

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

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I. OVERVIEW

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

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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,³ translated version by Arshad and Tariq from 2021 of dominance-prestige peer-report scale by J.T. Cheng, J.L. Tracy, and J. Henrich,⁴ and post assault justification scale by Rhiana Wegner, et al.⁵ 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, Hierarchical regression analysis and one-way ANOVA was used. The results of the present

³ B.S. Newman & I. Colon, *Beliefs about Rape among College Males: A Revision of the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale*, 28 C. STUDENT J. 10 (1994).

⁴ J.T. Cheng, J.L. Tracy, & J. Henrich, *Pride, Personality, and the Evolutionary Foundations of Human Social Status*, 31 EVOLUTION & HUMAN BEHAV. 334 (2010).

⁵ Rhiana Wegner, Antonia Abbey, Jennifer Pierce, Sheri E. Pegram, & Jacqueline Woerner, *Sexual Assault Perpetrators' Justifications for Their Actions: Relationships to Rape Supportive Attitudes, Incident Characteristics, and Future Perpetration*, 21 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 1018 (2015).

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.

II. INTRODUCTION

Rape is common in almost every society but in Pakistan the crime rate is increasing day by day. People get sexually harassed at markets, shops, and other public places.⁶ Mostly sexual assault perpetrators attribute their criminal activities and

⁶ F. Anwar, K. Osterman, & K. Bjorkqvist, *Risk Factors for Sexual Harassment in Public Places*, 8 *TECHNIUM SOC. SCI. J.* 329 (2020).

criminal action to their victims.⁷ A report by the Office for National Statistics in 2015 stated that since 2014, rape cases increased up to 29%. The most common reasons behind not reporting rape cases are attribution of rape responsibility to the victim and accusing victim for this mishap.⁸ Moreover sexual assault perpetrators believe that they are dominant and they have needed to dominate the group which is inferior to them and which is weak to them.⁹ If they do anything against the law, they justify it by saying that it is the victim's fault. This blaming can be mostly seen in the rape cases, where perpetrators blame their victim for sexual assault by pointing out their dressing, way of talking, and provoking

⁷ K.R. Klement, B.J. Sagarin, & J.J. Skowronski, *Accusers Lie and Other Myths: Rape Myth Acceptance Predicts Judgments Made about Accusers and Accused Perpetrators in a Rape Case*, 8 SEX ROLES 16 (2019).

⁸ C.R. Gravelin, M. Biernat, & C.E. Bucher, *Blaming the Victim of Acquaintance Rape: Individual, Situational, and Sociocultural Factors*, 9 FRONT. PSYCHOL. 2422 (2019).

⁹ J.M. Canto, M. Vallejo-Martín, F. Perles, & J. San Martín, *The Influence of Ideological Variables in the Denial of Violence against Women: The Role of Sexism and Social Dominance Orientation in the Spanish Context*, 17 INT'L J. ENVTL. RES. & PUB. HEALTH 4934 (2020).

behavior.¹⁰ The present study aims to investigate the relationship between rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators.

Rape is described as a forced sex act with a woman or a young girl to whom the perpetrator is not legitimately married.¹¹ According to the Pakistan Penal Code, Act XLV of 1860 section (§) 375/376 rape is defined in following perspectives:

- Sexual intercourse with a female or a young girl coercively without her wish and her consent
- With her consent being acquired because by threatened her of death or hurt
- With the consent of the victim, where the perpetrator knows, that he is not legitimately married to her, however has gotten her assent in light of the fact that after getting the consent the offender will married the victim, in other words the offender get the consent through fraud

¹⁰ Gravelin, Biernat, & Bucher, *Blaming the Victim of Acquaintance Rape*.

¹¹ A. Kamal, I.A. Shaikh, & M.A. Shaikh, *Comparative Analysis of Attitudes and Perceptions about Rape among Male and Female University Students*, 22 J. AYUB M C. ABBOTTABAD 108 (2010).

- Perpetrator took the consent when the victim was under sixteen years of age.¹²

Rape is characterized broadly as vaginal penetration or penetration of anus with any other organ of another person regardless of its severity. It is also defined through Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) as sex without consent, the taken form, oral penetration with him or her by a sexual part.¹³

According to M.J. Higdon and others there are many causes of rape.¹⁴ Mostly perpetrators are from a poor parenting style that prompts sexual assault. Parental carelessness is one of the main causes of assault. Poor parental background, parental carelessness affects negatively the moral values of their children. Education is also important in developing the moral values in people. Lack of

¹² Pakistan Penal Code, Act XLV § 375/376 (1860).

