

Attitude towards Rape and Its Victim: Voice of Indian Young Adults



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ABSTRACT: Rape is one of the most alarming issues at present in India. The central point of this paper is to obtain different perceptions of rape and rape victims through the lens of gender stereotyping. This empirical study involves in-depth interviews of hundred young adults living in West Bengal, India. This paper deals with the perception and motives of this heinous crime, as measured by young adults. Attitude towards rape victim scale has been used to measure the outlook of young adults towards the victim. Female participants of the studied group have explained the term rape as an imposition of unwanted social stigma whereas, male respondents expressed as the commodification of sex. The contrasting gender ideologies reflect the psychological trauma and objectification of sex. Women have more sympathetic attitudes towards the victim than the men.

KEYWORDS: rape, perception, young adults, trauma.

A. INTRODUCTION

A purely cultural term depicting heinous physical activity over human physique could be marked as rape. It generally portrays two facing words i.e. perpetrator and victim, whereas, the etymological meaning is 'to grab or to snatch' (Burgess, 1999). Rape is one of the most alarming issues at present in India. As a socio-cultural phenomenon, rape can be seen as 'a story of a moment by means of which men can easily impair the dignity of feminine selves. It is a way to express masculine dominance over feminine self' (Greenfield, 1997). Indian Penal Code (I.P.C.) categorizes rape as a 'crime against women' and defines rape under Sec. 375. Sec. 10 I.P.C. mentions that the word 'man' and 'woman' indicate male and female human beings without any age limit. In case of the sexual harassment (Sec. 354) a six years aged girl is denoted as 'woman' (Misra, 2018). After the 'Nirbhaya case in 2012' (Delhi gang rape case) Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has been introduced followed by The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 with some specific criteria.

Every social phenomenon has its own cultural root. In Hinduism, rape has a mythological history. The narratives of 'Ahalya', 'Vrinda' and 'Araja' are prominent characters in Hindu scriptures where the phenomena of rape can be traced. Ahalya was the wife of the sage Goutama. Indra (Hindu God) disguised himself as Goutama and established a sexual relation with her. Similarly, Vrinda was victimized by Lord Vishnu and Araja was raped by Danda (Priyamvada, 2017). In each case, women were cursed by patriarchy and her expiation continued for a long time to get back her sexual purity and chastity.

In course of time, the changing dimensions of society have exposed to us the ugliness of sexual violence connected with rape. Various kinds of rape have been noticed in India i.e., gang rape, stranger rape, police rape, military rape, date rape, militant rape, acquaintance rape, prison rape, incest rape, marital rape, custodial rape and many more (Rawat, 2015). This is a particular phenomenon by which physical excruciation has been executed which brings psychological trauma. According to the global rape statistics of 2018, India occupies the fourth place throughout the world followed by U.S., South Africa and Sweden (Pandey, 2018). The Indian Penal Code has broadly categorized three major divisions of crime pattern i.e., *violent crimes* (kidnapping, murder, rape etc.), *property crimes* (burglaries, theft etc.) and *economic crimes* (cheating, counterfeiting etc.). In the year of 1953, total incidence of violent crimes were 49,578 (8.2 per cent of total crimes falling under Indian Penal Code) (Jain, 2019). Every year the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) releases a state wise annual crime report in India. According to this report, in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 total rape cases were 34,651; 38,947 and 32,559 respectively in India. Comparison shows decreasing trends of crime rate in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 as 5.7 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 5.2 per cent respectively (NCRB 2016, 2017, 2019). As per NCRB report, the frequency of rape in 2016, West Bengal occupied the second highest position in India followed by Uttar Pradesh (NCRB, 2017). The rape statistics of West Bengal, India shows 1110 documented rape cases and 1646 cases recognised as attempt to commit rape in 2016 (NCRB, 2016, 2017). The word rape is used as a solicitude alarm in the society whereas, attempt to commit rape is

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nothing but a force to generate a panic for loosing dignity and sexual purity. The National Crime Records Bureau report of 2015 reveals that 34,651 women were raped out of which 17000 victims belonged to the age group of 18 to 30 years (NCRB, 2016). The age of students going to college is usually between 17 to 21 years. From this perspective, the girls of this age group appear to be quite vulnerable. The main focus of this research work is to know their daily mental struggle against rape as well as it tries to capture the different thought processes of the individuals regarding rape related factors.

