

# **Sexual-coercion, between planned-behavior and exposure: An Arab-female perspective**

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## **Background:**

In this study, two models that explain behavioral-intentions regarding sexual-coercion were examined: Exposure to domestic-violence and behavioral-intentions regarding sexual-coercion as explained by Planned-Behavior Theory. The first model stipulated that self-esteem and posttraumatic-stress mediate the effects of childhood-exposure to domestic-violence, on behavioral-intentions regarding sexual-coercion. The second model stipulated that behavioral-intentions are the outcome of attitudes, social-norms, and perceived-control.

## **Methods:**

the study is a cross-sectional survey of a convenience sample of 145 female-Arab-students in Israeli colleges and universities. Respondents replied to a paper-and-pencil questionnaire, incorporating measures of childhood-exposure to parental-domestic-violence (adopted from the CTS), self-esteem, and posttraumatic-stress, representing the first model; as-well-as personal-attitudes, subjective-norms, perceived-control, and behavioral-intentions regarding sexual-coercion, representing the second model. Model-analysis was carried out using structural-equation-modeling.

## **Ethics:**

The study was authorized by the University's Ethical-research committee. Respondents were informed of their right not to participate, and to stop participation at any stage without any harm. All questionnaires were anonymous, and no identifying data were collected.

## **Results:**

The results indicate the need for an integrated model; in which the Planned-Behavior variables (personal-attitudes, subjective-norms, and perceived-control) emerge as outcomes of the Exposure-model (Parental domestic-violence, traumatization, and self-esteem), and affect behavioral-intentions regarding sexual-coercion.

## **Conclusions:**

The discussion centers around a conceptual stage model linking between violence in the family-of-origin as leading to lowered-self-esteem and post-traumatic reactions, affecting attitudes, subjective-norms, perceived-control, and intentions regarding sexual-coercion.

The findings are discussed within the context of the dialectics between modernity and tradition as experienced by Arab-female students in Israel.