¹³ K.D. Kushmider, J.E. Beebe, & L.L. Black, *Rape Myth Acceptance: Implications for Counselor Education Programs*, 7 J. COUNS. PREPARATION & SUPERVISION __ (2015).

¹⁴ M.J. Higdon, *Queer Teens and Legislative Bullies: The Cruel and Invidious Discrimination Behind Heterosexist Statutory Rape Laws*, 42 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 195 (2008).

education will lead people to engage in violent crimes. Like some other behaviors, sexual violence and assault are considered to be a leaning behavior, which adults mostly learn as children vulnerable to sex. Those who have bad company and live in a social context in which behavior is justified by being violent also became violent towards others. Poverty both affects the risk of becoming a victim and becoming a sexual assault perpetrator.

There are several consequences of rape. Because of rape, a victim may become panicked over a related situation or rape scenario and experience intense fear and nightmares. Rape is assault and a crime that makes a victim mentally and psychologically downtrodden. Aside from the physical and mental ramifications, there are additional socially negative consequences related with the assault victim totally withdrawing himself or herself from society and becoming self-isolated.¹⁵

¹⁵ M.O. Esere, A.I. Idowu, I.A Durosaro, & J.A. Omotosho, *Causes and Consequences of Intimate Partner Rape and Violence: Experiences of Victims in Lagos, Nigeria*, 1 J. AIDS & HIV RES. 001 (2009).

III. PUNISHMENT OF RAPE IN PAKISTAN

An ordinance was passed by the National Assembly to ensure that the crime of rape cases will be addressed in special courts where the victims will be provided speedy trial process and safety for their lives. It was called the Anti-Rape Act, 2020.

A bill was introduced in the Senate in 2020 in which according to Pakistan Penal Code, XLV of 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, V of 1898, those who commit rape will be subject to imprisonment for lifetime with liable fine or will be punished with death. If more than one person involves in rape, everyone will be punished with death or lifetime imprisonment without any parole. This bill was called The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2020.¹⁶

According to § 377, Act XLV of 1860, whoever sexually has intercourse with men, women, or animals will be subject to imprisonment for not less than two years or more than ten years or he will be

¹⁶ The Criminal Law Act, Senate (2020).

punished with lifetime imprisonment with liable fine.¹⁷ Moreover under this section those who sexually have intercourse with a boy, who was under 18 years, will be punished to death or they will be imprisoned for lifetime with liable fine.¹⁸

IV. RAPE MYTH ACCEPTANCE

Rape myth has been characterized as beliefs and attitudes that are mostly untrue but are generally and constantly held by the people. These beliefs lead to denial and legitimize the aggressive nature of males.¹⁹ Rape myths are biased, generalized, or deception-based beliefs about sexual assault, victims as well as perpetrator. Perspectives and beliefs of a man can directly affect the chances of submitting women to rape.²⁰ Rape myths are those beliefs that are held by many people in a society within the

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ P. Crall, & W. Goodfriend, *She Asked for It: Statistics and Predictors of Rape Myth Acceptance*, 22 MOD. PSYCHOL. STUD. 15 (2016).

²⁰ Kamal, Shaikh, & Shaikh, *Comparative Analysis of Attitudes and Perceptions about Rape among Male and Female University Students*.

context of sexual assault. Rape myths are not true, instead these beliefs deny the occurrence of rape by blaming the victim for fabricating the details.²¹

Acknowledgment by men of rape myths, for example their unconfirmed moral and social attitudes, can lead to legitimizing assaulting females by considering them guilty for their own victimization. Another general myth is that a woman entices a man into assaulting her by the manner in which she dresses or that a female cannot be assaulted without wanting to submit. Men accept that women attract men to assault her with her conduct or with assistance of her dressings.²²

In media, women have been portrayed as independent individuals who can solve their own problems. On media, women are shown in a dressing that provokes the sexual behavior of the men.²³ On the other hand, the language which media uses to

²¹ Kushmider, Beebe, & Black, *Rape Myth Acceptance: Implications for Counselor Education Programs*.

²² Kamal, Shaikh, & Shaikh, *Comparative Analysis of Attitudes and Perceptions about Rape among Male and Female University Students*.