Table no 1. Rape statistics in West Bengal

Serial Numbers	Rape Statistics	IPC Sections	2015	2016	2017
			Number of victims	Number of victims	Number of victims
1.	Rape	375	1199	1110	1084
2.	Attempt to commit rape	375 & 511	1551	1646	1228

(Source: NCRB, 2016; 2017; 2019))

In terms of Brownmiller, patriarchy doesn't depend on the biological structure of female body. Patriarchal system emphasises the sexual formation of men. Due to anatomical reasons only a man can rape a woman. In this sense, men commit rape to express the power of masculinity to control women's mental structure. Through rape they can generate panic for loosing sexual purity in a particular society (Brownmiller, 1976). The frequency of rape and rape statistics had been analysed in countries like South Africa, Canada, Nigeria, America and also many other countries (Orkin, 2000; Gary, 2010; Greenfield, 1997). According to Greenfield, out of 16,000 American rape victims 51.1 per cent women are raped by their close partners and 40.8 per cent victims are raped by their acquaintances (Greenfield, 1997). In case of America, rape statistics from 1997 to 2008 displayed that the frequency of rape is much higher for college goers than other women (Gary, 2010).

Attitude towards rape has mainly been studied using the Attitude toward Rape Victim Scale (ATRVs) in several parts of the world. Study has revealed that college goers have quite vulnerability compared to other age groups. Therefore, it is important to know their perception as well as mental state towards a rape victim. Various studies have tried to build up a correlation between Illinois Rape Myth Scale (IRMS) and ATRVs, ATRVs and Attitude Towards Women Scale (ATWS), ATRVs and Gender scale and so on (Mittal, 2017; Jayalakshmi, 2016; Opekitan, 2017). However, Attitude towards Rape Victim Scale mainly uses to obtain a quantitative data set through which we can trace the acceptance and the position of rape victims in the contemporary society. This scale had been used in several countries like Nigeria, USA, India, China (Zapeda, 2011; Opekitan, 2017; Mittal, 2017). In India, this psychological scale has mainly been applied among medical students (Mittal, 2017; Jayalakshmi, 2016).

Many a times, the detailed facts and information of rape cases in West Bengal occupied the front page of newspapers exposing the degree of cruelty and brutality associated with the rape cases. Kamduni gang rape and murder of a college student at North 24 Parganas (2013), Park Street gang rape and murder in Kolkata (2015), Ranaghat nun rape case of 72 years aged women at Nadia (2017) created huge uproar in the whole of West Bengal (Chattopadhyay, 2013; Kumari, 2016; Kumar, 2017). Malda gang rape and murder of a 16 years old girl (2019) is one of the most infamous rape cases of the recent past followed by the Hyderabad gang rape and murder of a veterinary doctor (2019). Attempting rape, is an attempt to defame the feminine self and after rape the victim has been treated as a foreign, degraded, outcaste or ostracized object in her own society (Zalta, 2016).

Rape is considered by many as a means to destroy the sexual purity of a woman. At present, rape means not only unwanted sexual intercourse but also an attempt to propel a girl towards a questionable destiny. The '*concept of rape*' and '*a manifestation of rape*' are strikingly two different perceptions. The main focus of this research is to understand rape as a particular phenomenon in a social sphere through the eyes of rural undergraduate students. The present study expresses how rape is viewed by the college students and how it affects the victims in our contemporary society.

B. OBJECTIVES

1. The study is an attempt to understand the perception of rape and interpretation of that manifestation and rape related issues through the eyes of educated young adult college goers.
2. The study tries to explore how rape is viewed upon by male students and female students differently and in a contrasting way in contemporary social life by using Attitude toward Rape Victim Scale (ATRVs) as mentioned by Ward, 1988.

C. MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is purely an analytical study which expresses an amalgamation of both qualitative and quantitative dataset. Data were collected from 100 individuals (50 males and 50 females) under the frame of purposive sampling. Individuals were selected from adult college students of Bachelor degree courses from Science background. The primary data were collected from both feminine and masculine selves ranging between 17 to 21 years. Students from whom data were collected belonged from two colleges, one from

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rural area and the other from the urban part of West Bengal, India. Since majority of the respondents came from rural background, they appeared quite conservative in terms of sharing their feeling regarding rape and rape related issues. The students interviewed hailed from the background of small scale agriculturalist families and waged laborers from small scale economic sectors. Usually, the worldview of any child develops according to the upbringing procedure of that particular family.

The current study mainly involves in-depth interviews for collection of qualitative data with the help of specially prepared schedule. Questionnaire of Attitude Toward Rape Victim Scale (ATRVS) (Ward, 1988) has been applied to collect the quantitative data. ATRVS (Ward, 1988) is a likert-type psychological scale comprising of 25 statements. This scale has a questionnaire type of structure with 5 options such as – disagree strongly, disagree mildly, neutral, agree mildly, and agree strongly. As per options, this ATRVS scale is denoted as a 5 point scale and points are given ranging between 0 (disagree strongly) to 4 (agree strongly). Out of 25 statements, the answering options of the serial number 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19, and 22 are positioned in a reversed way i.e., agree strongly (4) to disagree strongly (0).

The empirical data have been used and analyzed through literal understanding and narrative analysis used to obtain the underlying meanings as well as the knowledge of rape in contemporary social life. Quantitative data have been quantified in terms of different percentiles and tables etc. The quantitative data were entered and presented in Microsoft Excel sheet, 2013. The socio-demographic data were analyzed and interpreted through percentages. The quality of the responses of ATRVS has been quantified through Mean, Standard deviation (SD) and Standard Error of Mean (SE). Furthermore, the analysis of participants' responses or total score of Attitude Toward Rape Victim Scale were observed by using Chi-square test in MS Excel sheet (2013).

D. RESULT

All the participants were the students of Bachelor degree courses from Science background (B.Sc.) and belonged to the age group of 17 to 21 years. 31% of the students were from B.Sc. 1st year, 32% were from 2nd year and 17% were from 3rd year. However the students were selected in such a way that 50% of them were male and 50% female. In terms of the residence, most of the informants used to live in rural part of West Bengal (72%) and the rest of the students resided in urban parts of the same district (28%). As the participants were still studying, the majority of the students were unmarried (94%) and 6% participants were living with their spouse. The religious background of the participating students were - Hinduism 64% and Islam 36%.

Table no 2. Socio-demographic profile of the participants

Variables	Types	Numbers	Percentage (%)
Sex (n = 100)	Male	50	50
	Female	50	50
Marital status (n = 100)	Unmarried	94	94
	Married	06	06
Religion (n = 100)	Hinduism	64	64
	Islam	36	36
Age group (n = 100)	17 years	06	06
	18 years	27	27
	19 years	26	26
	20 years	26	26
	21 years	15	15
Educational status (n = 100)	B. Sc. 1 st year	31	31
	B. Sc. 2 nd year	32	32
	B. Sc. 3 rd year	17	17
Residential background (n = 100)	Urban area	28	28
	Rural area	72	72

D.1. Voice of college goers towards rape:

The present study has used 'case control' method. When a heinous crime like 'rape' takes place the victim is identified as a 'case' in our society. Rape creates categorization in the society like, the *victim*, who is stigmatized for the unwanted phenomenon; the *perpetrator* who is criminal in the eyes of law and the society at large; and the entire societal members who behold the 'self-imposed' responsibility to make the decision whether the victim should be accepted in their society or not. In terms of Goffman, the victim is denoted as a '*spoiled identity*' in her community (Goffman, 1963). The perception of rape and the execution of rape,

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basically offer two contrasting approaches. The act of rape is associated with the victim and the perpetrator; whereas, perception of rape is symbolized as a cultural struggle towards the members of the society (Orkin and Worku, 2000). Usually it is the media, print or electronic, which conveys the matter of rape to the entire society.

