

## Attitude Towards Rape- A Comparative Study

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### ABSTRACT

Rape is one of the most commonly occurring crimes in the country. It involves sexual activity with the victim without seeking their consent, and most often includes the use of deception or force. Attitudes towards rape are the beliefs and a certain way of thinking regarding rape as a theme. This study aimed at understanding the attitudes towards rape of individuals belonging to different age groups. The hypothesis was that the older generation would have a rather negative attitude towards rape as compared to the younger generation. A sample of 81 participants was taken out of which 41 belonged to the younger generation (between 18-25 years) and 40 belonged to the older generation (between 45-52 years). For this study, the Attitude towards Rape Victim Scale (developed by C. Ward) was taken. For analysis of the data, mean, standard deviation and t-test were used. The findings of the research show that the older generation has a more negative attitude towards rape against women as compared to the younger generation.

**Keywords:** Attitude, Rape

**R**ape, unlawful sexual intercourse, most frequently involving sexual activity, against the desire of the victim through force or the threat of force or with a private who is incapable of giving legal consent due to minor status, mental disease, intoxication, unconsciousness, or deception. In many jurisdictions, the crime of rape has been subsumed thereunder of sexual abuse. Rape was long considered to be caused by unbridled concupiscence, but it is now understood as a pathological assertion of power over a victim.

Rape is an act causing physical, psychological, and emotional harm to the victim by carrying out sexual intercourse without the other person's consent. It is a serious crime. Its victims can be spouses, elderly, children, poor people, people with developmental disabilities, or people with dementia.

Rape is one of the most frequently occurring crimes committed in India. According to statistics, over 3.38 lakh crimes were reported in India, out of which over 33,000 were rapes (2018). It is a crime mostly committed against women in India and has been prevalent for

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quite some time. Reports suggest that a woman is raped every 16 minutes in India, although hardly any cases are filed against the offender.

India currently ranks ninth in the world's most dangerous countries for women due to the gender gap, violence against the intimate partner and the existing gender inequality.

A lot of reports show that 25% of people who are victims of rape are minors and 94% of the offenders are known to the victim. It is also seen that the victims who did end up reporting the crime, were seen differently by the society- mistreated, humiliated and ridiculed by the police. Thus, rapes are mostly unreported because the victims are afraid to face the retaliation and humiliation- in India and elsewhere in the world.

According to government reports of 2018, 99% of the sexual assault cases go unreported in India- the situation is made to look better than it is, some policemen refuse to file complaints against powerful people too.

Studies show that the acceptance of rape myths plays a crucial role in explanatory models of rape behaviour. It is also seen that the major group vulnerable to rape is the female youth. A lot of rape cases have received media coverage and have triggered protests since 2012. This has also led to reforms in the Indian Penal Code for crimes of rape and sexual assault since then. Rape myths are prejudicial, stereotyped beliefs which might contribute to the ongoing sexual violence by shifting blame of sexual assaults from the perpetrators to victims. The acceptance of rape can be measured by adherence to rape myths.

Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1994) have defined rape as “stereotypes and beliefs that are generally false indeed though they're extensively and persistently held, and that serve to deny and justify manly sexual aggression against women.” The sexual myths and stereotypes towards sexual myths may continue to live, especially among the youth.

There are huge gender differences in perceptions of rape which indicates that the rape myth acceptance differs between males and females. Men use these to justify justifying male sexual violence while women believe in the myths to deny personal vulnerability. Studies have found, consistent relation between rape myth acceptance and victim blaming.

Most common rape myths cited over time include the belief that the way a woman dresses or acts, indicates that ‘she asked for it,’ or that rape occurs because men cannot control their sexual impulses. Experimenters demonstrate that acceptance of rape myths doesn't only indicate problematic stereotypes but is also a predictor in the factual performance of sexual. Many studies show that negative stereotypical attitudes toward, and beliefs about, women are associated with the greater rape myth acceptance. This relation has been found in both college student samples and in working generation too.

Child molestation, also called child sexual abuse is when an adult, or an older adolescent forces a child to engage in sexual activities for their sexual stimulation. This could also include indecent exposure, child grooming, child sexual exploitation, or even making a child watch pornographic content. Around 93% of the victims of child sexual abuse know the offender. As many as 1 in 10 girls under the age of twenty are forced to engage in sexual activities, while the actual figure might be even higher.