²³ K. Van Wormer & L. Berns, *The Impact of Priest Sexual Abuse: Female Survivors' Narratives*, 19 AFFILIA 53 (2004).

portray the victim such as being pretty and flirtatious also reinforces the sexual behavior of the perpetrators as this language shows rape as normal, entrancing, and enjoyable. The idea of rape as an enjoyable act, reinforces the myth that women get pleasure from rape and ask for it.²⁴

V. SOCIAL DOMINANCE

J. Sidanius and F. Pratto introduced the concept of social dominance in humans.²⁵ It comes into use with respect to human social groups that tend to be organized according to group-based social hierarchies in societies that produce economic surplus. Social dominance refers to situations in which an individual or a group dictates or controls others behavior, especially through competition. The social dominance theory finally proposes that the relative counterbalancing of hierarchy-enhancing

²⁴ L.K. Thacker, *Rape Culture, Victim Blaming, and the Role of Media in the Criminal Justice System*, 1 KY J. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP 8 (2017).

²⁵ J. Sidanius, & F. Pratto, *Social Dominance Theory and the Dynamics of Inequality: A Reply to Schmitt, Branscombe, & Kappen and Wilson & Liu*, 42 BRIT. J. SOC. PSYCHOL. 207 (2003).

and hierarchy-attenuating social forces stabilizes group-based inequality.²⁶

VI. SOCIAL DOMINANCE ORIENTATIONS

Social dominance orientation is a build that catches the degree of people's longing for group-based predominance.²⁷ Social dominance orientation is an attitudinal behavior with people of a group that reflects whether a person favors relations to be equivalent in that group, versus one's wishes that one dominates, overwhelms, and is superior to intergroup and other groups.²⁸

Social dominance orientation could be considered as a steady individual distinction impacting a few intergroup beliefs, perspectives, and

²⁶ R. Ligneul, R. Girard, & J.C. Dreher, *Social Brains and Divides: The Interplay between Social Dominance Orientation and the Neural Sensitivity to Hierarchical Ranks*, 7 SCI. REP. 1 (2017).

²⁷ A. Aiello, S. Passini, A. Tesi, D. Morselli, & F. Pratto, *Measuring Support for Intergroup Hierarchies: Assessing the Psychometric Properties of the Italian Social Dominance Orientation Scale*, 26 TPM-TESTING, PSYCHOMETRICS, METHODOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOL. 373 (2019).

²⁸ A. Magallares, *Right Wing Authoritarianism, Social Dominance Orientation, Controllability of the Weight and Their Relationship with Antifat Attitudes*, 13 UNIVERSITAS PSYCHOLOGICA 771 (2014).

practices.²⁹ Social dominance orientation is a proportion of support for imbalance between groups of people in any society that has assumed the appearance of a focal part in a range of intergroup perspectives, practices, and strategy inclinations.³⁰

VII. VICTIM BLAMING

Blame is more often defined as a misjudgement of a negative act in which one who was innocent was held responsible.³¹ Blaming the victim means, the victim of any negative situation is considered the guilty and responsible for the outcomes.³²

Victim blaming is a misinterpretation of an act which occurs when instead of the perpetrators, the victims are held responsible for the crime that was committed against them. These blames are in a form

²⁹ N. Kteily, A.K. Ho, & J. Sidanius, *Hierarchy in the Mind: The Predictive Power of Social Dominance Orientation across Social Contexts and Domains*, 48 J. EXPERIMENTAL SOC. PSYCHOL. 543 (2012). See J. Sidanius, & F. Pratto, *Social Dominance Theory and the Dynamics of Inequality: A Reply to Schmitt, Branscombe, & Kappen and Wilson & Liu*, 42 BRIT. J. SOC. PSYCHOL. 207 (2003).

³⁰ See *supra* note.

³¹ Gravelin, Biernat, & Bucher, *Blaming the Victim of Acquaintance Rape*.

³² *Id.*

of negative response from society. Victims often face these blames from medical and legal professionals, from the media, and sometimes from their family members and friends circle.

VIII. SUMMARY

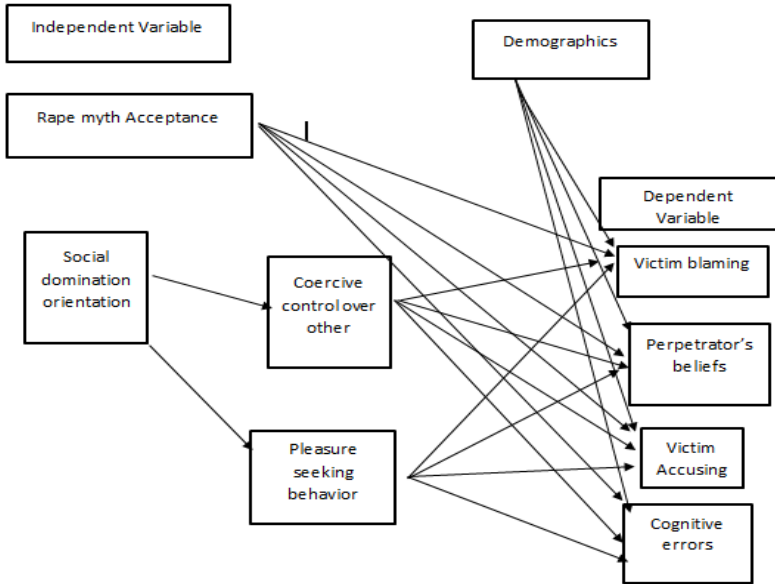
Rape has become very common in all cultures. People held negative beliefs and myths with regard to the occurrence of rape and reputation of the victim. These blames and myths lead to blaming the victim instead of perpetrators. These myths reinforce the actions of sex offenders. Similarly, those people who want to be dominant against others and help their authority over others consider themselves not guilty. They blame their victims for the mishap and accuse them.

