

Abstract

The purpose of the current study is to investigate the relationship between stereotypical Attitudes toward Women, Empathy, and Sexual Harassment Proclivities in young men. It is an attempt to signify the role of ATW and Empathy in the tendency of attempting sexual harassment towards women. For this purpose, the sample of 453 young men (N=453) of age range 18-25 years was selected from different universities of Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. Attitudes toward Women Scale (Spence, Helmrich & Stapp, 1973) was used to assess the level of stereotypical/gender-based attitudes and hostility towards women in general. Basic Empathy Scale (Jolliffe & Farrington, 2006) was used to assess the overall experience of empathy along with both of its dimensions; Cognitive Empathy & Emotional/Affective Empathy. Moreover, Sexual Harassment Proclivities Scale (Bartling & Eisenman, 1993) was utilized to assess the tendency for engaging in sexually harassing behaviour. Correlation, Stepwise Regression analysis, t-test, and ANOVA were used for statistical analysis of the research. The results showed negative relationship between ATW, Empathy, and SHP in men. Moreover, findings demonstrated that the ATW and the Cognitive component of Empathy proved to be a significant predictor of SHP in men. Furthermore, analysis revealed significant differences in SHP on the basis of family system and family income. The present study concluded that, the more a person holds hostile and stereotypical attitudes toward women, the more likely he is to engage in sexual harassment of women. Also, the more a person capable of perspective-taking and understanding (cognitive empathy), the less likely he is to engage in sexual harassment of women. The study contributed in the field of clinical psychology and is beneficial for future research, therapy, and welfare purposes.

Keywords: Attitudes, women, stereotypes, empathy, sexual harassment, young men, family system.