

Abstract of thesis entitled:

Could macho personality and pornographic material be reliable risk factors of likelihood engaging in sexually harassing behaviors of teenagers in Hong Kong?

Submitted by So Tak-Chung

for the Undergraduate Degree of Psychology

at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in April 2006

Abstract

The aim of this present study is to investigate would macho personality and pornography be possible individual factors that can predict men's sexually harassing behavior. Furthermore, the study also aims at investigating which factor is most related to the intention in sexual harassment among the three components of macho personality (Mosher and Sirkin, 1984), specifically danger as exciting, violence as manly, and calloused sex attitudes toward women. The mediating effect of pornography between macho personality and sexual harassment is also explored.

A total of 312 secondary senior students in Hong Kong completed the self-administered questionnaires on their demographic characteristics, proclivity on sexual harassment, tendency on macho personality and frequency of pornographic materials. Correlational analyses were then conducted to explore the associations among major variables. Hierarchical regression analyses were also performed to

unearth the relative contribution of various factors in predicting sexually harassing behavior as well as to examine the mediating effect of pornography.

Result showed that both macho personality and access to pornography were significantly associated with proclivity of sexual harassment. In particular, Sexual calloused attitudes from the three components of macho personality was the best predictor of the likelihood of sexual harassment. Pornographic materials were also found to be a partial mediator between macho personality and the likelihood of sexual harassment.

Macho personality and pornography as potential risk factors leading to sexually harassing behavior are evident in the study. Findings have significant implications in planning effective measures to reduce the rate of sexual harassment. Limitations and prospects of further studies are also discussed.