IX. PRESENT STUDY

The purpose of the present study was to explore the relationship between rape myth acceptances, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in

sexual assault perpetrators. The purpose was also to identify rape myth acceptances and social dominance orientation as predictors of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Based on the previous literature it was hypothesized that there is likely to be a positive 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 is likely to predict victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Finally, it was hypothesized that there is likely to be a significant difference between types of perpetrators' ages in terms of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators.

Figure 1. *Purposed Model of the research*



X. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Correlational research design was used and a sample of (N=120) male sexual assault perpetrators was approached by using purposive sampling technique to collect information from sexual assault perpetrators from four jails of different cities of Punjab, Pakistan.

A. Assessment Measures

1. Consent Form

Informed consent form was given to the participant. They were informed about the purpose of the study. Participants were given the right to leave the study at any time without any penalty.

2. Demographic Information Sheet

A self-constructed demographic information sheet was used to get information about age of the participant, education (Matric, Graduate or above), family system (nuclear, joint, separated), monthly income of guardian etc.

3. Belief about Rape Scale

The belief about rape scale was used to assess the rape myth acceptance in sexual assault perpetrators. This scale developed by Newman and Colon.³³ This scale was a combination of 13 items (item numbers

³³ Newman & Colon, *Beliefs about Rape among College Males*.

two, nine through 19, and 23) from the rape myth acceptance scale developed by 1980, four items (item numbers four, five, six, and 24) from the field (1978) and seven newly constructed items (item numbers one, three, seven, eight, and 20-22) of Newman and Colon.³⁴ The scale had 24 items to measure beliefs about rape and four subscales: rape only happens to women who provoke it (items number one to nine); disbeliefs of rape claims (items number ten to 13); victims responsible for rape (items number 14 to 18); and rape reports as manipulation (items number 19 to 24). Item numbers nine, ten, 11,12, and 13 were reversed coded items. Responses were made on five-point Likert scale (1=most likely, 5=most unlikely). The reliability of the scales was .78.

4. Dominance –Prestige Self-Report Scale

The scale was developed by Cheng, Tracy and Henrich.³⁵ The scale consisted of 17 items. The scale

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Cheng, Tracy, & Henrich, *Pride, Personality, and the Evolutionary Foundations of Human Social Status*.

had two subscales: dominance scale and prestige scale. The translated version of dominance subscale by Arshad and Tariq from 2021 was used in this study. The scale consisted of eight items and item number five was a reverse coded item. The responses ranged from seven-point Likert scale ranges from 1=strongly disagree to 7= strongly agree. The reliability of the scale was .95.

5. Post-assault Justifications Scale

This scale was developed by Wagner. This scale consisted of ten items. The responses were taken on five-point Likert scale that were ranged from 1= not at all to 5=very much. The last question of the scale was rated on five-point scale with response ranging from one (not at all) to five (completely). The overall score was computed through the sum of these items which was ranged from ten to 41. Cronbach's alpha was .73.

B. Procedure

The topic was selected after observing the major social issue and discussed with the supervisor. After presenting the topic in DGC and getting approval, the formal authority letter was taken from the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. The required documents were attached with the documents presented to the IG Prison office for formal permission for data collection.

After getting the written approval letter from IG prison office, the permission to use the scales in Urdu language was sought from the concerned authors. The MAPI guidelines were used to translate the scales.³⁶ After translating the scales into Urdu language, sexual assault perpetrators were approached under the strict security of police. Only those perpetrators who can meet the

³⁶ E. DAVIS, M. DAVERN, E. WATERS, R. BOYD, D. REDDHOUGH, A. MACKINNON, & H.K. GRAHAM, CEREBRAL PALSY QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADOLESCENTS (CP QOL-TEEN) MANUAL (2013). Version 2. *Id.*

inclusion/exclusion criteria were approached and they were informed about the purpose of the study. Informed consent was taken from participants and participants were also briefed about how to fill the questionnaires. It took an average of 20-25 minutes for a participant to complete all of the questionnaires. The data was entered and analyzed in SPSS according to the hypotheses once it was collected.