The empirical data collected from field studies reveal that most of the informants have had their primary knowledge of rape either from television (male: 28 per cent, female: 60 per cent) or newspapers (male: 40 per cent and female: 22 per cent). Apart from these two forms of media, Table no.2 displays the other source of acquiring knowledge. Television and newspaper are the two bridging elements between the act of this crime and the members of the society. A renowned scholar Fountain (2008) remarked how the news portrayals of rape have changed the readers' mentality and their responses towards the victims. For instance, in this studied group one of the female informants stated, 'When I was thirteen, I got the first idea about rape from TV. Actually the news channels telecast this kind of news like a reality show...' However, a male participant confided that he learned about rape from the newspaper. Media portrays only those news bulletins which have been documented. As per NCRB merely 30 per cent cases are documented (NCRB, 2017). The study shows that the males emphasize more on the summary of the particular occurrence whereas the females focus on the state of mind of the victims and the perpetrators as well as the society in which they belong.

Table no 3. First perceived knowledge of rape of the studied group

Sources	Male	Female
Newspaper	20 (40%)	11 (22%)
Television	14 (28%)	30 (60%)
TV& Newspaper	6 (12%)	2 (4%)
Social media	4 (8%)	6 (12)
Any individual	6 (12)	1(2%)

Girls of ages less than 5 years and above 60 years are selected as object of rape (NCRB, 2017). The perception of the respondents regarding the suffering of this age group due to rape may vary from the statistics provided by the government. If we consider the masculine perceptions within this data set, a child appears to be most vulnerable. This perception was revealed from what one of the male respondents stated: 'in various slum areas of Kolkata, small girls are raped by either her group members or relatives or by strangers. A child does not have enough capability to protect herself and even protest against the manifestation. So it is really easy to select a child as a subject...'

In the study different expressions were captured regarding the reasons behind committing rape. Gender stereotyping have also been noticed. Most of the spinsters believe that rape has been committed either to impair the dignity of feminine selves or to take some revenge. Ranaghat nun rape case is an instance to impair the dignity of a person. A 72 years nun was gang raped in 2015 at a convent in Nadia district, West Bengal. This is a story to denounce a sacred identity towards the society (Kumar, 2017). From the perspective of rape, a girl is not only an individual but also denoted as a sexual functional unit and the rapist's motive is to destroy that sexual purity in front of the society (Seifert, 1996). A female informant submitted, 'whenever the rapist wants to diminish every domains of the life of a girl including her physical, psychological and cultural spheres he uses rape as a tool. Through rape the perpetrator can transform the life of a victim into a living corpse'. One of the female respondents shared that, 'sometimes rape is used as a tool only to take revenge because through it they can defame the social status of a lady. If a girl doesn't agree with a marriage proposal then just to be taught a lesson for this rejection she might get raped by the proposer so that she couldn't marry any one or nobody would want to marry a raped person in the society where she belongs...'. Eventually, in India above 60 per cent of women are raped by their acquaintances (Kaur, 2014).

The submissions of the young adult college students regarding reasons behind rape reflect the mentality from the perspective of the perpetrator (male) and the victims (female). A large section of the students stated that rape is executed either to display the male power over the female body or due to uncontrolled sexual desire. In support of this argument one youth observed that, 'sometimes a group of boys under the effect of drunkenness or any other kind of intoxication, might commit rape due to their uncontrolled sexual desire. Some of the students also submitted that the manifestation of gang rape is nothing but the display of masculine power over female physique.

Administrative transparency plays a key role in putting a brake on this kind of crime in a country. In our country, a huge gap exists between investigation and rate of conviction of this crime. In this study, 83 per cent participants (40 males and 43 females) were dissatisfied, 5 per cent (01 male and 04 females) did not respond and the rest 12 per cent (09 males and 03 females), somehow or otherwise, were satisfied on the performances of police and especially the judicial process. One of the female respondents commented under a shadow of gloominess, '...our life do not have any certainties or physical securities... a girl can be raped or murdered while the accused ones either spend their life through investigations or trials or imprisonments...'. By means of this statement, we can understand the level of dissatisfaction and frustration against the entire administrative and judicial process. The State wise perception on police's investigation on crime has been declared in the 'Net Satisfaction (dissatisfaction – satisfaction record) Record' of West Bengal is '-13'. As per 'Status of Policing in India Report (2018)', there are various reasons behind the

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dissatisfaction on the function of police, such as, refusing to help, asking for bribe, abusive behaviour, refuse to file FIR, concerned official was not available etc. (Status of Policing in India Report, 2018).