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In the Indian context, the phenomenon of rape entails a socio-cultural perspective also. Rape harms the victim physically and disgraces and tarnishes one's soul with devastating effect on the victim. Based on a substantial number of situations, rape has been classified into various types viz., - Acquaintance rape, stranger rape, Gang rape, carnal abuse, Spousal rape are a few types of rape. Acquaintance rape involves some quite association or connection between the victim and therefore the assaulter(s). Stranger rape is that the one wherein a victim is unacquainted the assaulter. Gang rape is the most violent and dehumanizing and involves several assaulters that rape the victim. Statutory rape involves engaging in a sexual activity with a minor below the age of 18 (below the age of legal consent). Spousal rape involves forcing sexual intercourse towards the spouse.

According to the Constitution of India, a man cannot be raped, as it only talks about rape in context of a woman being victim of it, thus, no woman can be an offender. Also, there is no law criminalizing marital rape in India. Hence, the individual can be raped by their spouse, without facing any punishment for it.

Sexual harassment is defined as sexual advances that are not welcome, requesting sexual favours, and various other physical or verbal conduct of sexual nature. When submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

*Sexual harassment is not only non-consensual sex, but many other things, such as:*

Actual or attempted rape or sexual assault. Pressurizing one for sexual favours. Deliberate unwanted touching, leaning over, pinching, or cornering. Sexual looks or gestures that are displeasing. Receiving unwanted letters, telephone calls, or materials of a sexual nature. Pressuring a person to go on dates. Sexual teasing, jokes, remarks, or questions. Referring to an adult as a girl, hunk, honey, babe, or doll. Whistling at someone. Cat calling. Passing sexual comments. Turning work discussions to sexual topics which make people uncomfortable. Asking about sexual fantasies, preferences, or history. Personal questions about social or sexual life.

Sexual comments about a person's clothing, body, or looks. Kissing sounds, howling, and smacking lips. Spreading rumours and telling lies about a person's personal sex life. Giving neck massages. Touching an employee's clothing, hair, or body without permission. Giving personal gifts. Hanging around a person too often. Hugging, kissing, patting, or stroking which is not asked for. Touching or rubbing oneself sexually around another person, making the other person uncomfortable. Standing extremely close or brushing up against a person. Looking at a person up and down while staring at genitals (elevator eyes). Staring at someone. Unwelcomed Sexually suggestive signals. Having facial expressions, winking, throwing kisses, or licking lips. Making sexual gestures with hands or through body language.

Sexual assault is sexual behaviour or sexual contact, often physical in nature, without the victim's consent. Sexual harassment usually violates the laws, but in many instances is not a criminal offence. On the other hand, sexual assault is a criminal act. Some of these include:

- Attempting rape.
- Unwelcome or unwanted sexual touching.

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- Forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, such as oral sex or penetration of the offender's body.
- Penetrating the victim's body is also known as rape.

Assault is not about the sex, but about the power, control, and violence for the perpetrator. Sexual misconduct is an illegal term used to describe a wider range of behaviours that may or may not include harassment.

Victim blaming is a phenomenon wherein victims of the crimes or tragedies are held accountable for what has happened to them. Blaming of the victim allows the people to believe that the events that have occurred could never happen to them. Blaming victims occurs in rape and sexual assault cases, where the victim of the crime is usually accused of inviting the attack due to the gestures, clothing, or behaviour.

When we see an event that has occurred in the past, we are prone to believe that all the signs were right in front of our eyes, and that we should have seen them. Our hindsight makes it seem like the offended should have been able to foresee and prevent whatever problem into which they were falling. Sometimes, the victim blaming also seems to depend on the "just-world hypothesis," which is the idea that people feel like they deserve what happens to them.

Alarmingly, high rates of acquaintance rape exist in college, student and even working people's populations.

The purpose of this study was to examine the attitudes towards rape in males and females of different ages, belonging to diverse cultural backgrounds and having different moral values. This study was done with the objective of exploring attitudes and myths toward rape among the people residing in Delhi, among a vast population. The objective of this study was to see if the older generation held a more unfavourable attitude towards rape against women, as compared to the younger generation.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fukonmoju *et. al* (2021) conducted a cross-national study for rape myth acceptance in United States, South Africa, and Ghana. For this study, a convenience sample of 699 respondents was taken who were required to fill in an online questionnaire. It was found that Nigeria was most likely to endorse in rape myths, while United states was least likely to do so. The researchers believed that this could be because of exposure to various patriarchal structures and ideologies and the differences in responses to gender-based violence.

