

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL INFLUENCE, AMBIVALENT SEXISM, AND SEXUAL CONSENT NORMS ON RAPE-VICTIM BLAMING ATTITUDES: A PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS

DARLENE DARAUG^{1*}, BRITNEY GLYGINNE YSSABELLE C. EGOT², JOHN CLIFORD L. LAMOSTE³ and JOANAROS P. FAHIT⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Good Governance, Davao del Norte State College

*Correspondence: daraug.darlene@dncs.edu.ph

SDGs: **Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being); Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution)**

ABSTRACT

This study intended to explore and understand the social and psychological factors that predict rape-victim blaming attitudes of young adults. A descriptive-predictive research design was applied. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were used to examine the data collected from 250 participants. The results revealed that ambivalent sexism and sexual consent norms are the predictors of rape-victim blaming attitudes. Moreover, social influence does not predict and has an inverse relationship to rape-victim blaming attitudes. The Independent variables accounted for about 19.8% change. Integrating the results provides much-needed worldviews that create and develop countermeasures for harmful stereotyping and reinforce and add victims' rights, fostering an environment where survivors feel safe to report and seek justice, aligned with SDG 3 and SDG-16. Moreover, a more collective effort to recognize ambivalent sexism and sexual consent allows acceptance and awareness of gender-based violence and harmful stereotypes among genders by challenging traditional norms that align with SDG-5. Thus, this research aims to prevent and reduce wrongful ostracization of victims of rape and focus on perpetrators. The study recommended future research to study the inverse relationship of social influence to rape-victim blaming attitudes and to replicate it on more diverse populations to understand socio-economic and cultural groups.

Keywords: ***Social Influence; Ambivalent Sexism; Sexual Consent; Victim Blaming; Young Adults***

Pamulingan

KCAST Journal of Natural
and Cultural Sciences

Volume 2, Issue 1 (2026)

ISSN: 3082-6438

Pamulingan, an Ata-Manobo term for
"Transformation", is the official
peer-reviewed journal annually published
by Kapalong College of Agriculture,
Sciences, and Technology.

INTRODUCTION

Victim-blaming occurs across many contexts, such as criminal activity, harassment, and accidents (Anderson & Overby, 2020). Where the blame is placed on the victims rather than perpetrators of harassment, a cultural phenomenon that can cause severe emotional harm to a person who struggles to recover from the assault (Schroeder, 2016). When people hold such an attitude toward victims, it increases the harm they experienced when internalizing these negative judgments. It creates barriers to seeking help (Anderson & Overby, 2020). This is because victims of sexual abuse tend not to seek help and file a report of the unlawful act because of the fear that they will be blamed for what happened to them (Pascual, 2022).

In fact, in densely populated cities, the number of rape cases are high as it is one of the most committed crimes and also a form of domestic abuses, as some rape cases are in the form of relatives taking advantage of their younger relatives and the victims choose to keep their silence and endure rather than being labeled as someone who will be blamed for not standing up for themselves (Lundrigan et al., 2024). They think that women are seeking sexual interaction because they are wearing sexy clothes, which is interpreted as consent. This judgment causes the severity of rape cases and denies the victim's experience and right to seek help (Murray et al., 2023). Moreover, many sexual abuse victims were diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and some are still facing trauma and panic attacks as they are suffering silently and have no one to rely on (Olvara et al., 2021).

Social influence encompasses the norms, beliefs, attitudes, and actions shaping people's thinking and acting (Ruback & Greenberg, 1988). People's perceptions can shape their attitude toward the victim; they conform to what they believe is right rather than their judgment (Tankard & Levy Paluck, 2016). Victims of assault often feel that they have dishonored themselves, their husbands, relatives, or friends (Ait Ali & el Majdoubi, 2024). It is assumed that individuals are likely to adopt the attitudes and behaviors of their social groups. This is because sexism may reinforce rape myths, which are false beliefs that justify rape, such as the idea that victims are responsible for the assault because of their behavior (Gutierrez & Leaper, 2024). Hostile sexism explains how men see women as dangerous and manipulative and how women see men as oppressive and unreasonable, with it going both ways (Barreto & Doyle, 2023). Benevolent sexism is the traditional way of viewing women as needing to be cared for and be an obedient and honest wife. The feeling of having positive and negative takes on things makes it harder to choose one of the options, when one can outweigh another and vice versa (Van Gent et al., 2024).

Furthermore, sexual consent is the voluntary and explicit agreement to engage in sexual activity with a particular person in a specific context (Willis & Jozkowski, 2019). In this framework, sexual activity can only continue if both partners express active interest (Javidi et al., 2022). Although most research views sexual consent as an individual and interpersonal issue, attitudes and behaviors on sexual consent may be related to cultural and social factors. Indeed, sexual consent is associated with traditional sexual scripts, i.e., men as initiators of sex and women as sexual gatekeepers (Hirsch et al., 2019). Studies have found that many men indeed stop sexual advances only when there is a clear and explicit (usually verbal) signal to

stop (Goodcase et al., 2021), which leads to unwanted sexual behaviors (Bogen et al., 2021). In addition, the intentions to respect communication of consent appear to be negatively related to rape myths, i.e., beliefs that serve to deny and justify men's sexual aggression against women (Shafer et al., 2018). The gaps in *"The Distinction Between Observer and Victim Characteristics"*, as literature reviews point out a need to clearly isolate and cross-analyze observer characteristics as these are several key factors that affect victim blaming. Current research on sexual assault fails to adequately isolate observer biases (such as the evaluator's gender, rape myth acceptance, and institutional training) from victim-situational traits (such as intoxication or relationship to the perpetrator), resulting in a conceptual blur that obscures whether victim blaming is primarily driven by an individual's rigid worldview or by localized situational cues. (Van der Bruggen & Grubb, 2014). Public shaming and victim blaming have rapidly migrated online, transforming how secondary victimization occurs. Contemporary literature on digital aggression demonstrates that online victim blaming is an engineered structural phenomenon rather than a collection of isolated incidents; social media architectures actively weaponize human cognitive biases by utilizing engagement-driven algorithms that systematically amplify toxic, crowdsourced victim-blaming narratives for user retention (Olszewski & Lavis, 2025). This research aims to determine if social influence, ambivalent sexism, and sexual consent; norms significantly predict rape-blaming victim attitudes.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on attribution theory (Weiner, 2019) which explains the human need to condemn others for their mistakes with the knowledge and confidence that the same thing won't happen to them as they would not have done the same things that the victims would have done. Each person's controllability to avoid dangers to themselves has always been looked upon in terms of personal safety and well-being. This theory also explains how things are related in terms of fault (Kotanan & Kronstedt, 2019). Moreover, social influence alongside the theory says and explains that social influence that is gained and given to a person explains that learned behavior from the environment and how influence is acquired might become a predictor and a factor that explains the attitudes and how people judge the situation (Malle, 2022).

