

Abstract

This study aimed to examine the effects of level of sexual harassment, gender of participants, gender of harasser and belief in a just world on five dependent measures, namely, the appropriateness of harasser's behavior, classifying harasser's behavior as sexual harassment, coping strategy, punishment and assignment of responsibility. Results showed that behavior of harasser was rated as more inappropriate when the level of harassment increased. Middle level of harassment, physical seduction, was most likely to be classified as sexual harassment. Female participants rated the harasser's behavior more inappropriate than their male counterparts for physical seduction and gender harassment. Behavior of female harasser was judged as more appropriate than the same behavior initiated by male harasser for physical seduction and gender harassment. Behavior of female harasser was more likely to be classified as sexual harassment in the scenario of physical seduction.