and degrading act of violence	8	8.9
It is a violent act	5	5.6
It is a forceful act (virginity taken by force)	38	42.2
It is sex without consent	10	11.1
TOTAL	90	100.0

Among those who answered, 42.2 percent looked at rape as a forceful act. It is pertinent to note here that the 32.2 percent who did not respond were mainly those who admitted that they had committed rape. The others who answered were those who claim to know what rape is but believed that they have not committed rape and have been wrongfully

sentenced. These men normally state that they were in a "suka sama suka" relationship. This included men above the age of 50 having sexual relationship with girls below the age of 16.

There are various ways how sexual encounters can take place (Groth, 1979). One way is when an adult takes sexual advantage of a younger victim, usually through a position of dominance and the subordinate person agrees to the sexual activity in order to meet some other non-sexual need. Therefore, in such circumstances, although it is assumed that some form of consent had been established between the offender and victim when they had sex, Groth (1979:141) points out that in such a relationship consent cannot be considered as valid since the young person "has not developed sufficient knowledge or wisdom to negotiate such an encounter on an equal basis with an adult." As such although the victim may appear physically or sexually mature in the eyes of the offender, she may not be sufficiently equipped to deal with situations which involve sex on an equal basis with an adult and can be taken advantage of by the offender.

Table 4.7: Factors that cause them to rape from respondents' view

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No response	25	27.8
Existence of pornography	28	31.1
Women are to be blamed for rape	2	2.2
Uncontrolled lust	21	23.3
Psychological factors	5	5.6
Psychopathological factors	9	10.0
TOTAL	90	100.0



The responses by 31.1 percent and 23.3 percent of the respondents respectively endorsed the fact that pornography and uncontrolled lust are factors that cause them to rape.



Here again, rape is seen more as a sexual act than any form of domination, violence or control.

The psychopathological factors stated in the table above include the opinions that men are mentally unstable and they portray antisocial traits such as hostility, resentment and low capacity for trust and compassion.

The psychological factors include opinions such as being unable to cope with stress and facing the burden and frustration of constantly having to prove their manhood. Men's uncontrollable lust can be related to physiological factors such as the uncontrollable desire for sex and the low possibility of being punished for rape.

Respondents were also asked for views on how to reduce incidence of rape.

Table 4.8: Ways to reduce incidences of rape from respondents' view

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No response	40	44.4
Education and Religion	35	38.9
Men must make an effort to reduce rape	6	6.7
Tougher laws and longer judgment	9	10.0
TOTAL	90	100.0

The majority (44.4 percent) had no answer to this question. They felt that nothing could be done. From their perspective, it is impossible to curb this violence. About 40 percent stated that religious education is the best solution. Although education was mentioned as well, it was the religious (Islam) education that was emphasized by the rapists, probably because they are mainly Malays. Only 10 percent opined that tougher laws and longer sentences are possible solutions to help curb the incidence of rape.

Table 4.9: Feelings on being called a rapist

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No response	9	10.0
Not bothered	8	8.9
Acceptance	12	13.3
Anger and hate	8	8.9
Feelings of regret, sadness	53	58.9
TOTAL	90	100.0

About 58.9 percent were remorseful that they were labeled as such. Many of them were upset that they were categorized as rapists when there was no force involved. Most of the others were resigned to the fact and had merely accepted it.

The following tables will show the cross tabulations that were significant between the four questions that were analyzed above and other variables.

Table 4.10: Cross tabulation between factors causing rape as perceived by the respondents versus incest offenders

Factors causing rape as perceived by rapist	Incest
No response	17
Existence of pornography	8
Women are to be blamed	0
Uncontrolled lust	12
Psychological factors	2
Psychopathological factors	2
TOTAL	41

Contingency Coefficient: 0.357; P- Value: 0.02*

There is significant correlation between the incest offenders and the factors causing rape as perceived by the respondents.

Once again even in incest rape, uncontrolled lust seems to be the main reason for raping. For example, a 37-year old who raped his 7-year old daughter stated, "Jangan pakai pakaian yang menyakitkan hati lelaki". Many respondents however just kept quiet when the researchers asked these questions. This is probably due to shame or embarrassment.

A study by Finkelhor and Williams (cited in The Sun 10^{th} August 1997) on incest rapists in the United States reveals that there are many factors leading to incestuous behavior.