C. Results

The main purpose of this study was to check the relationship between rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. After the scales were translated into Urdu language, the obtained data was subjected to statistical analysis. The information was investigated in four steps. In the initial step, factor analysis was used to identify the subscales of social dominance orientation scale and post-assault justification scale in sexual assault perpetrators. In the second step, Descriptive Statistics and Cronbach alpha coefficient of reliability were checked for each

scale. In the third step, Pearson product moment correlation was utilized to check the relationship between rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Hierarchical linear regression analysis was used to determine the predictors of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. In the last step, additional analysis of one-way ANOVA was used to find out the difference in types of age ranges in terms of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators.

1. Psychometric Properties of the Scales

The psychometric properties of the scales were checked and showed in table 1.

Table 1. Psychometric Properties of the Scales and Subscales

Scales	M	SD	Range	Cronbach's α
Total of RMA scale	88.60	12.18	24-120	.71
Total of Social dominance orientation	32.95	10.95	8-56	.80
Coercive control over others	21.00	7.97	5-35	.82
Pleasure seeking behavior	11.94	4.56	3-21	.52
Total of Victim blaming	30.72	9.71	10-50	.83
Perpetrators beliefs	11.80	4.40	4-20	.74
Victim accusing	9.76	4.07	3-15	.85
Cognitive errors	9.12	3.59	3-15	.61

Note. M=Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Table one showed mean and standard deviation of the rape myth acceptance scale, social dominance orientation scale, and victim blaming and its subscales. All the measured scales had a good reliability coefficient pleasure seeking nature and justification of their action subscale. The authoritative nature subscale did not have good reliability, which might be because the perpetrators lived under the authority figures of the jail. In this environment they were never be able to show their pleasure seeking behavior because of the fear of

these authority figures and because they had to change their nature after coming to the jail. The reliability of the justification of their action was also not good, which might be because they were manipulating their answers and trying to seem innocent. They justified themselves because they were highly blaming the victims.

2. Main Analysis

It was hypothesized that rape myth acceptance would positively correlate with victim blaming. It was also hypothesized that there would be a positive association between social dominance orientation and victim blaming. To assess this relationship between these variables Pearson Product Moment Correlation was applied as shown in Table Two.

Table 2. Correlation between Demographic Characteristics, Rape Myth Acceptance, Social Dominance Orientation and Victim Blaming in Sexual Assault Perpetrators

Variable	N	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Victim Age	120	19.02	8.86	-	.07	.08	.08	.05	.03	.23*	.27**	.16	.08
2. Time in jail	120	42.66	42.33	-	-	.06	.10	.21*	-.02	-.19*	-.13	-.21*	-.12
3. Total of RMA	120	89.02	11.41	-	-	-	.08	.03	.10	.22*	.21*	.22*	.08
4. Total SDOS	120	34.03	8.57	-	-	-	-	.79***	.87***	.09	-.02	.18*	.06
5. Pleasure seeking behavior	120	11.94	4.56	-	-	-	-	-	.48***	.02	-.11	.14	.02
6. Coercive control over others	120	21.00	7.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	.16	.07	.19*	.12
7. Total VB	120	30.72	9.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.84***	.81***	.74***
8. Perpetrator's beliefs	120	11.80	4.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.53***	.44***
9. Victim accusing	120	9.76	4.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.40***
10. Cognitive errors	120	9.12	3.59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note. RMA = Rape Myth Acceptance, VBS = Victim Blaming scale, SDOS = Social dominance Orientation scale. ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05

Results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showed that there was positive correlation between age of the victim blaming. Moreover age of the victim was also significantly positively correlated to the perpetrators' beliefs. The results also showed that perpetrators' time in jail was significantly negatively correlated with victim blaming scale. Results also showed that time spent in jail was negatively correlated with victim accusing subscale. The results indicated that rape myth acceptance was positively correlated with victim blaming especially with the perpetrators' beliefs and victim accusing subscales. Those who have more rape myth acceptance blame their victims for assault and held negative beliefs about them. Moreover, the results of the correlation showed that there was a positive relationship between social dominance orientation and victim accusing subscale. The subscale of social dominance orientation, coercive control over others was also positively correlated with victim accusing.

