

## Abstract

Rape is considered as one of the most atrocious crimes of all. Many psycho-social factors have been well represented in association with rape but these factors in meanings of experiences of rapists have not been much explored. Similarly, limited work has been done to unveil the perceptions of these rapists that can be considered as a cause of such acts. The aim of the current study was to explore the early life experiences and perceptions of convicted rapists. A sample of N=7 convicted rapists was taken using a convenient sampling technique. The main research measures that was adapted for the in depth exploration was semi structured interviews and Repertory Grid Technique. Interviews and Grids were analyzed through Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and Principal Component Analysis respectively. Quality and expert checks were practiced for the validity of the results. Principal Component Analysis results showed that rapists perceived the family members more positively despite of disrupted relationships while their perceptions of women and friends indicated a negative view. Self perceptions of rapists were elated in relation to other elements indicating their denial. Eight domains identified through interpretative phenomenological analysis included childhood, adolescence, adulthood, temperaments, family dynamics, perceptions, rape phenomenon and coping of rapists. Themes were emerged from all these domains. Overall findings documented that adverse early life experiences played a role in the formation of some disrupted perceptions as shown in the transcripts that could have lead in the commencement the crime.

*Key words:* Grid technique, interpretative phenomenological analysis, rapists, early experiences, perceptions.