The study identified five major types of incestuous fathers. First, there are those in the "sexually preoccupied" category and 26 percent of the fathers fall into this category. These men have a clear and conscious sexual interest in their daughters. The second category is the "adolescent regressive" types and they make up 33 percent of the respondents. They become interested in their daughters' bodies when they reach puberty. The third category (20 percent) is called the "instrumental self-gratifier". When abusing their daughter, they

think about someone else—either their wife or another adult and regard their daughter's body as a mere receptacle, an instrument for self-gratification. The fourth type of fathers (10 percent) is those who are "emotionally dependent". These fathers are reported to be emotionally needy, lonely and depressed and a failure in life. They look to their daughters for emotionally dependent relationships. The fifth category is the "adult retaliator" (10 percent). These men are most likely to have criminal histories of assault and rape. They abuse their daughters out of anger at her and more often her mother (The Sun, ibid)

Table 4.11: Cross tabulation between how respondents perceive rape versus incest offenders

How rapists define rape	Incest
No response	20
It is a hostile and degrading act of violence	3
It is a violent act	3
It is a forceful act (virginity taken by force)	12
It is sex without consent	3
TOTAL	41

Contingency Coefficient: 0.330- Value: 0.02*

There is significant correlation between the incest offenders and how they perceive rape.

Again the main answer is that rape is looked at as an act of violence while a significant number refused to answer this question.

Table 4.12: Cross tabulation between how respondents perceive rape versus date/ acquaintance rape offenders

How rapists define rape	Date/ Acquaintance Rape
No response	5
It is a hostile and degrading act of violence	3
It is a violent act	2
It is a forceful act (virginity taken by force)	23
It is sex without consent	6
TOTAL	39

Contingency Coefficient: 0.380 Value: 0.00**

There is significant correlation between the date/acquaintance rapist and how they perceived rape. The main answer was that it was an act of violence. In date rape, the

rapists are more willing to answer this question compared to the silence maintained by incest offenders.



This finding concurs with that of Allison and Wrightsman (1993) that states that the form of coercion used in an acquaintance rape greatly differs from others. They cite Koss (1988) who found that the most common type of strategy used by offenders was to hold the victim down or twist her arm. When offenders used verbal threats, it often included elements of manipulation. Mosher and Anderson (1986) discovered that 44 percent of offenders told their partners that the way they loved the latter would change if they did not give in to having sex with them and 34 percent threatened to end the relationship if they refused to do so. In other instances, the offenders would just go ahead and "do it" even if the victim protested.

Conclusion

We can draw several conclusions from the findings in this chapter. Most of the respondents had sexual experience at an early age and has had a minimum of two female partners. The respondents did not view physical characteristics as important factors for choosing their female partners. It is extremely important to note that the majority of the victims were aged 16 and below whereas the offenders were mainly in the 41 to above 50 age group. The respondents' perceptions of women were negative and to some extent degrading. Most respondents view the rape offence as a mutually gratifying sexual act where the element of "suka sama suka" exists.

5 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Brief Overview

In the last few years, the police violent crime index has registered an increase in the number of reported cases of violent crime.

Looking at the national rape statistics, it is clear that the number of rape cases is on the rise. The latest figure for the year 2006 was 2431 cases compared to only 1931 the year before (Royal Malaysian Police Force, Bukit Aman, 2007). The offenders are mostly known to the victims. From the year 2004, the reported number of stranger rape was much higher than rape by boyfriends. This is in contrast to the years prior to 2004, where rape by a boyfriend was always higher than stranger rape.

To get a Socio-Economic Profile, a total of 90 rape offenders were interviewed at the Seremban, Johor Bahru, Kajang and Sungai Buloh prisons.

Our findings revealed the majority of rapists to be of Malay origin. Age-wise, majority of the rapists fell into two distinct groups. The greater number of them fell into the 41 and above age group whereas the others fell into the 21 to 30 years age group. Most of them were married and a significant number was married more than once. The offenders mainly had low levels of education. Most of them had been raised in a rural environment and had parents who were involved with rural/village work. Due to their poor academic achievements, they could only secure positions in the lower strata of the job hierarchy and earned meager income. The older offenders mainly committed incest, whereas the younger ones were date/acquaintance rape offenders.