It was also hypothesized that rape myth acceptance and social dominance orientation

predicted victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Hierarchical regression was conducted to determine the predictors of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators.

Table 3. Hierarchical Regression Analysis to See the Prediction about Demographic Characteristic and Independent Variables on Victim Blaming
 95% CI for B

Variable	B	LL	UL	SE B	B	R ²	ΔR ²
Step 1						.10	.09**
Constant	28.14***	23.75	32.53	2.20			
Victim age	.26**	.07	.45	.10	.24**		
Time in jail	-.04*	-.09	-.01	.02	-.21*		
Step 2						.17	.12*
Constant	12.01	-3.97	24.05	7.07			
Victim age	.26*	.05	.42	.09	.21*		
Time in jail	-.05*	-.09	-.02	.02	-.22**		
Total RMA	.17*	.03	.33	.07	.21*		
Total SDO	.08	-.09	.26	.09	.08		
PSB	.38	-.45	1.20	.41	.18		
CCO	.42	-1.15	.30	.36	-.40		

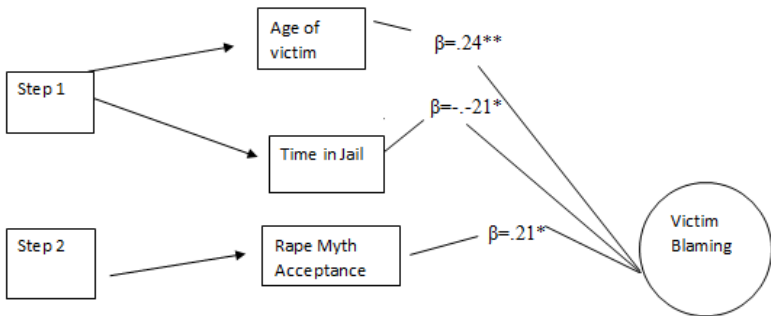
Note. RMA= Rape Myth Acceptance, SDO= social dominance orientation, PSB= pleasure seeking behavior, CCO= coercive control over others: *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001.

Hierarchical regression analysis was used to find out the prediction of demographic characteristics, rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, pleasure seeking nature, and coercive control over others or victim. Table in model one, R^2 value is .10 revealed that age of victim and time in jail explained ten percent variance on victim blaming with $F(6.146) = 16.52, p < .01$. The findings revealed that age of victim positively predicted victim blaming ($\beta = .24, p < .01$). Time in jail negatively predicted victim blaming ($\beta = -.21$). In model one, ΔR^2 value is significant at $p < .01$.

In model 2, R^2 value is .17 revealed that rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, pleasure seeking behavior, and coercive control over others or victim predicted overall 17% victim blaming $F(3.79) = 8.90, p < 0.01$. Moreover, separately, rape myth acceptance variables have significantly predicted victim blaming ($\beta = -.21$). On the other hand, social dominance orientation ($\beta = -.08$), pleasure seeking behavior ($\beta = .18$), and coercive control over others ($\beta = -.40$) have non-significant

predictor of victim blaming overall. Model one and two significantly predicted victim blaming.

Figure 2. Emerged Model of the Research



D. Additional Analysis

One-way ANOVA was used to compare the age of perpetrators in terms of victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators.

Table 4. One-way ANOVA Comparing Age of Perpetrators and Victim Blaming

Variable	Adolescents (n=62)		Middle aged (n=38)		Elders (n=20)		F(2,117)	p	Partial η^2
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD			
Victim blaming	32.74	9.64	27.55	9.72	30.40	8.58		.03	0.99

Note. N=120, M=Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Results of ANOVA showed that adolescents have higher mean than middle adults and elders.

To examine the multiple comparisons, post hoc test was carried out and showed in table five.

Table 5. Post Hoc Test of Age in Terms of Victim Blaming

I	J	MD	SE	P	95%CI	
					LB	UB
Adolescents	Middle adults	5.18	1.95	.03	.54	9.83
	Elders	2.34	2.44	.61	-3.46	8.14
Middle adults	Elders	-2.84	2.62	.52	-9.08	3.38

Note. M=Mean, MD=Mean Deviation, SE=Standard Error, CI=Confidence Interval, LB=Lower Limit, UB=Upper Limit

The results of the multiple comparison showed that adolescents and middle adults had significant difference. The results also showed that middle adults and elders did not have significant difference. Similarly, elders and adolescents had no significant correlation.

E. Discussion

The present study was conducted to examine the relationship between rape myth acceptance, social dominance orientation, and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. The results revealed that rape myth acceptance was correlated with victim blaming.