Zvi (2021) carried out a vignette study regarding the perceptions of sex-worker rape victims. For this study, 220 police officers were chosen as participants wherein they were asked to read a description of a sex worker who had been raped, after which they had to report their perceptions of blame towards the victim as well as the offender. Their views on victim resistance, effects of rape on the victim, and feeling towards the victim were also noted. It was found that the male police officers were more biased than the female police officers. Overall, a negative emotion towards the victim was seen especially by the male officers who also believed that the victim could have resisted in time of the attack.

Henry *et. al* (2021) did research which examined the effect of alcohol intoxication on the perceptions of campus sexual assault. Here a total of 417 college students from rural public

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and private universities. The subjects were required to read a campus assault draft which showed that both perpetrator and victim were intoxicated. ANOVA, MANOVA, and IRMA scores were obtained. It was concluded that most participants blamed the perpetrator as being the one to blame, although it was found that there were shifts in the perception of consent.

Mulder and Olsohn (2021) carried out a study focusing on scripted reality and how the observers assigned meaning to non-consensual sexual encounters. A total of 52 Dutch participants were asked to respond aloud to a vignette presented. The data analysis was done with the help of Articulated Thoughts in Simulated Situations, and discourse analysis. The results of this study show that the subjects seemed to be influenced by predominant discourses which altered their interpretations of the assault as transgressive. The authors also highlighted the fact that their study did not have a representative sample and that the patterns of the data could not simply be generalised to all populations.

Adolphson, Stromwall & Landsrtom (2020) did research to understand the relation between sympathy, consent, force, and beliefs on blame attributions in multiple perpetrator rape cases. For this research, 2928 Swedish participants were equally divided into two groups. These participants were asked to read scenarios which depicted multiple perpetrator rape and had to rate several things such as rape myth acceptance, blame, world beliefs, and the like. This research was divided into two experiments, where the first one saw, more blame being attributed to the victim of MPR than lone perpetrator rape, and the second one showed no effect of force on the level of attribution of blame. The data was analysed using a multi-analytical approach. The researchers found that both the experiments showed a hierarchical multiple regression analyses indicating all four components explained shared variances in victim and perpetrator blame.

Jo & Park (2020) carried out a study to understand the differences victim blaming in the situations of rape and assault. There were 323 participants who were randomly chosen for the same who were classified into four groups, depending on their age group. They were required to read a draft of a rape and assault case and rate the victim and perpetrator blaming along with rating of the ambivalent sexism scale and acceptance of interpersonal violence scale. The results indicated that the age influenced victim blaming, and that this effect was enhanced by hostile sexism. It was also seen that male participants blamed the perpetrator less as compared to the female participants.

Jamshed and Kamal (2019) carried out research to study the ubiquity of rape myths and sexual double standards among collegegoers in Pakistan. The sample was five hundred students between the age group of 17-24 and 25-32. The first group was found to have high sexual double standards as compared to the other group. Also, men trusted more in rape myths as compared to women. This could be because of the gender bias among the students, since the authority is said to be with the men.

Spaccatini *et. al* (2019) did research to understand the moderating roles of right-wing authoritarianism among victims of sexual assault and victim blaming. This study was conducted on a total of 236 subjects, who were asked to complete a RWA and then read a fiction report of a Facebook post in which the victim herself explained a stranger harassment scenario. Based on this, the subjects were asked to rate severity of the scenario and talk about the victim's fault in the situation. The results revealed that people with moderate to elevated level of RWA seemed to blame the victim in the situation.

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Brewer *et. al* (2019) did a study to understand the role of dark triad traits and perceptions in context of sexual harassment. A total of 142 heterosexual women between the age of 18-50 were the participants in this study. NPI-16, Mach IV, Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale, and Sexual Harassment Attitudes Questionnaire were to be answered by the subjects. It was concluded that women with higher levels of the trait were susceptible to blame the victim and less likely to blame the perpetrator.