Additionally, ambivalent sexism will come to mind. It will affect the decisions, thinking, and judgment of a person who will support or condemn the victim, especially in terms of women victims (Dinçer et al., 2021). Then, sexual consent norms are a grey area in which some may say that the women have given their consent and later rescinded that consent and accused the man of rape, it is a realm of "he said, she said" which the majority will go into the defense of the weaker one which most likely would be the women or young children regarding of sex and gender identity (Jaffe et al., 2021).

Conceptual Framework

The independent variables of this study are social influence, ambivalent sexism, sexual consent, and rape-victim blaming attitudes. The first independent variable is social influence, which relates to the attitudes of people who socially conform to society in fear of being

wrong and being criticized (Frey & Rijt, 2020), is measured through social comparison which is the need to compare oneself to others to gauge and discern if one is adequate that can give self-worth (Suls & Wills, 2024) and social norms which is the standard, or the unwritten rules and regulations that people follow or conform to avoid being labeled as an uninformed and oblivious (Elster, 2020). Moreover, the second independent variable is ambivalent sexism, which relates to the stereotyping of one gender is better than the other (Agadullina et al., 2022), and is measured through hostile sexism which is viewing the female gender as competitors that can manipulate men to gain power other men and vice versa and benevolent sexism that view the female gender as weak, frail, passive and pure, thus justifying the need to protect and provide for them (Bareket & Fiske, 2023).

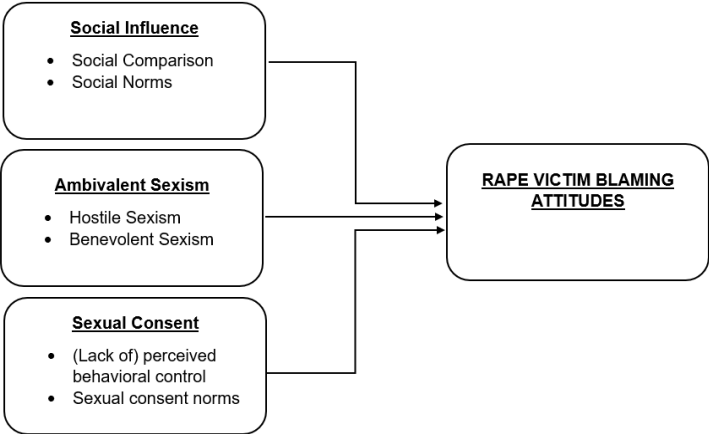


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the Study

Furthermore, the third independent variable is Sexual Consent, which relates to the willing of the individual to engage in Procreation which often associated with the female gender which normalizes the man needing consent to engage in any intimate act (Metz et al., 2020), and is measured through (lack of) perceived behavioral control is the thinking of the individual on how hard it is to perform the specific behavior (Ajzen, 2020) and sexual consent norms which are the basics in which a partner of person should adhere to. Motives revolve around (Holmström et al., 2020). The dependent variable is rape-victim blaming attitudes, which relates to how a person sees and interprets a phenomenon where factors may dictate an outcome in which the victim's action or prior actions are partially responsible (Dawtry et al., 2019). The conceptual framework of this study tested the null hypothesis, stating that there was no significant relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The descriptive-predictive design, a quantitative research method, was used in this study. Descriptive-predictive is the relationship between variables and can predict specific patterns caused by the variables (Devi et al., 2023). This quantitative research design is appropriate for collecting relevant data from the target respondents and generating statistical data that can be analyzed using existing and valid methods. This method is chosen to ensure that the study variables cannot be manipulated, which will maintain the study's integrity and validity of the findings (Bhandari, 2022).

This research design helped interpret data and explain or predict the phenomenon of victim blaming. It answered the hypothesis, explained the relationship between the variables, and predicted whether the independent variables explained the dependent variable.

Research Respondents

The research respondents of this study were the young adults aged 18-35 of Panabo City, with some knowledge on rape victim blaming. The respondents were selected through convenience sampling. Convenience sampling was used alongside the nature of the study, due to constraints in accessing young adult populace data, Convenience sampling is used as it is a non-probability sampling technique based on ease of access, this allowed seamless integration in the collection of data (Golzar et al., 2022). The sample was 250 participants; this number offered a margin of error of - 5% at a 95% confidence level (Memon et al., 2020), representing the young adults of Panabo City. The respondents were chosen as young adults are more exposed to this phenomenon. The participants were given the chance to participate or refrain from the study, at any point of the survey, participants were allowed to withdraw their participation. Furthermore, as an adjacent city and a densely populated city, of late the number of rape cases in Panabo city have risen in the past years and until now when it comes to domestic violence cases within the city. Among several domestic abuses, rape has soared from 13.92% to 30.82% which indicates that cases have risen dramatically which in turn explains the incidents, making Panabo city the adequate locale of the study.

Materials and Instrument

The researchers used a 40-item adapted and modified survey as an inquiry device, which gained widespread acceptance as a practical way of drawing out data to answer specific problems in the research. To measure social influence, the researchers adapted the survey questionnaire in the study social influence scale for technology design and transformation of Stibe and Cugelman (2019), which in earlier studies showed consistent results. On the other hand, the researchers also adapted the scale of ambivalent sexism from the study Blame the victim: Key contributors to Victim Culpability Attributions and what this means for survivors of sexual violence in the digital era of Cowley (2024), Another adapted survey questionnaire from *The sexual consent scale-revised: Development, reliability, and preliminary validity* of Humphreys et al. (2010), Then, the researchers adapted and modified survey questionnaire from the study of *Attitudes toward rape among mental health professionals* by Resick and

Jackson (1981), were used to measure the dependent variable rape-victim Blaming Attitudes, some of the items were removed as such items were not related to the study as well some were changed to fit the study.

The survey questionnaire has undergone the rigorous process for validity through a professional social worker who specializes in cases regarding rape and women. It was further validated by another professional social worker, and an advocate for Gender and Development. Pilot testing is the initial test before conducting quantitative research to ensure the instrument is valid (Green, 2020). The researchers conducted a pilot test in Davao City near Panabo City. The test results indicated that the questions produced consistent answers and showed that the items were clear, appropriate, and relevant to the local context. A reliability test was conducted with the help of a statistician; all variables passed the minimum threshold. Reliability was supported by Cronbach's alpha values between .74 and .79, and validity was confirmed through expert review and theoretical alignment. All of these were subjected to a Likert scale of 1-5, with one being strongly disagreed and five being strongly agreed (Robinson, 2023), as seen in Tables 1-4.

