

ABSTRACT

This is a preliminary study on sexual harassment. The purposes of the study are threefold:

1. To search for knowledge about personal experiences, opinions, and attitudes toward the phenomenon under study among people in the Metropolitan area of Bangkok and Thonburi.

2. To examine the forms and patterns of sexual harassment reported by people under study.

3. To find out about a set of factors which would be considered as determinants of the problems under study.

A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect the relevant data from a purposive sample of residents in Bangkok and its vicinity.

There are 6 sub-samples consisting of students, teaching personnel, government officials and employees, state enterprise officials and employees, employees in private firms, and domestic employees. The great majority of the respondents are female.

The findings may be concluded as followed:

1. Some forty seven percent of our respondents reported their experiences as victims of sexual harassment. 9.6 percent witnessed such a behavior; and 13.3 percent were told of the incidents.

2. Some forty percent of our respondents thought that sexual harassment was caused by the tendency of males to seek pleasure from doing so.

3. Female respondents were most likely than their male counterparts to become victims of sexual harassment.

While students were most vulnerable to the behavior under study, state enterprise officials and employees were least vulnerable.

4. Such physical characteristics as shape and beauty were found to be major determinants. The greater the attraction the greater the likelihood of being sexually harassed.

5. Male respondents tend to perceive the behavior under study as less harmful than their female counterparts. Respondents in the younger age groups were more likely to consider the behavior as less harmful than those in the upper age groups. Also the higher the level of education attained, the greater the likelihood of seeing the behavior as harmful.