Maes *et. al* (2019) performed research to comprehend the role played by sexualizing online media in adolescents' resistance in context of the MeToo Movement along with their acceptance towards rape myths. 15-18 years old, 568 Flemish individuals were the participants. A cross-sectional survey was conducted on them which measured their sexualizing online media use, sexist attitudes, and ways of objectification. It was found that being exposed to sexually explicit internet material, but not getting negative appearance comments on social media was related to higher resistance towards MeToo Movement and appearance and acceptance of rape myths and viewing women as sex objects.

Gravelin and Biernat (2019) did a study based on which they tried to understand the situational, behavioural, and individual factors in the blaming of acquaintance rape. The researchers did this by writing comprehensive review of literature on victim blaming in acquaintance rape, emphasizing inconsistencies, and highlighting the areas of research that require more exploration. It was seen that there were many inconsistencies between perceiver and situation factors. The researchers concluded with the suggestion to increase transparency while describing scenarios of victim blaming in sexual assaults.

S. Walfield (2018) performed research to see the correlates of acceptance of male rape. 1220 adults from U.S.A. were the sample of this study, who filled an online survey which studied how male demographics, experience with rape, and personal beliefs affected male rape myths. It was found that more than 80% of the participants believed false reports for males was less than 10%. This was half the percentage as compared to female victims.

Persson, Dhingra and Grogan (2018) carried out quantitative research to study attributions of victim blame in stranger acquaintance rape. Eighty-one participants were a part of this study who read a story depicting a sexual assault of a woman by a stranger and by an acquaintance in two different situations. After reading, they filled scales measuring victim blame, ambivalent sexism, and rape myth acceptance. It was seen that victim blame correlated with aggressively sexist attitudes and that nurses, in general attributed more blame to victim of acquaintance rape.

Gabriela & Opre (2018) studied victim blaming among people who believed that the world is a just place. There was a total of seventy-four participants who volunteered to be a part of this study by answering questionnaires anonymously. A chi-square test was used to investigate the effect of gender and just world beliefs on victim blaming. All the data was enumerated using IBM SPSS. It was seen that the women seemed to blame the victim more, as compared to men.

M. Nadeem (2017) aimed his study towards understanding the outlook of educated youth towards rape myths. For this, 385 college students were taken randomly as subjects, from three universities of Lahore. Information about the demographics of subjects regarding academic disciplines, residential areas and socio-economic backgrounds of families were also collected. Data was analysed by using the t-test and ANOVA. It was concluded that

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male students seemed to believe that a woman's willingness was present in rape. They also felt a woman's strong character could prevent rape, and that women's behaviour and attire attracted rapists.

Moyano *et. al* (2017) did a study to understand the predictors of sexual aggression among adolescents. This study had a sample of 448 from Peru, out of whom 33% reported to have committed sexual assault. Socio-demographic Questionnaire; The Rape Supportive Attitudes Scale; The Sexual Double Standard; and The Sexual Experiences Survey were used for this study. The offenders reported more sexual double standard and supportive outlook towards rape as compared to non-offenders.

Mittal *et. al* (2017) carried out a study to see the effects of gender as well as social category among young adults while studying their attitudes towards rape. 208 participants between the of 17-27 years were taken as the sample for research who responded to a Rape Myth Acceptance Scale, Attitude towards Victim Scale, and Causal Attribution towards Sexual Violence Scale. The researchers found that females held lesser rape myths, but have more negative attitude towards rape victims, as compared to men. There were significant effects of social category and gender in causal attribution for sexual assault and harassment.

Russell and Hand (2017) tried to assess the relation between rape myth acceptance, victim blame attribution, and just world beliefs in their research. To carry out this study, the researchers looked for empirical papers on various databases by using the terms 'victim blame', 'rape myth acceptance', 'Just World Beliefs', 'type of rape' and 'gender'. Gough's weight of evidence framework was taken to see the quality prior to inclusion. It was seen that RMA easily predicted victim-blaming with both male, and female victims, and that RMA was more evident in males. Lastly, it was concluded that RMA was positively correlated with just world beliefs.

Kamdar *et. al* (2017) carried out research to understand rape- whether it is a behavioural issue, or a lifestyle. For this, 332 college students were taken as participants. Attitude toward rape scale and Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale were used, and the data analysis was done by using the SPSS version 19. It was concluded that the rape myths were highly common among the youth, and that it was even higher amidst males.