Table 1
Scale of Measurement for Social Influence

Range of Means	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
4.20-5.00	Very High	Social influence among persons is very evident.
3.40-4.19	High	Social influence among persons is evident.
2.60-3.39	Moderate	Social influence among persons is sometimes evident.
1.80-2.59	Low	Social influence among persons is seldom evident.
1.00-1.79	Very low	Social influence among persons is not evident.

Table 2
Scale of Measurement for Ambivalent Sexism

Range of Means	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
4.20-5.00	Very High	Ambivalent sexism among persons is very evident.
3.40-4.19	High	Ambivalent sexism among persons is evident.
2.60-3.39	Moderate	Ambivalent sexism among persons is sometimes evident.
1.80-2.59	Low	Ambivalent sexism among persons is seldom evident.
1.00-1.79	Very low	Ambivalent sexism among persons is not evident.

Table 3
Scale of Measurement for Sexual Consent Norms

Range of Means	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
4.20-5.00	Very High	Sexual consent norms among persons are very evident.
3.40-4.19	High	Sexual consent norms among persons are evident.
2.60-3.39	Moderate	Sexual consent norms among persons are sometimes evident.
1.80-2.59	Low	Sexual consent norms among persons are seldom evident.
1.00-1.79	Very low	Sexual consent norms among persons are not evident.

Table 4
Scale of Measurement for Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Range of Means	Descriptive Equivalent	Interpretation
4.20-5.00	Very High	Rape-victim blaming attitudes among persons is very evident.
3.40-4.19	High	Rape-victim blaming attitudes among persons is evident.
2.60-3.39	Moderate	Rape-victim blaming attitudes among persons is sometimes evident.
1.80-2.59	Low	Rape-victim blaming attitudes among persons is seldom evident.
1.00-1.79	Very low	Rape-victim blaming attitudes among persons is not evident.

Design and Procedure

This section outlines the research design, data gathering processes, data analysis methods, and the ethical considerations of the study. This study explored how specific social and psychological drivers affect rape-victim blaming attitudes. This study examined the relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable to see if these predicted rape-victim blaming attitudes.

Data Collection

The researchers used a closed-ended survey questionnaire, which directly offered pre-determined data for options (Baburajan et al., 2022). This questionnaire strictly adhered to a Likert scale model, which collected ordinal data converted into digital data encoded into a secure Excel file.

Data Analysis

The researchers analyzed the data gathered from the survey questionnaires using the measures of mean, standard deviation, correlation, and Regression. To analyze the nominal/ordinal data, descriptive statistics were used to measure the central tendency of the mean for all the variables. The data analysis tool also explained the participants' responses, who generally thought and processed the same way (Mishra et al., 2019).

The researchers used Pearson's *r* to see if the variables had or did not have significant relationships with each other. Correlational analysis examined the relationship between the multiple independent and dependent variables. The researchers applied a 0.05 significance level for all data analysis stated in the hypothesis (Makowski et al., 2020).

Ethical Considerations

In conducting this research study, the researchers adhered to the ethical considerations of confidentiality, voluntary participation, and informed consent. The data collection prioritized the participants' well-being and rights. Before the data collection, the researchers asked the potential respondents if they would participate in a study survey. Once approval was given, informed consent was provided. They were allowed to withdraw from the study if they wished. No participant was forced to share and answer items in the questionnaire that they deemed sensitive information about themselves. The researcher explained and answered the participants' queries when necessary. Moreso, each participant was assured that the data collected was used exclusively for research purposes; its access was limited to the researchers to uphold confidentiality and its integrity and the safety of each research participant as well as ensuring no personal information would be shared and even the survey questionnaire, in order to maintain anonymity and prevent any forms of harm. Furthermore, the study's findings were based on the data collected, which means that all positive or negative findings would be presented in all forms to ensure transparency and verify the study's validity. Furthermore, in safeguarding the participants' survey responses, the survey was placed inside a secure and locked briefcase.

RESULTS

In Table 5, young adults are partially influenced by others, mainly people around them, but still have the retention of personal judgement. Social pressure is prevalent and existing, but this table shows that it is not strong enough by itself to fully shape or develop victim-blaming attitudes. Social Influence in young adults may be from indirect contributions of the environment, but it is not the main cause of the victim blaming attitudes.

Table 5
Level of Social Influence

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
Social Comparison	3.16	0.45	Moderate
Social Norms	3.44	0.58	High
Overall Mean	3.30	0.41	Moderate

In Table 6, hostile sexism and benevolent sexism are two sides of coin, ambivalent sexism is the mix of hostile and benevolent sexism. Young adults' have mixed but have restrictive gender beliefs of the biological sex. Ambivalent Sexism beliefs are now normalized and are widely accepted; it is also a major underlying factor which can shape or mold a person's victim-blaming attitudes.

Table 6
Level of Ambivalent Sexism

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
Hostile Sexism	3.20	0.68	Moderate
Benevolent Sexism	3.87	0.66	High
Overall Mean	3.53	0.55	High

In Table 7, sexual consent norms of young adults recognize the importance of having consent before engaging in intimate actions, though the data shows inconsistency in terms of the identified gaps in understanding what consent is and the application of this in real life situations. The awareness of consent does not ensure nor guarantee protective attitudes and assurance to victims.

Table 7
Level of Sexual Consent Norms

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
(Lack of) Perceived Behavior Control	3.10	0.74	Moderate
Sexual Consent Norms	3.41	0.71	High
Overall Mean	3.25	0.60	Moderate

In Table 8, rape-victim blaming attitudes are widely known, but it can be seen as being common, normalized and it is social accepted among young adults. Awareness of this attitude is good, but the attitude itself to be socially accepted is concerning which can indicate widespread negativity towards the victims to a point where they are judged and blamed for the incident itself.

Table 8
Level of Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Indicators	Mean	SD	Description
Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes	3.77	.54	High

Relationship between Social Influence and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

In Table 9, the relationship between social influence and rape-victim blaming attitudes are presented. The relationship between the two variables is significant but has a weak

relationship with the victim blaming attitude of young adults. Social influence contributes to this but cannot be a basis to strongly determine the outcome.