Those perpetrators who held myths about rape and who held negative beliefs about the appearance of the victim and the enticing behavior of the victim blame their victim for assault.³⁷ Because of their negative beliefs, perpetrators were hostile towards the victim when they believed that women were at fault for the assault.³⁸ The results of the study were also supported the previous literature that women entice men by their dressing. Female who wore dresses that show their figure or that shows their physical appurtenance invites men for physical intimation.³⁹

The results of the present study were supported. The myth is that women get pleasure through sexual assault so it is not the fault of the offender but theirs. Many other researches also supported that many offenders considered rape as not a rape but source of the sexual pleasure of women.⁴⁰ Through rape myth

³⁷ Klement, Sagarin, & Skowronski, *Accusers Lie and Other Myths*.

³⁸ Megan Crippen, *Theories of Victim Blame*, SENIOR HONORS PROJECTS, 66 (2015).

³⁹ Kamal, Shaikh, & Shaikh, *Comparative Analysis of Attitudes and Perceptions about Rape among Male and Female University Students*.

⁴⁰ R. Iconis, *Rape Myth Acceptance in College Students: A Literature Review*, 1 CONTEMP. ISSUES EDUC. RES. (CIER) 47 (2008).

acceptance perpetrators blame their victim for their attractive physical appearance and through their entrancing manners.⁴¹ Many researches confirmed the hypothesis that those perpetrators who had myths about rape significantly justified their actions through blaming their victim's entrancing nature her physical appearance and her behavior.⁴²

The present study also supported that rape myth acceptance was correlated with disbelieves about victim. Offenders who thought that after having sex women will be happy and they themselves wanted to have sexual relationship with them.⁴³ Perpetrators believed that women who belonged to different age groups and different races manipulate the situation and they were not able to be trusted while reporting the crime. Even if the women living in the neighborhood of the perpetrators came and reported

⁴¹ Gravelin, Biernat, & Bucher, *Blaming the Victim of Acquaintance Rape*.

⁴² R. Daffara, *The Pervasiveness of Rape Myths Acceptance and the Transformative Potential of the Istanbul Convention, GREVIO's Contribution*, doctoral dissertation (2018).

⁴³ S.C. Evans, A.D. Boan, C. Bradley, & L.A. Carpenter, *Sex/Gender Differences in Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder: Implications for Evidence-Based Assessment*, 48 J. CLINICAL CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHOL. 840 (2019).

the crime in front of the perpetrators, they would never believe them.⁴⁴ People who blame the victim and consider the victim responsible for the crime are those who strongly held myths regarding rape.⁴⁵ Study showed that usually offenders had negative thoughts and believes about the reputation of the victim. According to them victim of sexually assault usually have bad reputation in society that's why they attract the perpetrator for sexual satisfaction. The present study supported the hypothesis that that perpetrator who assault women had myths about rape and therefore they justified their action through blaming the victim.⁴⁶

Results of the present study stated that rape myth acceptance is related to the subscale of victim blaming that was justification of their actions. Perpetrators justified their crime by stating that men are provoked by the women through their dressing and way of talking or entrancing behavior.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Crall & Goodfriend, *She Asked for It*.

⁴⁵ Klement, Sagarin, & Skowronski, *Accusers Lie and Other Myths*.

⁴⁶ Newman & Colon, *Beliefs about Rape among College Males*.

⁴⁷ Klement, Sagarin, & Skowronski, *Accusers Lie and Other Myths*.

Moreover, men more often don't have control over their sexually desires, once they were sexually provoked by any means they cannot be considered guilty if they commit any crime. So, Perpetrators justified it that rape is not a crime a sexual gratification that both men and women enjoy. These findings were also supported by previous literature via through blaming the victim, rape myth acceptance recall the memory process that can justify the accusing after the incident.⁴⁸

Similarly, it was hypothesized that rape myth acceptance predicted victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. The result of the present study supported the hypothesis that rape myth acceptance was a significant positive predictor of victim blaming in perpetrators. These results were also supported by the previous literature that rape myths causes accusing victim in sexual assaults.⁴⁹ Mostly rape

⁴⁸ R.J. Dawtry, P.J. Cozzolino, & M.J. Callan, *I Blame Therefore It Was: Rape Myth Acceptance, Victim Blaming, and Memory Reconstruction*, 45 PERSONALITY & SOC. PSYCHOL. BULL. 1269 (2019).

