

Reporting and Preventing Sexual Assault among Students at a Selected University in South Africa

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KEYWORDS Sexual Abuse. Students. Coping. University

ABSTRACT Generally, young women are at considerable risk of becoming a victim of an acquaintance rapist. It is therefore necessary to ensure that all colleges and universities have policies regarding sexual assault and development of preventive programmes should be a national issue. The present study sought to investigate the strategies used by university students to report and prevent sexual assault. A survey was conducted. Simple random sampling was used to select 37 participants. The participants filled out a questionnaire. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Results showed that although the participants agreed to low reporting rate, the reasons given were to protect the integrity of the individual as opposed to fear of victimisation. In addition, the majority of the participants had knowledge regarding personal responsibility and institutional responsibility in the prevention of sexual assault. Some of the participants however, had limited knowledge regarding aspects to be included in the sexual assault prevention programme. Future studies should be conducted with larger samples drawn from different institutions to increase the generalizability of the findings.