Table 9
Relationship between Social Influence and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Variables	r value	p-value	Decision
Social Influence	0.141	0.025	Reject the Null Hypothesis
Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes			

Relationship between Ambivalent Sexism and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

In Table 10, ambivalent sexism and rape-victim blaming attitudes imply that those higher levels of sexism, whether hostile, benevolent, or ambivalent sexism, can lead to higher levels of victim-blaming attitudes. Young adults' ambivalent sexism is a key driver of victim blaming attitudes, and reducing the ambivalent sexism could significantly prevent or reduce harmful victim-blaming attitudes.

Table 10
Relationship between Ambivalent Sexism and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Variables	r value	p-value	Decision
Ambivalent Sexism	0.351	0.000	Reject the Null Hypothesis
Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes			

Relationship between Sexual Consent Norms and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

In Table 11, sexual consent norms of young adults imply that higher consent norms are proportionately associated with higher chances of victim blaming attitudes. Young adults can misinterpret the consent given and will blame victims and hold them responsible if the consent was unclear and vague.

Table 11
Relationship between Sexual Consent Norms and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Variables	r value	p-value	Decision
Sexual Consent Norms	0.406	0.000	Reject the Null Hypothesis
Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes			

Influence of Social Influence, Ambivalent Sexism, and Sexual Consent Norms on Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

In Table 12, ambivalent sexism and sexual consent norms are the significant predictors and social influence is not. Rape-victim blaming attitudes are mainly influence by the sexist beliefs of both biological genders and the misunderstanding of consent in engaging intimate acts with the opposite biological gender. Social influence of young adults does not weigh or play into these harmful victim blaming attitudes. There is a 19.8% of victim blaming that can be concrete explained by ambivalent sexism and sexual consent norms.

Table 12
Influence of Social Influence Ambivalent Sexism, and Sexual Consent Norms on Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Indicators	Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes			
	B	β	t	Sig.
Social Influence	-.002	-.001	-.20	.984
Ambivalent Sexism	.204	.206	3.138	.002
Sexual Consent Norms	.280	.310	4.732	.000
	R	R ²	F	P
	.445	.198	20.225	.000

DISCUSSION

Level of Social Influence

The study of Cuno et al. (2024) shows that social comparison serves as a powerful mechanism for promoting behavior change, but depends on the circumstance of the situation, suggesting that social comparison may actually reinforce the ideology of victim blaming that is now common and widespread. Moreover, women's sexuality and constrained criminal justice protection are discussed, demonstrating how societal comparisons affect legal and social treatment of victims. This is sustained by engraved to mind beliefs and institutional structures of the modern world. Double standards of each sexuality shape perception and accountability. Women are expected to conform to restrictive norms of the patriarchal structure of society, in the event of opposing said norms can be seen as a way to shift the blame onto them, or can be understood as a moral regulation of the female side of sexuality. Thus, this indicates that deeply ingrained beliefs and legal structures perpetuate victim-blaming (Hamid, 2021).

Social influence and perpetrators affect victim-blaming attitudes; this shows societal expectations and beliefs contribute to victim-blaming attitudes that victims may avoid disclosure if they anticipate adverse social reactions, this is the socially regulated response, which can be also viewed as the anticipation of others on judging the victim and how they see themselves judging the victims (Catton & Dorahy, 2020). This can collectively carry more expectation and weight, rather than individual comparison which associate with the implicit rules of acceptability.

This data shows that social norms have a more substantial effect than social comparison. However, both still influence how people think and act. Social norms create common expectations that guide individuals to conform to avoid judgment and rejection, which shapes how people make choices. Harmful attitudes can be perceived as socially acceptable or expected which will be a collective responsibility to conform. Recognizing how social norms shape perceptions can help address biases and promote a more supportive environment for victims (McDonald & Crandall, 2015).

Level of Ambivalent Sexism

When people blame victims more, it strengthens the connection between sexism and belief in rape myths. This indicates that victim-blaming makes it easier for people to accept harmful ideas about rape, including the belief that victims are responsible for what happened to them. Their take strengthens the link between sexism and rape myth acceptance of victim blaming, this can act as a justification mechanism, this can lead to normalization that actively deepens and legitimizes sexist beliefs. As a result, people are more likely to justify rape or seen as acceptable in certain situations (Kazmi & Rauf, 2024). Brunelli et al.'s (2025) study found that educational attainment can influence how hostile sexism is expressed within different populations. Being educated and having a professional status does not automatically exclude one from having biases or biased attitudes, the institutional cultures of skepticism can reinforce, rather can challenge these sexist beliefs.

Moreover, backed up by Dhont et al. (2020), who claim that subtle dehumanization of women is associated with greater levels of hostile sexism, showing how societal beliefs about dominance over nature and animals contribute to aggressive sexist attitudes. The linkage of hostile sexism to subtle dehumanization of women suggests that victim blaming is rooted in a worldview that is seen as hierarchical. Benevolent beliefs about nature and social dominance orientation also augmented benevolent sexism, promoting traditional gender roles and protective attitudes that portray women as needing care rather than equality, which only sustain inequality. This demands the need for challenging underlying power structures.

Level of Sexual Consent Norms

Del Mar Sánchez et al. (2023) did more than show a link between sexual objectification and women's lower efficacy in asking for consent; their findings suggest that objectification actively undermines women's perceived behavioral control in sexual situations. When this is combined with rape-supportive attitudes, objectification is not just an individual experience but part of a broader culture that normalizes male entitlement and weakens women's ability to assert boundaries. At the same time, women's continued emphasis on the importance of explicit consent reveals a tension between what they value and what they feel able to practice.

Furthermore, Bogen et al. (2021) and Scoats et al. (2020) highlight inconsistencies between how people define and enact consent. While respondents claim to value consent, Bogen et al. show that some boys treat sexual activity as permissible until a clear verbal "no," which directly conflicts with affirmative consent standards. This narrow understanding shifts responsibility onto potential victims and overlooks nonverbal cues or power imbalances.

Wilson et al. (2022) draw attention to the role of social norms in shaping consent and blame. It was argued that consent is interpreted through gendered scripts rather than neutral rules. At the same time, it shows that adherence to traditional consent norms can legitimize victim-blaming and justify non-consensual encounters.

Level of Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

Bohner and Mulder (2020) show that rape victim-blaming attitudes are still deeply rooted in society, reflecting the persistence of rape myths rather than isolated prejudice. These beliefs, false ideas about how “real” victims and rapists behave, legitimize sexual violence by shifting scrutiny onto victims instead of perpetrators. Olvara et al. (2021) highlight the practical impact of this: many survivors remain silent because they anticipate being blamed or judged, which limits disclosure and access to support.