⁴⁹ M. Davies, J. Gilston, & P. Rogers, *Examining the Relationship between Male Rape Myth Acceptance, Female Rape Myth*

perpetrators attribute the blame to the victim and made them responsible for their fate. Males highly blamed the victim when these stereotypical myths occurred. When perpetrator held these myths the probability of judging a rape or sexual assault as less severe becomes high.⁵⁰ Myth regarding rape can be different across the cultural but they all involve negative beliefs about the victim, justifications of perpetrators behavior, and disbeliefs about the rape claims. These myths explained that only some specific types of the women become victim.⁵¹ The results are also supported by S. Duff and A. Tostevin into fully understanding rape myth acceptance in the general population that leads to victim blaming.⁵²

Similarly, it was hypothesized that there was a positive significant relationship between social dominance orientation and victim blaming in sexual

Acceptance, Victim Blame, Homophobia, Gender Roles, and Ambivalent Sexism, 27 J. INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE 2807 (2012).

⁵⁰ Gravelin, Biernat, & Bucher, *Blaming the Victim of Acquaintance Rape*.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² Duff, S. & Tostevin, A. (2015). Effects of gender, rape myth acceptance, and perpetrator occupation on perceptions of rape, *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, Vol. 5 No. 4, pp. 249-261.

assault perpetrators. The findings of the present study supported the hypothesis that those who were high on social dominance orientation and had a tendency to be dominant against others also scored high on victim accusing subscale. Social dominance orientation is highly correlated with how the partner involves a relationship with his spouse.⁵³ The subscale of social dominance orientation, pleasure seeking nature of perpetrators, was also correlated with victim accusing subscale.

It was also hypothesized that social dominance orientation predicted victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. The results of the present study did not retain the hypothesis. According to these results individuals assumed that women are weaker than men and are not competent to govern social institutions; and believe that females are dangerous and manipulators due to the sexual power they exert over men. On the other hand men have a protecting

⁵³ G. Sadikaj, D.S. Moskowitz, & D.C. Zuroff, *Negative Affective Reaction to Partner's Dominant Behavior Influences Satisfaction with Romantic Relationship*, 34 J. SOC. & PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS 1324 (2017).

role toward women and positive behavior towards women. In most places men are dependent and feel powerlessness with respect to women.⁵⁴

Additional analysis suggested there was a significant difference between the age of the victim and victim blaming in sexual assault perpetrators. Perpetrators who were adolescents (18-24) were more likely to blame the victims than middle aged and older adults. These findings are supported by the findings of previous studies that showed that those youngsters aged between 17 to 24 had higher double standards and blame the victim more than adults who were between the age range of 25 to 32.⁵⁵

XI. CONCLUSIONS

A. Conclusion

It was concluded in light of current study findings that sexual assault perpetrators who accept rape

⁵⁴ Canto, Vallejo-Martín, Perles, & San Martín, *The Influence of Ideological Variables in the Denial of Violence against Women*.

⁵⁵ N. Jamshed & A. Kamal, *Prevalence of Rape Myths and Sexual Double Standards among University Students in Pakistan*, 36 J. INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE __ (2019).

myths for example, women's dressing, behavior, mode of talk, and entrancing behavior provoke them blame their victim for sexual assault. Perpetrators on rape myth acceptance held negative and false beliefs about victims' reputations and victims' intentions, and accuse their victim for provoking them sexually. It was also concluded that rape myth acceptance did not affect perpetrators' justifications of their actions. They just blame and accuse their victim on the bases of their misbeliefs that the victim wanted to have sex with them and the victim made a way for them.

The characteristic of social dominance orientation was seen in sexual assault perpetrators. Perpetrators wanted to have control over the victims and showed their authority over women through sexually harassing them. Perpetrators had pleasure seeking nature which portrayed that Women were vulnerable and incapable of protecting themselves. This portrayed women as weak and passive in absolute terms, and men as strong and active, thus fortifying deep-rooted blame against women for any misshaping.

B. Limitations

The current study was carried out only on a small group of rape perpetrators from four jails of different cities of Punjab and others who belong to different areas were excluded. The study carried out only included convicted rape perpetrators. Those who were under trial were not studied.

C. Suggestions

Rape perpetrators from all over Pakistan should be studied. A cohort study should be conducted for reliable results. Indigenous tools should be developed and used so that cultural affect might be reduced. Qualitative, in depth study should be carried out in order to have complete understanding of the rape myth.

D. Implications

The findings of the study should be used as an addition in research literature. The results of the present study are useful in eliminating the myth

regarding rape, as being the fault of the victim. The results will be helpful in providing psychological interventions to the convicted rape criminals. The results will also be useful for future research and will be helpful in decreasing the rape myths and blaming attribution to victims from the society.