Most of them came from families with 5 siblings or more. More than half of them grew up with both parents whilst a third came from homes where the parents were divorced. In most cases, they were brought up by their biological parents. They consider their mothers/female caretakers as warm and pleasant people with whom they can share their sorrows and happiness. This outlook differed where their fathers were concerned. Most of the offenders were not close to their fathers and did not have positive views towards their fathers/male caretakers. More than half of the offenders indicated good relationship between themselves and their siblings. More than a third of them had been exposed to some form of violence at home, school or the community in which they were brought up.

The offenders were involved in sexual relationships quite early in their lives. Most of them had their first sexual exposure by the age of 20. Most of them had relationship between two to four female partners prior to their arrest. In terms of physical attributes of their partners, a large proportion stated that physical beauty was not important. However for about a third of the offenders, physical beauty, tanned skin, slim bodies and long hair were preferable attributes of their female partners. In terms of the age of the victims, it is ironical to note that the victims were mainly 16 years and below whereas the offenders were above the age of 50. Younger girls are easy prey as older men find it easier to manipulate and trick them.

In terms of their perception of women, the offenders viewed women as sexual objects created to fulfill the desires of men. More often than not, women were blamed for leading men to rape.

Most of the offenders did not view the crime they had committed as rape. They perceived rape to be a forceful act, however they saw the crime they had committed as one of "mutual consent" (even though the girl could be 10 years old), hence it could not be viewed as rape. Most of them hated to be called a rapist and felt they should not be categorized as one. A large group blamed pornography and uncontrollable lust as reasons why they had committed this crime. From their viewpoint, religious education could be one of the main ways of curbing the rise of such crime.

Profile of the Malaysian rapists

Is it possible to outline the profile of a Malaysian rapist? The sections above have drawn conclusions from the various areas of our study. From them, we can have a general perception of a Malaysian rapist. Our finding reveal a Malaysian rapist to be above the age of 40, married, has low levels of education, a menial job and has low income. He is mainly from the rural area. He has a good relationship with his mother but not his father. His views towards women are degrading and to some extent humiliating. He looks at rape as a sexual act and believes that a "suka sama suka" element exists, however young the victim might be.

As only one visit is allowed by the prison authority, we only managed to interview the rapist once. This study is therefore not extensive enough to attempt a psychological profiling of the offenders. As stated earlier, this study enables us to have some understanding on the rapists and their views. In the near future, a longer study could be conducted to obtain a more in-depth profile of the rapists. Several interviews and discussions for longer periods with the convicted rapists and also their families (if possible), could give us better understanding of this issue at hand.

The effect of rape and sexual violence on the victims and the family

Rape could destroy feelings of human dignity, self worth and physical integrity, as well as the capacity to think and act clearly. Witnessing or experiencing rape can impair a woman's ability to participate fully in family life, community and society. But what about the victim's family? How would the family members bear the thought of their loved ones being raped and killed? Below are some press cuttings to show how much of suffering the family members endure when their loved ones are raped and killed.

Mewujudkan persekitaran selamat



The sadness of Canny Ong's mother, Mrs Pearley Visvanathan when looking at her daughter's photo. Mrs Pearley Visvanathan hopes that every person would support or take some effort to stop violence against women. She also hoped that the community would raise the awareness on the importance of participation to overcome violence against women in our society.

Source: Kosmo, 5 April 2007



ITA'S DOUBLE LIFE MAY HAVE CAUGHT FAMILY BY SURPRISE

This is a happy moment for Noritta with her family members during a festive season. But now, it remained a memory for her family as Norrita became a victim of an unknown killer.

NORITTA'S DAD WANTS POLICE TO REOPEN CASE

nothing against him (Hanif)' (



Source: The Malay Mail, 2 July 2004

Noritta Samsudin's father hopes that police will reopen the case and find his daughter's killer. This had been a painful experience for Norrita Samsudin's family members. They shed tears each time they think of her.



Source: Sunday mail, 4 July 2004

Noritta's mother looks very sad when looking at her daughter's photo. The deep mental anguish of loosing a daughter is unfathomable.

Victim's elder brother too depressed to talk or eat

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Anir Efferds was among the first to find his nister's naked besty at the greatheness of the Tenaga Nasional Hid main intake substation, less than 100m from their home on Satarday.

