

The Effect of Sexual Violence on Class Performance among Female Students of Mizan-Tepi University, South West Ethiopia

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Abstract

Background: While increasing females' access to education is a global priority, there are numerous barriers that impede significant progress in achieving in schools. There are many factors which can affect class performances among students. Among the factors victimization of sexual violence may be considered as one and important influencing onMthh consiâ
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study was conducted in Mizan-Tepi University which is found in Mizan-Aman and Tepi towns in Western Ethiopia, about 561 km far from Addis Ababa and close to the Sudanese border at an elevation of 1451 meters above sea level. university had more than 5,000 students. Among these 2000 were females. It was inaugurated in May 2006

Among the total of 570 students almost half of respondents 283 (49.6%) were in the age range of 18-20 years. mean age was 21 years with standard deviation of +1.91 years. minimum age was 18 years and maximum was 29 years. Most of respondents 296 (51.9%) were Orthodox Christians in religion and 21.4% were Protestants. Before joining the university 208 (36.5%) were living in Oromia region, where as 123 respondents (21.6%) were living in Amhara region. As childhood 311 (54.7%) of respondents were grown in urban area. One hundred sixty four (28.8%) and 149 (26.1%) respondents were from Natural science college and technology college respectively. Majority of the study participants (82.5%) were second year students. One third of study participants have boyfriend (Table 1).

Second year	470	82.5
Third year	100	17.5
Have boyfriend		
Yes	190	33.3
No	380	66.7

Variables	Number	Percent
Age		
< 20 years	283	49.6
21-24 years	254	44.6
> 24 years	33	5.8
Mean + SD	21 + 1.91 years	
Religion		
Orthodox	296	51.9
Protestant	122	21.4
Muslim	91	16
Catholic	43	7.5
Others	18	3.2
Region before coming to college		
Oromia	208	36.5
Amhara	123	21.6
SNNPR	84	14.7
Tigray	74	13
Addis Ababa	64	11.2
Other	17	3
Childhood residence		
Urban	311	54.7
Rural	258	45.3
College		
Natural science	164	28.8
Technology	149	26.1
FBE	86	15.1
Agriculture	65	11.4
Social science	63	11.1
Health science	43	7.5
Education		

2.00-2.75	187	36.2
2.76-3.25	206	39.8
>3.26	47	9.1
Mean + SD	2.678+0.467	

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As shown in Table 4 there was no association between harassment and attempted rape and class performance. But completed rape in life time, since joining university, and in current academic year was associated with class performance.

Table 3 Cumulative GPA of the study participants

Characteristics	GPA Mean=2.678	Mean differences	T-test	Significance
Harassment Lifetime				
Yes	2.658	0.0809	1.752	0.08
No	2.739			
Since joining university				
Yes	2.654	0.0717	1.706	0.089
No	2.725			
Current academic year				
Yes	2.649	1.921	0.0790	0.055
No	2.728			
Attempted rape Lifetime				
Yes	2.654	0.0364	0.863	0.388
No	2.690			
Since joining college				
Yes	2.637	0.0509	1.016	0.31
No	2.688			
Current academic year				
Yes	2.646	0.0366	0.631	0.057
No	2.683			
Completed rape Lifetime				
Yes	2.505	0.2179	4.509	0.00
No	2.723			
Since joining college				
Yes	2.5216	0.1811	3.134	0.002
No	2.7027			
Current academic year				
Yes	2.485	0.2119	3.060	0.002
No	2.697			

author analyzed the association between sexual violence and class performance. Sexual violence was measured from experiencing of sexual harassment, attempted rape and completed rape. Experiencing of sexual violence was calculated separately in three separate durations, since joining the university, in current academic year and in life time. Class performance was measured by cumulative GPA of students based on their reports. In this study class performance was among those who are sexually violated even if it was not in the case of sexual harassment and attempted rape. Experiencing of completed rape was associated with class performance. of the association was seen for completed rape since joining university, current academic year and in life time. shows that sexual violence specially experiencing of completed rape is important factor that can negatively school performance of female students. result goes in line with other studies [1-5]. study conducted in Bahirdar university among female students indicated that students GPA was negatively but correlated with the problems students encounter in the university [2]. other study also showed rape victims had lower GPA [3].

study conducted in Malawi noted that for girls harassment and violence were associated with increased odds of school. Being peeped