



ACCEPTANCE OF RAPE MYTHS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

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By

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Table of Contents

Approval sheet.....	i
Declaration of Authentication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Abstract.....	01
Chapter I: Introduction.....	02
Chapter II: Methodology.....	13
Participants.....	13
Measures.....	13
Procedures.....	14
Chapter III: Results.....	16
Chapter IV: Discussion.....	26
Conclusion.....	32
Limitations and Recommendations.....	32
References.....	34
Appendices.....	39
Appendix A: Permission Letter.....	40
Appendix B: Consent Form	42
Appendix C: Demographic Form	44
Appendix D: Permission Letter for Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale.....	46
Appendix E: Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale.....	48

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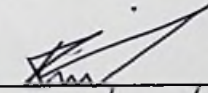
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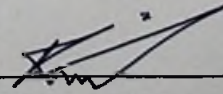
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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to find the difference among undergraduate male and female students regarding the acceptance of female rape myths that were associated with victim blaming or excusing the perpetrator. Specifically, myths that involved victim's fabrication of the rape and substituting circumstances of nonconsensual sex to miscommunication on victim's part. A sample of 300 undergraduate students with an equal number of male and female, enrolled in 4-5 years undergraduate program from private universities were targeted. Only single students lying in the age range of 17-25 years were included. Participants filled survey questionnaire of the Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (UIRMA) 2011. Independent sample t-test was done to find the difference between genders. The findings refuted three assumptions of study as there was no significant difference between both genders ($p > .05$) in the acceptance of female rape myths, victim blaming and perpetrator's excuses. One sample t-test to compare perpetrator excuse victim blaming with test values (22) and findings show that undergraduate scored significantly high than average ($p < .05$). However, undergraduate students blamed victims ($M=33.75$) more than accepting excuses ($M=31.17$) of perpetrators slightly proved one hypothesis. While female undergraduate students rejected Rape Myths and Perpetrator's Excuses more in comparison to male undergraduate students. The probable reasons for these results may be that Pakistan like most Asian countries has a patriarchal society that is supported by vague religious ideology and distorted media portrayal. Creating a prejudice that it is rape victim's own fault to suffer assault and excusing male's actions by suggesting uncontrolled sexual urges. Our study had limitations because survey items had rape scenarios that are less prevalent locally.