The social position of a victim is affected by means of rape and the impression of the members of the family are filled with shame, as if, it was the fault on the part of the victim to be raped. The perceptions of the young participants emerged through their views like, 'Our society never accepts a raped women whereas a rapist is easily accepted by others. Even, after passing through a lengthy judicial process and imprisonment, a rapist can live a normal life. Unfortunately, a female who has been raped can never get back the purity she had lost and she became a central issue of gossip all through her life'. A male participant shared his perception like this: '...rape is an accident in our life. After rape a woman can live her life according to her own choice.' The perceptions expressed through these two views visibly state that masculinity is not generally concerned about the psychological trauma and acceptance of the victim in public sphere; whereas, feminine selves emphasize more on such things.

D.2. Attitude of young adults towards rape victim:

Responses against a particular phenomenon has been quantified as per the socio-cultural background. Table no. 3 shows that the unmarried participants (81%) bear more positive impact compared to the married ones. In respect of gender, females have more sympathy than males and as the majority of the participants used to live in a rural areas, both the positive and negative impact are higher than those belonging to urban parts of West Bengal.

This psychological scale mainly highlights the way of thinking towards rape victims as well as various dimensions of rape which daily crop up in our minds which we can hardly express. The ATRVS scale can be analyzed through the lens of sexual objectification, distrust of victim, story of fake accuse, victim blaming, rape fantasy, slut shaming, defensive attitude of victim during rape and rape oriented cultural behaviors etc. In a nutshell, through this we can understand the flow of contemporary thoughts and feelings against rape.

Table no 4. ATRVS score analysis with different variables

Variables	Types	ATRVS score		Total	Chi-square value	p value
		Positive impact (0 – 49)	Negative impact (50 – 100)			
Sex	Male	40	10	50	1.1904762	0.275234 *p<0.05
	Female	44	06	50		
Marital status	Unmarried	81	13	94	5.4901214	0.019124 * p<0.05
	Married	03	03	06		
Religion	Hinduism	59	05	64	8.8670845	0.002903 * p<0.05
	Islam	25	11	36		
Age group in years	Below 19	47	12	59	2.0157876	0.155670 * p<0.05
	Above 19	37	04	41		
Residential background	Urban area	24	04	28	0.08503401	0.770588 * p<0.05
	Rural area	60	12	72		

In the present work, ATRVS scores exhibit that, the mean value of both male and female indicate positive attitudes towards rape victims but, women bearing more positive approach as per mean value. The mean of the male respondent is 39.16, SD = ±10.553407 and whereas, the score of female participants exhibited mean = 31.94, SD = ±13.842558. The attitude of the respondents could be recognized in terms of summation of the entire scores. The range of the scores can be varied from 0 to 100. Tendency of higher score reflects the negative mentality of informants towards victim, whereas the lower scores exhibit positive attitudes. Women had greater degree of positive attitudes than men, towards victim $X^2 = 1.1904762$, $p = 0.25234$.

Ward (Ward, 1988) identified some qualified statements/ parameters for the determination of attitude of other persons towards rape victims by attributing scores against these qualified statements/parameters in the form of ATRVS statements put to the participating public. In this case the selected participants were the undergraduate students of Science stream as mentioned above. The statements and the scores are given in the table – 4. Table no.4 depicting the cumulative value of the given points (5 point likert scale) on the basis of gender. Out of 50 male and 50 female informants in this studied group, the total score of males and females are respectively 42 and 34 in the first parameter of ATRVS questionnaire. In that instance, 29 male participant's opinion were disagree strongly (0), 8 individual's opinion were disagree mildly (1), 7 informants were preferred to choose neutral (2), 4 individuals were selected agree mildly (3) and 2 individual's opinion were agree strongly (4). The total score of male participant in first statement became, ([29*0]

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+ [8*1] + [7*2] + [4*3] + [2*4] = 42). The score of the third statement are placed in a reversed way. The female score of third statement became ([8*0]+[15*1]+[17*2]+[6*3]+[4*4]=83). This score deals with 8 individual's opinion were agree strongly (0), 17 participants were selected the neutral option (2), among them 4 feminine selves suggested disagree strongly (4) and so on.