Watts *et. al* (2017) worked on research to understand the harsh attitudes toward the victims of rape among college students. The sample size included 608 college undergraduate students. Psychopathic personality traits and rape myth acceptance (RMA) were used to collect data. The researchers found that most psychopathy feature closely predicted RMA, and relations were reflective of callousness, antagonism, and lack of empathy, while boldness features were not crucial predictors of RMA.

Parratt & Pina (2017) carried out secondary research to understand the rape myth beliefs of police officers. Here, a total of eighteen documents containing information regarding rape myths of police officers were reviewed to see the factors influencing officers' rape myth beliefs. It was concluded that continual training for officers and improvement of rape reporting experiences was required.

Murphy & Hine (2017) did a study to investigate demographic and attitudinal predictors of rape myth acceptance among police officers in U.K., there were a total 912 officers from a U.K. police force who were taken as subjects. Rape Myth Acceptance was assessed by linear

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hierarchical regression, including attitudinal and demographic factors. It was seen that gender and earlier training predicted RMA properly, but to a lesser extent than attitudinal variables.

R. Venema (2017) examined the role of officer attributes, estimates of false reporting, and social desirability bias among police officers regarding rape myth acceptance. For this study, there were 174 police officers chosen as subjects from Great Lakes region. The survey answers for Revised Rape Myth Acceptance Scale, Estimates of False Reporting, Demographic Characteristics, Social Desirability, and an Open-Ended Response Item were collected. It was found that the officers reported high estimates of false reporting, indicating rape myth acceptance among them.

Krueger *et. al* (2017) carried out a study to assess the gender biased rape myths and sexual assaults among undergraduate college students. The sample size was 526 college students who were asked to fill online questionnaires regarding their experiences of sexual assault, as well as their support of male and female rape myths. It was found that women experienced more sexual assault than men. The subjects were also seen endorsing more female rape myths than male rape myths.

Stuart, McKimmie & Masser (2016) did a study to realise the effect of sexual assault related schemas attributions of blame among rape perpetrators who were on trial. The sample included 163 mock jurors who were asked to read a rape which differed in context of offence stereo typicality, victim stereo typicality, and the offender stereo typicality. The effect of stereo typicality did not vary as a function of offence stereo typicality. Also, the offender stereo typicality did not impact perceptions in the given scenario.

Choudhari *et. al* (2016) attempted to comprehend the views about females and attitudes towards rape through a cross-sectional study. Here, 362 medical students from the age of 18-37, where the participants were asked to answer Questionnaires of Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA), Attitudes Towards Women Scale Short Form (AWS-SF), and Attitudes toward Rape Victim Scale (ARVS). It was found that younger age and females were associated with egalitarian attitudes, when compared, also females with increasing age and a married status were seen as more accepting towards rape victims.

Canan *et. al* (2016) performed research on 1002 Greek and non-Greek college students in the U.S.A. to understand the supportive attitudes towards sexual assaults. The participants were asked to answer surveys which included Token Resistance to Sex Scale (TRSS), Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale–Short Form (IRMA-S), and the like. It was seen that the Greek males showed higher resistance and rape myth acceptance than the rest of the groups. It was also seen that there was no difference in the victimisation rates between Greeks and non-Greeks.

Zaleski *et. al* (2016) did research to discover rape culture in social media. They searched for the presence of rape culture among 4239 comments and used naturalistic observation to collect statements in comment section after posting of newspaper articles on websites or Facebook. It was concluded that the most prominent theme was victim blaming and it was found when the accused were in pop culture.

Bows & Westmarland (2015) tried to understand, through their study the stereotype of rape among old people. For this, data was collected from forty-five forces which related to 655



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cases of rape and sexual assault over a period of 5 years. The data included the offender and victim's ages, their relations, area where the crime was committed, and the type of offence. It was seen that the prevalent 'real rape' stereotypes can be challenged, and the researchers had laid implications for future research, practice, and policies.

Campbell *et. al* (2015) conducted a study on the resolution of victim credibility through minor and adult sexual assault investigators. This study included forty-four sexual assault investigators who were interviewed to see how they enumerated victim credibility, and its role in making decisions to present cases to defence lawyers. It was found that in the absence of convincing evidence, victim credibility was considered crucial in decision making to arrest and for presenting cases to the defence lawyers.

