

**STUDENTS' LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND VIEWS ABOUT THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA**

*by*

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Sexual harassment is seen as a disease of present-day learning institutions. Availability, awareness and implementation of policy on sexual harassment can minimise the incidences of the disease.

**Purpose:** This study determine students' awareness levels and views about the implementation of the university policy on sexual harassment.

**Methodology:** The study adopted a quantitative descriptive, cross-sectional design. The sample size was 338 (183 females and 155 males) in total. Simple and systematic sampling methods were used to select participants. Self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 23.0 program. The Chi-square test was used to compare differences between variables and the statistical difference was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

**Result:** One hundred and fifty six (45.6%) were males and 186 (54.4%) were females. The age distribution shows that the majority ( $n = 282$ , 82.5%) were between the age of 18 – 24 years. The majority ( $n = 304$ , 88.9%) of the students were not aware that the university has a sexual harassment policy: The majority (63.8%, 64.1% and 73.1%) of the respondents did not feel safe on campus from sexual harassment. The students (93.5%, 90.8% and 88.5%) attested that there is no awareness program about sexual harassment policy on campus. Two (1.3%) males and five (2.7%) females admitted that they have been raped on campus.

**Conclusion and Recommendations:** The study concluded that most of the students were not the policy on sexual harassment. The students' views about the implementation of sexual harassment policy in the university is negative. Furthermore, some males and females student had experienced sexual harassment on campus. The students' affairs directorate should create awareness on the sexual harassment policy on campus and ensure its effective implementation.

**Key words:** Sexual harassment policy, Awareness, Implementation, Students, University.