Table no 5. Statement wise score analysis of ATRVS

SL. No.	ATRVS Statements/ parameter\s	Statement wise score	
		Male	Female
01	A raped woman is less desirable as a life partner	42	34
02	Extent of resistance offered is a major factor in determining if a rape has occurred	83	90
03	Generally a raped woman is an innocent victim	72	83
04	The purpose of claiming rape is to protect the victim's reputation	67	68
05	"Good" girls are as likely to be raped as "bad" girls	100	101
06	Women having prior unlawful sexual relationships should not complain about rape	66	43
07	It is unlikely that women provoke rape by their appearance or behavior	82	48
08	Intoxicated women are usually willing to have sex	117	65
09	It would do some women good to be raped	43	37
10	Even women who feel guilty about engaging in premarital sex are not likely to claim rape falsely	78	70
11	Most women secretly desire to be raped	64	38
12	Any female may be raped	74	40
13	Women who seek lifts/rides from strangers get raped and they deserve the same	52	54
14	Many women concoct rape stories on learning about their unlawful pregnancy.	93	79
15	Men, not women, are responsible for rape	88	53
16	Women going out alone at night put themselves in vulnerable positions of being raped	54	30
17	Many women having consensual sex claim rape on changing their minds afterwards	105	96
18	Accusations of rape by bar girls, dance hostesses and prostitutes should be viewed with suspicion	92	70
19	A woman should not blame herself for rape	61	35
20	A healthy woman can successfully resist a rapist if she really tries	125	103
21	Many women report rape falsely because they are angry or want revenge on the accused	100	107
22	Short skirts or tight blouses of women should not be seen as reasons of being raped	87	77
23	Women create situations for possible sexual assault when they have an unconscious wish to be raped	68	54
24	Sexually experienced women are not really damaged by rape	73	66
25	In most cases when a woman was raped she deserved it	72	56
	Total score	1958	1597

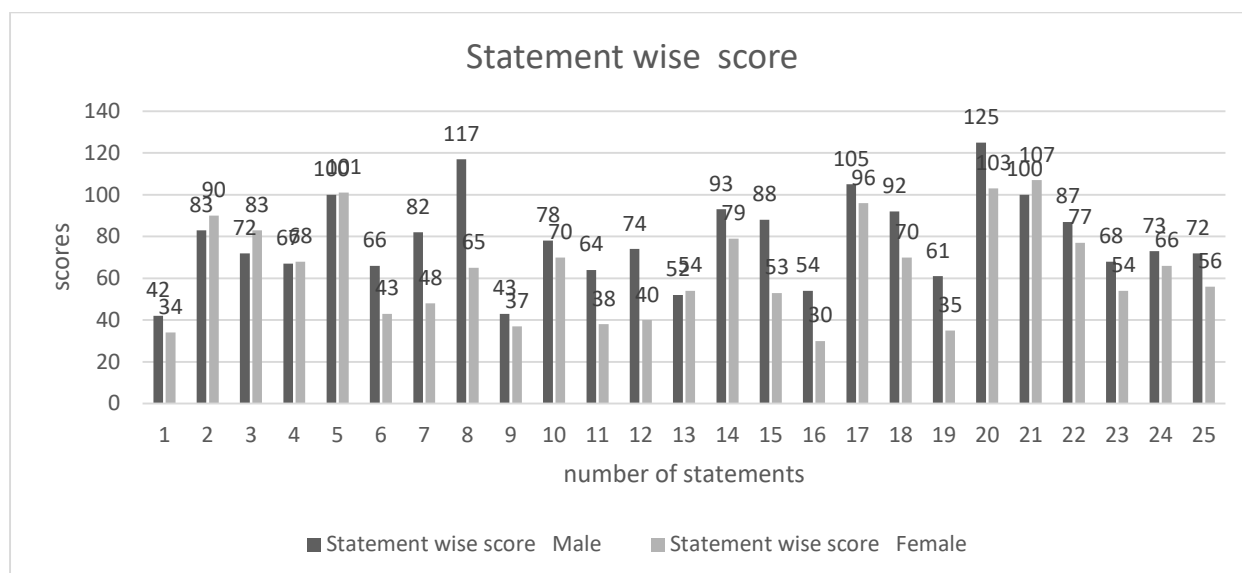


Figure no 1. Statement wise contrasting scores of male and female respondents

The highest negative impression towards a victim has been captured by male respondents on statement 8, 17 and 20 in comparison with female respondents. Those accounts mainly reveal the blaming and cynical attitudes of male towards rape victims. The sympathetic approach of women can be recognized in statement 16 with lowest score i.e., disagree strongly. As a whole, women have more sympathetic attitude for rape victims in comparison with young adult men.