Wegner *et. al* (2015) conducted research to study the justifications of sexual assault perpetrators for what they had done. For this study, 425 males between the age of 18 and 35 were taken as participants who were single but had dated a woman in the past 2 years. There was a baseline interview, following which another interview was conducted after a span of 1 year. It was concluded that the rape supportive attitudes of perpetrators were positively related to their justifications presented post the assault and the use of justifications was a predictor of committing a sexual assault in the following year.

Abeid *et. al* (2015) carried out a study in Rural Tanzania to understand the knowledge and outlook towards rape and juvenile sexual abuse in the area. A total of 1,568 participants between the age of 18-49 were taken for the study who were interviewed and asked to fill in a questionnaire containing attitudes towards gender roles, knowledge regarding health and consequences of sexual assault, and the like. It was visible from the results that the rural population had poor knowledge about sexual coercion and were seen to have accepting attitudes towards sexual assaults. Age and education were seen to be positively associated with improved knowledge and lesser accepting behaviour towards sexual violence.

Starfelt *et. al* (2014) carried out a study to comprehend the role of force and frangibility alcohol expectancies among rape attributions. This study had a total of 210 participants who were instructed to read a rape scenario and the related aspects of blame attached to the offender and the victim and then answer Sexual Coercion and Sexual Vulnerability subscales. It was concluded that the sample strongly believed that the perpetrator should be held liable of rape. Also, alcohol expectancies were seen to originate bias and transform rape perceptions.

Angelone *et. al* (2014) tried to study the correlation between relationship length, gender role attitudes, and victim resistance in perception of men in acquaintance rape. The study had a total of 297 male participants from a public university in U.S.A. ASI, AWS, and Paulhus Deception Scales were applied in the research. Although there were no major effects of length of relations on participants' attributions, the physical and verbal techniques by victim predicted higher levels of victim credibility, perpetrator blame, and offender guilt, as well as lower levels of victim responsibility and perceived victim pleasure.

Nunes *et. al* (2013) did research to understand correlation between sexual aggression and implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape, for which eighty-six male university students were chosen as the sample. Rape Evaluation IAT was designed; Rape Outcome Evaluation Scale was also developed for the study; and Sexual Experiences Survey-Male Version

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Likelihood to Rape Question were utilised in this study. It was seen that the most sexually aggressive subjects portrayed less negative implicit and explicit attitudes towards rape.

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### ***Aim:***

The aim of this study was to examine the attitude towards rape against women among two age groups- namely, 18- 25 years, and 45-52 years.

#### ***Hypothesis:***

The older generation would hold a comparatively more negative attitude towards rape against women as compared to the younger generation.

#### ***Participants:***

Since a comparative study was conducted, there were two groups considered as representatives of the specific population- Group A and Group B. Group A (n=40) consisted of individuals in the age group of 45-52 years. There was a total of 7 males and 33 females in this group. Group B included 41 individuals in the age group of 18-25 years. There were 22 females and 19 males.

There were no incentives given to the participants, everyone volunteered to be a part of the study. None of the individuals was forced to participate.

The study aimed at observing the difference of attitude towards rape among different age groups only, the difference in number of males and females was not considered to influence the result as such.

#### ***Materials:***

The participants responded to the 'Attitude Towards Rape Victim Scale' which was developed by C. Ward (1998). This scale allots each response a score between 0-4 and each respondent can score between 0-100. A higher score shows a more negative attitude towards rape held by the respondent.

#### ***Procedure:***

The respondents were asked for consent before they were presented with the ethics. After this, the participants were introduced to the instructions of answering the questionnaire. The subjects were assured that their responses would be kept confidential and would only be used for the research. There were some questions in the questionnaire to collect the demographic data of the subjects after which they were presented the Attitude Towards Rape Victim Scale. Once the data was collected, it was scored (from 0-4).

#### ***Scoring:***

Item numbers 1,2,4,6,8,9,11,13,14,16,17,18,20,21,23,24, and 25 have been scored on a 5-point scale from 0-4 based on the options- disagree strongly, disagree mildly, neutral, agree mildly, and agree strongly. The scoring is reversed for the items 3, 5,7,10,12,15,19 and 22. Individuals can score anywhere from 0-100, where higher scores show an unfavourable attitude towards rape.