Russell and Hand (2017) argue that such attitudes work by implying that victims could have avoided the assault through different behavior, clothing, or sobriety, thereby individualizing responsibility and obscuring the perpetrator’s agency. Grove (2019) links this to lower reporting rates, as fear of blame discourages survivors from going to authorities. Minkler (2020) adds that older adults may frame younger generations’ disclosures as “overreactions,” revealing how previous norms of silence and endurance can invalidate contemporary efforts to challenge sexual violence and sustain a culture where victim-blaming remains normalized.

Relationship between Social Influence and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

This is supported by Pinciotti and Orcutt (2021), as their study found that there is a significant relationship between Social Influence and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes in their study they explain the relationship of these variables are congruent and explains that social influence on people rely on the phenomena that it would not happen to them because the feeling of confidence and their self-control could let them make informed decisions by themselves. This explains external pressure, internalizing a sense of personal invulnerability and control, and that some instances or situations can serve as psychological distancing mechanisms. Failing to exercise control can be at the cost of implicitly blaming the victim.

The study of Gravelin et al. (2019) further strengthens the relationship between the two variables, the individual factors that influence how people see and interpret the situation, along with the situational factors that encompass all from the victim, offender, and nature. An emerging interaction between individual and situational factors suggest that social influence operates through interpretive frameworks where people draw their conclusions from learned concepts to make sense of ambiguous situations. The study of Schwark and Bohner (2019) further supports this claim, stating that Social Influence is evident in that individuals who share the same beliefs have the same values, on which their decisions are based. Like minded groups can highlight group level normalization, where victim blaming is much more accepted than denied, it can be a prejudice and more likely to conform to the group rather than straying away and assigning responsibility to victims.

Relationship between Ambivalent Sexism and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

This is supported by West (2020), as her study found that there is a significant relationship between Ambivalent Sexism and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes. Her study further explains that ambivalent sexism plays a massive part in how victims are seen as innocent and vulnerable and can also be seen as a tactic of deceit and manipulation, whichever applies to the situation of the incident. Ambivalent Sexism creates a contradiction and dual framework for judging victims, victim blaming attitudes are more guided by conditional standards. Furthermore, the study of Nisar et al. (2021) strengthens this relationship with evidence regarding seeing victims as targets of sexism and sexist ideology on both sides of the spectrum. Sexism in victim blaming is harsh, as both sexes are against each other and will clash often in terms of ideology and what benefits their sex rather than supporting each other. Sexism functions across both hostile and benevolent dimensions that can insinuate competing gender ideologies that internalizes individuals by their sex, this dynamic reveal that through shared cultural narratives are sustaining victim blaming.

The study of Halicki et al. (2022) explains that benevolent sexism is more targeted at victims of sexual assault rather than those who are part of the hostile sexist. The study claims that sexism is always taken into consideration when deciding the fate of a victim, which may rely on their sex and gender. Benevolent sexism is subtle and accepted, making it more difficult to challenge, this creates a paradox where the same belief system appears to support women but it will support in justifying blaming women also, as a result of the viewpoints and decisions about victims, this victim blaming will be filtered through gendered assumptions of morality, behavior and worth on both sides of the sexism spectrum.

Relationship between Sexual Consent Norms and Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

The study of Dowds (2020) further strengthens this relationship, as consent-based intimacy is often apparent in couples and in casual relationships involving intimacy, thus making the need to blame the victim for what happened is utterly subjective and reveals normative beliefs about relationships influence judgements of credibility and blame. This exposes the fundamental instability in how consent is understood in different and across contexts.

This is further supported by Hills et al. (2021), in their study consent is one of the indicators in which the crime is classified as rape or not, the perception of individuals with views on consent vary from relationship such as casual hook ups to steady dating between two individuals. This raises a critical issue: if consent is socially and situationally constructed, then relying on it as the sole criterion for distinguishing rape from non-rape can obscure more subtle forms of coercion variability in perceptions across casual and committed relationships. It is structured by cultural scripts and gender norms that is a part of a broader moral framework that regulates sexuality.

Additionally, the sexual consent to engage in sexual activity is needed for every action made by two concerned parties in order to avoid an instance of rape and resulting to blaming the one gave consent and being labeled as weak and unable to defend themselves. Wilson et al. (2022) explained the relationship as a result of mental health implications, in which they have given consent, in which the victims are victims of their circumstances. There is a nuance that

views to recognize that consent to one act does not apply to subsequent acts, this is not one yes to all but a yes to each situation in which consent is needed to be asked every time, there are violations on autonomy of which consent is perceived to be subsequent consent in engaging act with a partner which would result or stem from ambiguous or pressured situations.

Influence of Social Influence, Ambivalent Sexism, and Sexual Consent Norms on Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes

From the perspective of Poerwandari et al. (2021), ambivalent sexism significantly affects how victims are seen as objects and how people see these victims as ultimately responsible for their well-being. Benevolent sexism is more seen as protective, but in reality, it is more insidious because it legitimizes the control over women. Those who are benevolent can still blame the victims, as victim blaming does not dwell on hostile actions but can also manifest from positive and normative situations. Additionally, in the study of Rollero and Tartaglia (2019), ambivalent sexism is the cause of good and bad sexist attitudes in which persons take and adapt to their personalities. The hostility towards the opposing gender made the chances of victim blaming more severe and evident. This moralizes the victim behavior and normalizes enforcement and social control in each situation. One situation is when they are seen as inviting danger by wearing revealing clothes or having flirty behavior, even with the present it does not automatically mean that that person would immediately go into wanting intimate relationships and actions.

Moreover, as outlined by Kessel (2020), sexual consent norms are a cruel optimism that is used to facilitate rather than lessen sexual violence and used to deny the victim of injury, stating that the victim and the offender had an agreement. This challenges the liberal assumption that individual autonomy operates freely in all sexual encounters. If consent is extracted within unequal conditions, then its validity becomes questionable. In addition, in the study of Patwardhan (2023), explains that going into an act of ultimate intimacy or in simply "sex", one must have or both must give their consent, if that is not present that means it's essentially rape. Very few cases in between lovers, couples, and casual hookups would result into a rape situation, and in the end the victim is always blamed for letting it happen. This binary may fail to capture gray areas of compliance, pressure, or manipulation, where victims may technically "consent" but lack genuine autonomy.