E. DISCUSSION

The present research work is an attempt to capture the different understandings and interpretations of rape through the lens of gender stereotyping. A human being is either termed as ‘man or woman’. But in case of rape, this division is expressed as ‘perpetrator and victim’. The incident of rape puts an indelible mark on the life of the victim and not even the slightest of stigma on the skin of the accused. This distinction brings scandals, harassments, shame and isolations of a victim which affect her entire family .The empirical data revealed that, feminine identities focused on the psychological domain and social stigma whereas, male respondents emphasized on the female body as a materialistic object. By the agency of rape the normal life of a girl has been transformed into the life of a ‘victim’ and she loses her general social acceptance. The masculine perception expressed the availability and accessibility of female body in a social sphere irrespective of age. In brief, this study exhibits that ‘for male, rape is a forced unlawful sexual intercourse without consent of victim’; whereas, ‘in case of female, rape depicts a physical and mental abuse through the establishment of sexual relation against a woman’s will’.

This study shows the perception of rape and its interpretation by means of gender stereotyping. Various theories like Baker’s commodification theory, Goffman’s theory of social stigma and ‘Multiple Factor Theory’ of crime as stated by Burt (1944) also play an important role here. The present study brings into the fore the psychological, social and biological factors of the perpetrator and the victim. By means of gender categorization, rape becomes a phenomenon which brings emotional disturbance, loss of social consecration and biological injuries too.

Herbert Blumer (Blumer, 1948) tried to formulate the basics of these changes with the help of flow of opinions. According to Blumer, a bold public opinion can hammer out the preceding social thoughts and compel or challenge the ancient social structure to form fresh ones. In the realm of symbolic interactionism, Herbert Blumer had emphasized on the ‘meaning of a thing’. Blumer tried to understand the basic ‘people’s psychology’ against a social fact – with the help of flow of opinion. Here, opinion is purely group oriented because through that specific opinion we will able to recognize the positive or negative impact of a social phenomenon. As per Blumer, the public opinion always should be random – a bold public opinion can hammer the preceding social actions and compels or challenge the ancient social structure to form a fresh one (Blumer, 1948). The basic stand point of the ‘collective behavior’ is ‘creation of meanings – metamorphosis of the meanings through human acts’. In course of social configuration, everything is dynamic. Human acts are depended on social needs, awareness and moreover social solidarity. For instance, on the basis of individual’s comprehensive skill, a single story can be narrated differently and generate numerous meanings which create a circle of interactions. Another time, the social interaction form new meanings which deliberately modify the previous meanings and finally arise a topic or social issue. The entire phenomenon are quite relatable to us, when we are being a part of a flash mob. Collective behavior by some means is a mirror reflection of collective consciousness as described by Durkheim. People’s interaction on any social phenomenon actually expresses their level of social and psychological consciousness. Durkheim always stressed on ‘the reality of a society’ (David, 2007).

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F. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

All the participants of this study are held from Bachelor Degree course and henceforth this research is not sufficient to reflect the color of mental state of the greater society. Participant's responses may vary by means of their cultural practice, religious affinity and residential background. More social-cultural components, if added in this study, would yield better knowledge about the perception of rape and attitudes toward the victims of this heinous crime.

G. CONCLUSION

Rape is one of the elements by which a man can suppress women in every domain of her life. College goers are the young adults who perceive different kinds of cogitations towards rape. This study reflects the state of mind of the college goers towards rape and how they contrive their daily life from the perspective of rape. Acceptance level of the rape victim varies by means of different mind-set and socio-demographic factors are playing a vital role to frame up such kind of perception. Through this research work the gender based perceptions and different level of understandings regarding rape have been revealed. A sudden shift of attitude has been noticed between woman and rape victim.

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