**RESULTS**

*Table 1: Mean and T-values obtained on Attitude Towards Rape among the two age group*

	N	MEAN	SD	T-TEST	p
GROUP A (45-52 years)	40	34.125	20.06796784	0.656468798	Sig***
GROUP B (18-25 years)	41	29.96	25.14703429		

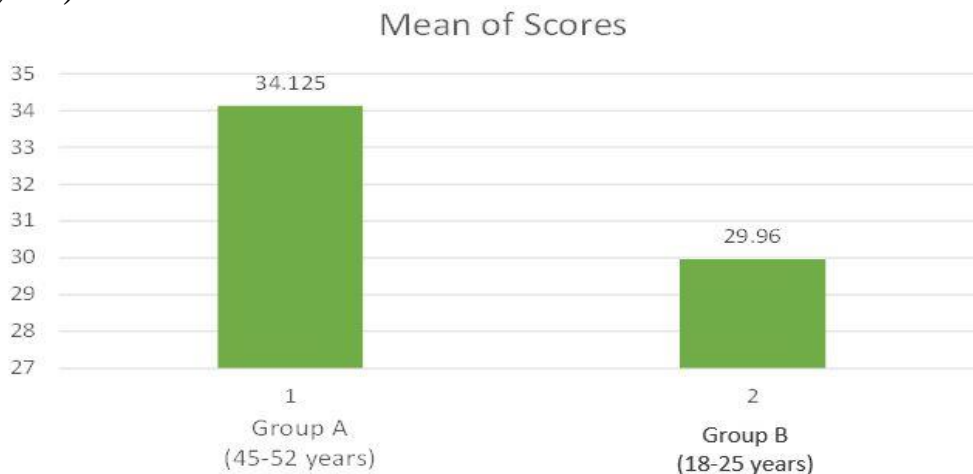
*\*\*Significant at both levels- 0.01 and 0.05.*

Table 1 indicates the mean values of scores obtained by both the age groups upon attempting the survey. In the first group, or Group A, the mean was found to be 34.125 and in Group B, it was 29.96. The t-test value was 0.656468798, which is significant at both levels (0.01 and 0.05).

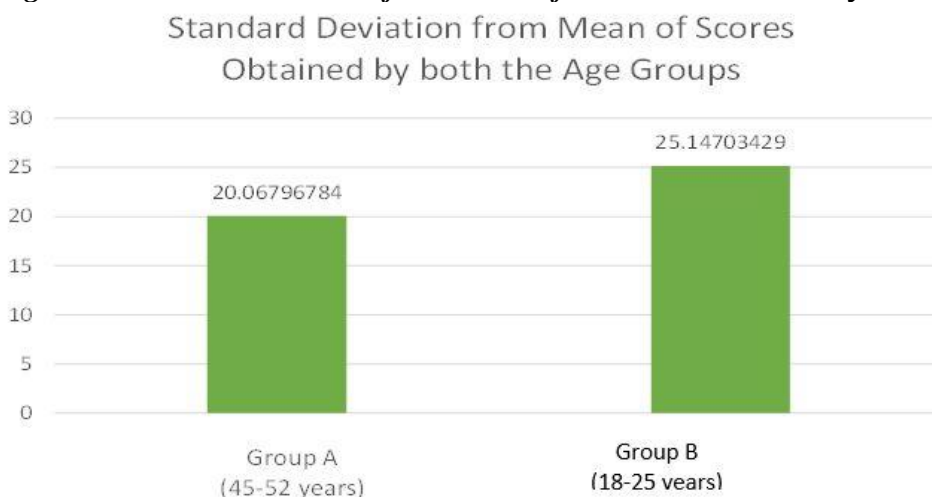
Figure 1 shows the mean of scores obtained by both the age groups, and Figure 2 represents the standard deviation of scores obtained by the individuals in both the age groups from the mean.

From figure 1, we can see that the average scores obtained by Group A are clearly higher than the scores obtained by Group B. This shows that Group A holds a comparatively more negative attitude towards rape against women as compared to Group B.