He carried the body of his sister all the way to a mostly clinic, where also

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GRIEF-STRICKEN: Arriv Effords being hand-fed by his aurit flogayah juni. — NST picture by Zain Ahmed

Nevel Hada's father, Abdul Ghard Jani and the family was also conordering legal action against Genlang Securities Services Sdn Blod which hired the guard implicated in the marrier.

Source: New Straits Time

The murder of Nurul Huda Ghani (a Standard Four pupil of Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Tiram Duku) has affected her 26 years old brother so badly that he has slid into severe depression. He has been unable to talk since the tragedy and has to be fed by others. He is the first to find his sister's naked body at the guard house.



Source: The Malay Mail, 20 January 2004.

Nurul Huda Ghani's father considers taking legal action against Tenaga National Malaysia Berhad (TNB) and the rapist's company, Gemilang Security for their carelessness in employing a guard without taking his background into consideration.

Recommendations

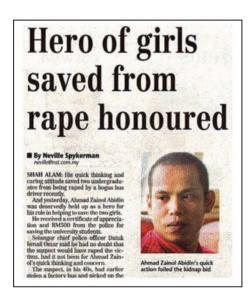
Campaign on rape

Society should be made aware of the nature of rape and the effects on the victims, their families and the families of the perpetrators.

The government with the support of the media should look into organizing more campaigns to stop all forms of sexual violence. Currently, the numbers of such campaigns are on the rise in the urban areas. However, the focus should be the rural areas and the schools in the rural areas.

It is strongly recommended that proper and responsible sex education be taught in schools. It is hoped that with such programmes, children will be more aware of their rights and will not be subjected to any form of violence.

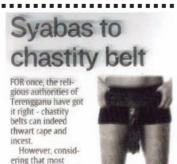
II. Appreciation to those who help prevent rape and sexual violence



On the other hand there are men who are opposed to violence against women. Ahmad Zainol Abidin had helped save two undergraduates from being raped by a bogus bus driver recently. He received a certificate of appreciation and RM 500 from the police for saving the university girls.

Source: New Straits Time April 10, 2007

III. Wearing chastity belt can thwart the happening of rape case?



rapists are men, it is only logical that the ones who need to be "chastity" controlled should be men, not look like this?

women.
I'm sure the religious authorities can invent a chastity belt for men, which should restrict the movement of certain appendages down there, but with a small opening to allow for

urination.

It should be just as comfortable as the one for women. The men's wives should hold the key of the belt.

What a brilliant idea! If all men wore chastity belts, then women and children can no longer be raped. I support this idea wholeheartedly. Please implement it immediately! Some recommend that women should be made to wear chastity belt as a way to thwart rape cases and incest. A comment from a reader however, stated that it might be a better idea for men to wear the chastity belt instead.

(Source: The Star. 16 February 2007)

IV. Amendment to rape laws

One of the ways to combat sex crimes, which was highlighted in The Star, dated 5th August 2004, was the suggestion that the Attorney-General's Chambers work on amending laws related to rape and to ensure rape cases are handled by more experienced prosecutors. The Prime Minister also directed authorities concerned to review the rape laws with a view to enhance the sentences meted out to the offenders (The Star, 16th May, 2004).

It is strongly recommended that the definition of rape in the existing rape laws be broadened. Sodomy, forced oral sex and the use of foreign objects to penetrate any orifice on a human must be included under the definition of rape.

It is also recommended that a separate legislation be enacted for incestuous rape. Currently, it falls into the general category of rape. However, some factors that come into play in cases of incestuous rape are absent in other cases of rape. For instance, in incest cases, fresh tears of the victim's hymen and signs of bodily injury cannot be used as evidences of rape. This is because the rape could have occurred over a long period and

such evidences might not be visible anymore. The victim might not have resisted the crime as she trusts and loves the offender

Violence can have serious effects on women's health and well-being. The incidents of violence against women will have an emotional effect on the victim. Women who have been sexually assaulted feel anger, fear and can become more cautious and less trusting.



Source: www.eaves4women. co.uk/Lilith_Project/ Informat...

V. Specific therapy for victims and offenders

Victims of any form of sex crimes should be provided with some form of long-term therapy.

Counseling must be provided for the rape offenders in and out of prison. The Star (5^{th} August 2004) reported that part of the government's effort to curb sex crimes, would be to bar sex offenders from jobs that will require them to work closely with children. Upon the release of the offenders from prison, it should be made mandatory that they receive counseling at the nearest Welfare Department for a certain period.