However, the current social reality of influence and how it affects persons will imply denying that Social Influence, based on the results given, is not a predictor of Rape-Victim Blaming Attitudes, since in reality, people always follow the crowd instead of being left out and seen as a deviant in modern society. According to Pinciotti and Orcutt (2021) Social Influence explains conformity as one of the reasons why people tend to follow in order not to get left out. Individuals may adopt victim blaming attitudes because such attitudes are perceived as socially acceptable or dominant within their peer group. Thus, Social Influence is also considered a predictor along with Ambivalent Sexism and Sexual Consent Norms. This is further supported by the study of Mehta (2025), stating that choices and decisions, and even outlooks and perceptions of individuals, can be molded by social influence and the likes.

These results are aligned with Weiner's (2019) Attribution Theory which states that the focus of causality in which both internal and external aspects of the individual are seen as

the cause of the event, the controllability of the situation ultimately relies on the individuals perceived control over their own choices without garnering the results and consequences, all of the social and psychological factors in the study and how these variables relates to the impact on motivation and behavior of others in relation to the individuals own as a baseline on which the person will take into consideration and build upon. Attribution processes operationalize these biases by translating them into judgments of responsibility. Because of this, what may appear as “control” or “choice” is often limited or influenced by these pressures. The theory explains stability and controllability in any situation that can have an outcome or effect. It is explained through 3 factors: internal/external (dimensions), stability, and controllability.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, rape-victim blaming attitudes among young adults in Panabo City were found to be high. This suggests that victim-blaming remains a concerning attitude among the respondents and may reflect the continued presence of harmful beliefs surrounding rape, gender roles, and responsibility. Although the respondents showed moderate levels of social influence and sexual consent norms, and a high level of ambivalent sexism, the results indicate that not all of these factors equally explain rape-victim blaming attitudes.

The study found that social influence has a significant but weak relationship with rape-victim blaming attitudes. However, when tested together with the other variables, social influence did not significantly predict rape-victim blaming attitudes. This means that while young adults may be affected by social norms, peer beliefs, and the views of people around them, these influences alone do not strongly explain why they develop victim-blaming attitudes. This finding suggests that victim-blaming may be more deeply connected to personal beliefs about gender and consent rather than social pressure alone.

Ambivalent sexism was found to be a significant predictor of rape-victim blaming attitudes. This implies that both hostile and benevolent sexist beliefs may contribute to how young adults judge victims of rape. When people hold traditional or biased views about men and women, they may be more likely to question the victim’s behavior, character, or decisions instead of placing full responsibility on the perpetrator. This shows that sexism continues to shape harmful attitudes toward victims, even when it appears in subtle or socially accepted forms.

Sexual consent norms were also found to be a significant predictor of rape-victim blaming attitudes. This result suggests that misunderstandings or inconsistent beliefs about consent may influence how young adults interpret rape situations. Although awareness of consent may be present, it does not always lead to supportive attitudes toward victims. Some individuals may still blame victims when consent is perceived as unclear, withdrawn, or misunderstood. This highlights the need for stronger education on the meaning of consent, especially the idea that consent must be clear, voluntary, specific, and continuous.

Overall, the independent variables accounted for 19.8% of the variation in rape-victim blaming attitudes. This means that ambivalent sexism and sexual consent norms help explain part of why young adults may develop victim-blaming attitudes, but other factors may also be involved. The findings support the importance of addressing gender stereotypes, rape myths,

and misconceptions about consent in order to reduce victim-blaming. These efforts are aligned with SDG 3, which promotes health and well-being, and SDG 16, which promotes justice and strong institutions. By challenging harmful beliefs and strengthening awareness of victims' rights, communities can help create a safer and more supportive environment where survivors are not silenced, judged, or blamed for the violence committed against them.

Recommendations

Focusing on forensic analysis, identifying biases in victim-blaming, and applying research-based crime prevention strategies. Development of gender-responsive policies and public education campaigns. These initiatives must underline that victim blaming upholds silence and restricts survivors from seeking help. Resolving this issue at the policy level, such efforts can shape national discourse and promote a more supportive environment for survivors. Incorporate age-appropriate modules into health and social science classes for elementary and high school students to encourage early awareness and critical thinking on gender biases. For future researchers, it is recommended to explore other factors that may affect rape victim-blaming attitudes, such as culture, media influence, personal experiences, and social beliefs. Future studies may also include a wider range of participants and examine possible interventions that can help reduce victim-blaming and create a more supportive environment for survivors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The researchers extend their sincere gratitude to the following individuals for their invaluable assistance and support in the success of this study. We begin by expressing our most profound appreciation to our families, whose unwavering love, patience, and constant encouragement became the cornerstone of our journey. To our dear friends and classmates, your motivation, shared efforts, and presence made this academic journey lighter and far more meaningful. You reminded us that we were never alone in this journey. We gratefully acknowledge the City Government of Panabo for allowing us to conduct this study. Their cooperation and openness were vital to making this research possible. Special thanks to the 250 young adults of Panabo who shared their time and responses with us. Your participation left a lasting impact on the heart of this study. Truly, this wouldn't be possible without you. Above all, we give our highest praise and sincerest gratitude to the Almighty God for the good health, wisdom, and bountiful blessings He showered upon us; for the strength and endurance that enabled us to finish this study. This accomplishment is a humble reflection of His faithfulness to Him be all the glory, now and always.

REFERENCES

- Agadullina, E., Lovakov, A., Balezina, M., & Gulevich, O. A. (2022). Ambivalent sexism and violence toward women: A meta-analysis. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 52, 819–859. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2855>

- Ait Ali, S., & El Majdoubi, I. (2024). Sex crimes and victim blaming: How to stop it. *Journal of Gender, Culture and Society*, 4(1), 60–68. <https://doi.org/10.32996/jgcs.2024.4.1.8>
- Ajzen, I. (2020). The theory of planned behavior: Frequently asked questions. *Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies*, 2(4), 314–324. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hbe2.195>
- Anderson, G., & Overby, R. (2020). The impact of rape myths and current events on the well-being of sexual violence survivors. *Violence Against Women*, 27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801220913634>
- Baburajan, V., Silva, J. A., & Pereira, F. C. (2022). Open vs. closed-ended questions in attitudinal surveys—Comparing, combining, and interpreting using natural language processing. *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*, 137, 103589. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trc.2022.103589>
- Bareket, O., & Fiske, S. T. (2023). A systematic review of the ambivalent sexism literature: Hostile sexism protects men's power; benevolent sexism guards traditional gender roles. *Psychological Bulletin*, 149(11–12), 637–698. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bul0000400>
- Barreto, M., & Doyle, D. M. (2023). Benevolent and hostile sexism in a shifting global context. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 2(2), 98–111. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-022-00162-5>
- Bhandari, P. (2022). A note on survey research methods levels of measurement: Foundational basis for quantitative analysis of survey data. *Dhulagiri Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 16(1), 122–126. <https://doi.org/10.3126/dsaj.v16i01.50932>
- Bogen, K. W., Kuo, C., Orchowski, L. M., & Righi, M. K. (2021). A qualitative analysis of beliefs about sexual consent among high school students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(15–16), NP8290–NP8316. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519842855>
- Bohner, G., & Mulder, E. (2020). Negative third-party reactions to male and female victims of rape: The influence of harm and normativity concerns. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(9–10), NP6055–NP6083. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520966675>
- Brunelli, A., Cleva, M., Montalti, M., Nanni, S., Piraccini, A. M., & Sgarra, D. (2025). Hostile and benevolent sexism: Prioritizing prevention strategies through a cross-sectional study in a northern Italian city. *Societies*, 15(3), 61. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc15030061>
- Catton, A. K. H., & Dorahy, M. J. (2020). Blame attributions against heterosexual male victims of sexual coercion: Effects of gender, social influence, and perceptions of distress. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(9–10), NP7014–NP7033. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520966677>