*Figure 1: Mean values of scores obtained by group A (45-52 years) and group B (18-25 years)*



*Figure 2: Standard deviation from mean of the scores obtained by both the age groups.*



### DISCUSSION

The study *Attitude towards Rape- a Comparative Study* aimed at understanding and examining the attitudes of individuals belonging to different age groups towards rape against women.

For this research, a total sample of 81 people was taken from both age groups, i.e., 18-25 and 45-52 years. Group A consisted of people belonging to the age group of 45-52, and this group had 40 participants (N=40). Group B included the people from the age group of 18-25 and a total of 41 subjects took part in the study (N=41). A google forms survey was created for this cause, which consisted of the Attitude towards Rape Victim Scale developed by C. Ward (1998). Only after each participant gave permission to being a part of the study, were they given the survey form. The analysis of collected data was done by using statistical tools such as mean of scores, standard deviation of mean, and t-test.

After conduction of this study, it is found that the older generation seems to hold a negative, or a more unfavourable attitude towards rape against women as compared to the youth. Attitude may be a belief, a construct, or an entity that an individual holds. Similarly, attitude towards rape constitutes of the above-mentioned characteristics of people which they hold towards the theme of “rape”. From table 1, it is found that the value of t-test is 0.656468798 among both the age groups which is significant at both levels- 0.01 and 0.05. The mean clarifies that the score obtained by the people belonging to the age group of 45-52 was greater than that obtained by subjects belonging to the age group of 18-25. The survey also mentions that the higher the score, the more unfavourable the attitude is held towards rape against women. This means that the participants belonging to Group A had a more unfavourable attitude towards rape as compared to participants of Group B. The possible reason for this could be the prevalence of rape as a taboo among the older generation along with the fixed gender roles. Most women were treated as objects in the older times- be it in movies or in real life. Being a part of a patriarchal society, women in the older generation had always been taught certain ways they should behave in front of men, any deviance from that would have been thought as worthy of punishment. The women earlier had always been conditioned in a way that they always blamed themselves for any harassment they faced-their clothes were too revealing, or their actions seemed inviting. However, nowadays, there is a lot of awareness about the topics which were earlier not even deemed relevant for discussions and the youth questions these things, there is a shift in the mind-sets of people. The increasing open-mindedness could be a major cause for a more favourable attitude towards rape amongst the younger generation. A lot of researchers have conducted similar researches to the one conducted in the present study and they also seemed to have related results.

Kuriakose did research on attitudes of young adults towards marital rape in India and United Kingdom. The findings of the research indicated that the subjects reported to witness false rape myth to a minimal level and were perhaps normally sympathetic towards rape victims (Kuriakose, 2019). Lussier and Cale conducted a study on Understanding the origins and the development of rape and sexual aggression against women, in which they found that rape and sexual aggression were related to developmental pathways which in turn led to rape and sexual aggression (Lussier & Cale, 2016). Swaine carried out a research which discovered and elaborated upon the variance beyond strategic sexualised violence. The research proposed that there exist forms of violence which sit somewhere in between on a scale ranging from ‘political public violence’ and ‘endemic private violence’ (Swaine, 2015). Nakyazze *et. Al* conducted a research which aimed to understand the sexual abuse, accepting

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attitudes towards intimate partner rape and psychological concomitants in intimate partner relationships in Uganda. The findings showed that the subjects having a greater education showed significantly low levels of acceptance of intimate partner rape (Nakyazze *et. al*, 2018). LeMaire, Oswald and Russell carried out a study on attitudinal factors influencing women labelling their sexual assault incidents as rape. Results showed that those having more benevolent sexual attitudes towards both the genders, a greater rape myth acceptance, and more tolerant attitudes towards sexual harassment seemed less likely to label their previous sexual harassment encounters as rape (LeMaire, Oswald, Russell, 2016).

### ***Limitations and Further Suggestions***

The study had a very small sample size of only 81 participants. In order for this research to be validated-for it to hold some value, a study on a much larger sample size is to be carried out. The number of males and females was uneven which could have played a role in determining the results. The answers could have possibly been influenced by social desirability. Since the survey was conducted online, there could be a possibility that the answers to the survey were not entirely attempted by the participants in full honesty.

For future researches, a larger sample group could be chosen, with an equal distribution of all the sexes. A physical presence of the administrator while filling the questionnaire might help getting a better insight of how each participant feels about the questions. Some indirect questions could be used to get good and precise understanding.

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