

## **RAPE MYTH ACCEPTANCE, SOCIAL DOMINANCE ORIENTATION, AND VICTIM BLAMING IN SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS**

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The study was carried out to explore the relationship between rape myth acceptances, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. It was hypothesized that there is likely to be a positive significant relationship between rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. It was also hypothesized that rape myth acceptance and social dominance orientation predicted victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Through purposive sampling technique, data was collected from sexual assault perpetrators (N=120) with age range of 18 to 60 years (M=29.46, SD=10.08) from four different jails of Punjab, Pakistan. Belief about rape scale by B.S. Newman

and I. Colon, translated version by Arshad and Tariq from 2021 of dominance-prestige peer-report scale by J.T. Cheng, J.L. Tracy, and J. Henrich, and post assault justification scale by Rhiana Wegner, et al. were used to measure the study variables. After translation of the scales into Urdu, Factor analysis with EFA and CFA used to identify the different factors of the scales. For analysis, Pearson moment correlation, Hierarchal regression analysis and one-way ANOVA was used. The results of the present study found significant positive relationship between rape myth acceptances, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Rape myth acceptance was a significant predictor of victim blaming while social dominance orientation did not predict victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrator. Significant age difference was also found in victim blaming. Findings of the study will be helpful in decreasing the rape myths and blaming attribution to victim from society and will be helpful in providing

psychological interventions to the convicted rape criminals.