- Cowley, S. N. (2024). *Blame the victim: Key contributors to victim culpability attributions and what this means for survivors of sexual violence in the digital era* [Master's thesis, University of Otago]. University of Otago Research Repository. <https://hdl.handle.net/10523/16469>
- Cuno, R., Hoppen, T. H., Lemmel, F., Morina, N., Nelson, J., & Schlechter, P. (2024). Social comparison as a behaviour change technique: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials across scientific disciplines. *Research Square*. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3978095/v1>
- Dawtry, R. J., Cozzolino, P. J., & Callan, M. J. (2019). I blame therefore it was: Rape myth acceptance, victim blaming, and memory reconstruction. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 45(8), 1269–1282. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167218816135>
- Del Mar Sánchez-Fuentes, M., Granados, R., Gómez-Berrocal, C., Moyano, N., Parra, S. M., & Quílez-Robres, A. (2023). Shall we establish sexual consent or would you feel weird? Sexual objectification and rape-supportive attitudes as predictors of how sex is negotiated in men and women. *Sexuality & Culture*, 27(5), 1679–1696. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-023-10075-5>
- Devi, B., Lepcha, N., & Basnet, S. (2023). Application of correlational research design in nursing and medical research. *Journal of Xi'an Shiyu University (Natural Sciences Edition)*, 65, 60–69. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/YRZ68>
- Dhont, K., & Salmen, A. (2020). Hostile and benevolent sexism: The differential roles of human supremacy beliefs, women's connection to nature, and the dehumanization of women. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 24(7), 1053–1076. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220920713>
- Dinçer, F., Kenan, S., & Çınar, S. E. (2021). Ambivalent sexism, interpersonal relationships and attributional complexity of school counselors in Istanbul. *Anadolu Journal of Educational Sciences International*, 11(1), 323–339. <https://doi.org/10.18039/ajesi.807641>
- Dowds, E. (2020). Towards a contextual definition of rape: Consent, coercion and constructive force. *The Modern Law Review*, 83(1), 35–63. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2230.12491>
- Elster, J. (2020). Social norms and economic theory. In *Social norms and economic theory*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-62965-7_20
- Frey, V., & van de Rijt, A. (2021). Social influence undermines the wisdom of the crowd in sequential decision making. *Management Science*, 67(7), 4273–4286. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2020.3713>

- Golzar, J., Noor, S., & Tajik, O. (2022). Convenience sampling. *International Journal of Education & Language Studies*, 1(2), 72–77. <https://doi.org/10.22034/ijels.2022.162981>
- Goodcase, E. T., Spencer, C. M., & Toews, M. L. (2021). Who understands consent? A latent profile analysis of college students' attitudes toward consent. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519853407>
- Gravelin, C. R., Biernat, M., & Bucher, C. E. (2019). Blaming the victim of acquaintance rape: Individual, situational, and sociocultural factors. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 2422. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02422>
- Green, R. (2020). Pilot testing: Why and how we trial. In *The Routledge handbook of second language acquisition and language testing* (pp. 115–124). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429260539-9>
- Grove, L. C. (2019). *Managing just world beliefs in an unjust world for victims of sexual violence* [Doctoral dissertation, University of Montana]. Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/11446>
- Gutierrez, B. C., & Leaper, C. (2024). Linking ambivalent sexism to violence-against-women attitudes and behaviors: A three-level meta-analytic review. *Sexuality & Culture*, 28, 851–882. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-023-10122-7>
- Halicki, K. T., Hauser, R., & Wänke, M. (2023). When she is standing left, she might be blamed: Responsibility attribution for sexualized violence moderated by rape myth acceptance and benevolent sexism. *Violence Against Women*, 29(2), 300–320. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012221095016>
- Hamid, H. B. B. A. (2021). Exploring victim blaming attitudes in cases of rape and sexual violence: The relationship with patriarchy. *Malaysian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 6(11), 273–284. <https://doi.org/10.47405/mjssh.v6i11.1169>
- Hills, P. J., Pleva, M., Seib, E., & Cole, T. (2021). Understanding how university students use perceptions of consent, wantedness, and pleasure in labeling rape. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 50, 247–262. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-020-01789-2>
- Hirsch, J. S., Khan, S. R., Wamboldt, A., & Mellins, C. A. (2019). Social dimensions of sexual consent among cisgender heterosexual college students: Insights from ethnographic research. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 64(1), 26–35. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.06.011>
- Holmström, C., Plantin, L., & Elmerstig, E. (2020). Complexities of sexual consent: Young people's reasoning in a Swedish context. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 11(4), 342–357. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2019.1690567>

