Public’s Perceptions and Attitudes towards Violence against Women

Overview

Violence against women is a pressing issue in Singapore.

- 1 in 10 women in Singapore experience lifetime physical violence by a male (International Violence Against Women Survey, 2010).
- 6 in 10 victims of physical violence suffer repeated victimisation (ibid).
- Outrage of modesty cases\(^1\) reported remain high between 1,369 and 1,450 over the past three years (Singapore Police Force, 2015).\(^2\)

Less awareness of non-physical violence

- Respondents show high levels of recognition of physical violence but lower levels of recognition of non-physical violence
- 11.0\% - 16.0\% more women than men identified non-physical acts as violence.

Men hold more conservative views about gender roles

- 57.0\% of respondents think that men are the ‘head of the household’ and should make most of the decisions in the family.
  - Among those aged 18-29, 66.0\% of men and 43.0\% of women agree.
- 52.0\% think that women should take care of household chores and caregiving.
  - Among those aged 18-29, 58.0\% of men and 38.2\% of women agree.

Younger men (aged 18-29) hold the most conservative views. There is around 20.0\% of difference in opinions among genders.

Sexual Violence – Victim blaming attitude is common

- 1 in 10 respondents think women who are raped are often “asking for it.”
- 40.0\% of respondents aged 18-39 and over 50.0\% of respondents aged 40 and above agree that women who wear provocative clothing are “asking

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\(^1\) Includes both men and women

\(^2\) Annual Statistical Reports on Crime in Singapore
Such victim-blaming attitudes contribute to *restricting women’s sexual freedom, legitimising sexual harassment* and resulting in *unsupportive first response* to victims.

**Stronger support for victims of relationship violence needed**

- 71.7% of women abused by partners are not likely to make a police report. (International Violence Against Women Survey, 2010).
- 83.0% of the respondents believe that women *should stay* in violent relationships under some circumstances (e.g. if they have children).