Source: Malay Mail, 29 October 2000.

It is bad enough that the victims are sexually violated, but worse still when they are made to look like the guilty party. Sometimes they were blamed. There is little sympathy and support in many cases where the accuser became the accused. Support is often lacking in many incest cases as sometimes the mothers are inclined to dismiss the child's complaints

in spite of the gravity of the allegation. At times, even the community is equally unsupportive.

There are some organizations that provide counselling and emotional support for women and children in crisis. Amongst them are the WCC (Women's Centre for Change) in Penang, WAO (Woman Aid Organization) and AWAM (All Woman Action Organization), both located in Selangor.

We should take note of the fact that despite the increased penalties provided in the Penal Code following the 2001 amendments, which incorporated mandatory whipping for rape and incest and a maximum 20-year jail term for incest, such offences continue to be on the rise.

Harsher punishment is not sufficient as a means to combat this violence. We need to find out the root causes of such crimes that is increasingly happening in our society. Factors like moral decadence, weakening of the family institution as well as a lack of basic respect for women are contributing factors.

Besides external means of deterrence such as stricter penalties, increase of security personnel and police patrols, emphasis must also be given to the importance of education, both spiritual and moral. There should be a nationwide campaign to promote respect for women, utilizing all channels of communication such as the printed and electronic media, leaflets, posters and advertisement to increase society's awareness towards women's issues.

At the same time, the government, particularly the National Unity and Social Development Ministry and the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry should take efforts to bring about a more equally balanced gender structure in institutions.

It is important that a government-initiated national consultation on crime prevention and public safety, comprising the police, presidents of local councils, non-governmental and religious organizations and concerned members of civil society, be held to invite inputs and feedbacks so as to achieve a national consensus on how to arrest and reduce the increasing incidences of crime and rape related offences.

VI. Better housing and infrastructure

The government should look into the type of houses that are being built for the local population. A sizeable number of rape cases occur in Felda schemes, where only one or two rooms are available for families of all sizes. In many cases, parents share the same room with their adult children, resulting in the lack of personal space and privacy. Studies

that were conducted locally and overseas had shown that many cases of rape, especially incest, occurred in over-crowded houses (rural and urban) as well as in high-density areas.

In conclusion, we contend that rape is mainly a question of unequal power relations and the distorted perception and attitude towards gender/women.

The perpetrators are usually stronger both in terms of social and individual standing, and this has been constructed by society and its various institutions including that of the family, religion and media. When men are influenced to think that women/girls are beneath them, and women/girls are sexual objects and therefore can be used for sexual fulfillment/ as playthings, then the problem is perpetuated from one generation to the next. When women are raped in wars and tribal conflict, it is seen as a form of domination and punishment. Looking at the violence in this way provides justification on inflicting pain on women and their families.

When women are commoditized by the various media, then women are seen as an item for consumption. Fashion houses, female models and many women themselves have absorbed and propogate sexual images of women and sexiness.

At the same time media and other social institutions propogate certain attire and role models to project women of virtue and goodness, that if one does not conform to such images, then men would assume that these non-conformist women belong to the other category which is a permissive and sexually promiscuous.

In conclusion, the problem is a complex one with many contributing factors. Efforts towards finding solutions are at many levels. Until men and women could see each other as equal, understand that children too have their rights, when women (and men) stop viewing themselves as constructed by the media and other social institutions, only then can society be relatively free from gender violence.



Let's work together to end violence!

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About ERA Consumer

The education and research Association for Consumers, Malaysia (ERA Consumer, Malaysia) is a voluntary, non-profit and non-political organization that was founded in Ipoh, Perak in 1985. ERA Consumer is a registered membership organization under the Malaysian Societies Act of 1966. It was set up to undertake and promote the task of developing critical consciousness on public-related issues out of the larger socio-economic

ERA Consumer is a dynamic institution that is constantly responding to and developing its services according to the needs and demands of the people. It aims to create awareness among the public on issues that are affecting their lives, through research and educational programmes by undertaking independent, authoritative, balanced research on public issues; carrying out public education projects; making policy recommendations to the government & International institutions; building solidarity and understanding among NGOs in Malaysia and society in large, and to increase South-South relations and North-South understanding. ERA Consumer's components and main programmes are consumer issues; human rights education; food, trade and economics.

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