- Humphreys, T. P., & Brousseau, M. M. (2010). The Sexual Consent Scale—Revised: Development, reliability, and preliminary validity. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 47(5), 420–428. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224490903151358>
- Jaffe, A. E., Steel, A. L., DiLillo, D., Messman-Moore, T. L., & Gratz, K. L. (2021). Characterizing sexual violence in intimate relationships: An examination of blame attributions and rape acknowledgment. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(1–2), 469–490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517734865>
- Javidi, H., Widman, L., Evans-Paulson, R., & Lipsey, N. (2022). Internal consent, affirmative external consent, and sexual satisfaction among young adults. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.2013474>
- Kazmi, S. M. A., & Rauf, K. (2024). “A no means no”: Rape myth acceptance, victim blaming and hostile sexism as predictors of acceptance towards rape on a date among Pakistani adults. *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 35(2), 171–190. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14789949.2023.2267964>
- Kessel, A. (2020). The cruel optimism of sexual consent. *Contemporary Political Theory*, 19, 359–380. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-019-00356-5>
- Kotanen, R., & Kronstedt, J. (2019). Attribution of responsibility for sexual crimes beyond individual actors: Construction of responsibility of offenders, victims and society in laypersons' explanations. *International Review of Victimology*, 25(3), 358–374. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269758018817164>
- Lundrigan, S., Weir, R., Newton, A., Agudelo, K., & Dhami, M. (2024). Patterns and predictors of stranger rape locations. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 30(1), 181–209. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10610-023-09565-5>
- Makowski, D., Ben-Shachar, M. S., Patil, I., & Lüdtke, D. (2020). Methods and algorithms for correlation analysis in R. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 5(51), 2306. <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.02306>
- Malle, B. F. (2022). Attribution theories. In D. Chadee (Ed.), *Theories in social psychology* (2nd ed.).
- McDonald, R. I., & Crandall, C. S. (2015). Social norms and social influence. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 3, 147–151. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2015.04.006>
- Memon, M. A., Ting, H., Cheah, J.-H., Thurasamy, R., Chuah, F., & Cham, T. H. (2020). Sample size for survey research: Review and recommendations. *Journal of Applied Structural Equation Modeling*, 4(2), i–xx. [https://doi.org/10.47263/JASEM.4\(2\)01](https://doi.org/10.47263/JASEM.4(2)01)

- Metz, J., Myers, K., & Wallace, P. (2020). "Rape is a man's issue": Gender and power in the era of affirmative sexual consent. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 30(1), 52–65. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2020.1815665>
- Minkler, M. (2020). "Generational equity" and the new victim blaming. In *Critical perspectives on aging* (pp. 67–80). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429274352-6>
- Mishra, P., Pandey, C. M., Singh, U., Gupta, A., Sahu, C., & Keshri, A. (2019). Descriptive statistics and normality tests for statistical data. *Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia*, 22(1), 67–72. https://doi.org/10.4103/aca.ACA_157_18
- Murray, C., Calderón, C., & Bahamondes, J. (2023). Modern rape myths: Justifying victim and perpetrator blame in sexual violence. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(3), Article 1663. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20031663>
- Nisar, S., Zafar, K., Batool, I., Ishfaq, M., Fatima, H., Fatima, K., & Arshad, R. (2021). Ambivalent sexism towards women and acceptance of rape myths among university students. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 6(2), 90–95.
- Olszewski, N., & Lavis, T. (2025). Victim blaming on social media: How user comments impact perceptions. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2025.2570383>
- Olvara, A. G., Abolidor, A. L. M., Alvarez, D. R. J., Dacanay, M. N., & Escalante, R. (2021). *Victim blaming culture in the Philippines: A hindering factor to the unresolved battles of sexual abused individuals* [Research paper]. Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College.
- Pascual, A. (2020, June 26). Stop "victim-blaming." *BusinessMirror*. <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/26/stop-victim-blaming/>
- Patwardhan, S. (2023). *Consent, blame, and sex* [Doctoral dissertation].
- Pinciotti, C. M., & Orcutt, H. K. (2021). Understanding gender differences in rape victim blaming: The power of social influence and just world beliefs. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(1–2), 255–275. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517725736>
- Poerwandari, E. K., Utami, C. P., & Primasari, I. (2021). Ambivalent sexism and sexual objectification of women as predictors of rape myth acceptance among male college students in Greater Jakarta. *Current Psychology*, 40, 5909–5918. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-020-01049-1>
- Resick, P. A., & Jackson, T. L. (1981). Attitudes toward rape among mental health professionals. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 9(4), 481–490. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00896385>

- Robinson, J. (2023). Likert scale. In F. Maggino (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of quality of life and well-being research*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-17299-1_1654
- Rollero, C., & Tartaglia, S. (2019). The effect of sexism and rape myths on victim blame. *Sexuality & Culture*, 23(1), 209–219. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-018-9549-8>
- Ruback, R. B., & Greenberg, M. S. (1988). *Social influence and crime victim decision making*. Office of Justice Programs. <https://www.ojp.gov/>
- Russell, K. J., & Hand, C. J. (2017). Rape myth acceptance, victim blame attribution and just world beliefs: A rapid evidence assessment. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 37, 153–160. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2017.10.008>
- Schroeder, M. (2016, April 19). The psychological impact of victim blaming and how to stop it. *U.S. News & World Report*. <https://www.usnews.com/>
- Schwark, S., & Bohner, G. (2019). Sexual violence—“victim” or “survivor”: News images affect explicit and implicit judgments of blame. *Violence Against Women*, 25(12), 1491–1509. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801218820205>
- Scoats, R., Stirling, J., & Wignall, L. (2020). UK university students' perceptions and negotiations of sexual consent. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 13(3), 474–486. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2020.1868992>
- Shafer, A., Ortiz, R. R., Thompson, B., & Huemmer, J. (2018). The role of hypermasculinity, token resistance, rape myth, and assertive sexual consent communication among college men. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 62(3), S44–S50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2017.10.015>
- Stibe, A., & Cugelman, B. (2019). Social influence scale for technology design and transformation. In *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (pp. 561–577). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29387-1_3
- Suls, J., & Wills, T. A. (Eds.). (2024). *Social comparison: Contemporary theory and research*. Taylor & Francis.
- Tankard, M. E., & Paluck, E. L. (2016). Norm perception as a vehicle for social change. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 10(1), 181–211. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12022>
- Van der Bruggen, M., & Grubb, A. (2014). A review of the literature relating to rape victim blaming: An analysis of the impact of observer and victim characteristics on attribution of blame in rape cases. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19(5), 523–531. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2014.07.008>

- Van Gent, M. J., Onwezen, M. C., Renes, R. J., & Handgraaf, M. J. J. (2024). Betwixt and between: The role of ambivalence in environmental behaviours: A systematic review. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2024.102311>
- Weiner, B. (2019). Whither attribution theory? *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 40(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/job.2398>
- West, R. (2020). *Ambivalent sexism: Why do victims get blamed?* [Undergraduate honors thesis, Otterbein University]. Otterbein University Digital Commons. https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/stu_honor/112
- Willis, M., & Jozkowski, K. N. (2019). Sexual precedent's effect on sexual consent communication. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 48(6), 1723–1734. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-018-1348-7>
- Wilson, L. C., Farley, A., & Horton, S. F. (2022). The impact of victim blaming and locus of control on mental health outcomes among female sexual assault survivors. *Violence Against Women*, 28(15–16), 3785–3800. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012221088304>