



Attitude Towards Sex Offenders: An Icelandic Sample Of Psychology Students And The General Public

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Foreword

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the BSc Psychology degree, Reykjavik University, this thesis is presented in the style of an article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Abstract

This study explores attitude towards sex offenders in an Icelandic population. A questionnaire was administered both online and via paper and pencil. The written survey was given to psychology students at Reykjavík University (N = 78). For the general public the survey was administered online (N = 92). The total number of participants was 170, 128 females and 42 males. The Attitude Towards Sex Offender scale (ATS) was used to explore the participants' attitude toward sex offenders. This study's aim was to see if there was any; 1) gender difference, 2a) difference between victim type (vignette), 2b) gender difference within vignettes, 3) difference between the general public and psychology students and 4) difference between those who had been sexually abused or knew of someone who had been sexually abused and those that had not, in attitude towards sex offenders. An independent t-test found no significant difference in the average ATS scores between those variables however there was a significant 5) difference between first and second year psychology students. Second year students held a more positive attitude towards sex offenders than first year students.

Keywords: attitude, sex offenders, vignette, psychology students, general public.

Útdráttur

Rannsóknin skoðar viðhorf Íslendinga til kynferðisafbrotamanna. Notast var við rafræna og skriflega spurningakönnun. Nemendur við sálfræðideild Háskólans í Reykjavík (N = 78) tóku könnunina skriflega og almenningur (N = 92) tók könnunina rafrænt. Þátttakendur voru í heildina 170, 128 konur og 42 karlar. *Attitude Towards Sex Offenders (ATS)* skalinn var notaður til þess að mæla viðhorf þátttakenda til kynferðisafbrotamanna. Markmið rannsóknarinnar var að skoða; 1) kynjamun, 2a) mun á milli *vignette*, 2b) kynjamun innan *vignette*, 3) mun á milli sálfræðinema og almennings, 4) mun á milli þeirra sem annaðhvort hafa orðið fyrir kynferðisofbeldi eða þekkja einhvern nákominn sem hefur orðið fyrir kynferðisofbeldi og þeirra sem gera það ekki, á viðhorfum til kynferðisafbrotamanna. *Independent t-próf* sýndi engan marktækan mun á meðal-ATS skora á milli breytanna. Hinsvegar kom í ljós marktækur munur 5) milli fyrsta og annars árs nema. Annars árs nemar voru með jákvæðari viðhorf til kynferðisafbrotamanna en fyrsta árs nemar.

Lykilorð: viðhorf, kynferðisafbrotamenn, *vignette*, sálfræðinemar, almenningur.

Attitude Towards Sex Offenders: An Icelandic Sample Of Psychology Students And The General Public

Different kinds of attitude are something that many researchers try to examine and explore. It is quite hard to define attitude and not many researchers agree on any one definition. However Ajzen & Fishbein (1997) say that many researchers would agree to this definition: “a person’s attitude represents his evaluation of the entity in question”. This means that even though an individual has a negative attitude towards something that doesn’t mean that he is negative towards everything, and vice versa.

According to the free dictionary a sex offender is an individual that has committed a crime involving sex (“Sex offender legal definition of sex offender,” n.d.). This can include rape and child molestation, and these sexual acts are all without consent. The main difference between rape and molestation is that molestation involves a child under 18. Molestation can involve rape as well. Rape is when an individual forces another individual to perform sexual acts without his or hers consent. In Iceland the punishment for sexual abuse can be from one year up to 16 years prison sentence depending on the severity of the crime, i.e. if the victim is under 18 then the sentence should be heavier (“19/1940,” n.d.). In the year 2014 there were 419 reported sex crimes in Iceland thereof 129 cases were rape and 143 cases were molestation cases (Ríkislögreglustjórnin, 2015).

Nelson, Herlihy, & Oescher (2002) studied counselors’ attitude towards sex offenders, using 800 participants. The participants answered the ATS and 13 questions additionally about their background. The results showed that counselors had more positive attitude towards sex offenders. About half of the participants knew someone that had been sexually abused in the past and those participants often had a more positive attitude towards sex offenders.

Those results are in line with the study made by Ferguson & Ireland (2006), who found as well that individuals that knew someone that had been sexually abused had more positive attitudes towards sex offenders. The main difference between this study and the one done by Nelson et.al. (2002) is that they had different types of vignettes about a “typical” sex offender, i.e. a stranger rapist or child molester. The participants were asked to read one of the vignettes and then answer the ATS. The main results showed no significant difference overall in attitude towards individuals based on if the crime involved an adult or a child. However men had more negative attitudes towards individuals that offended against a child, but there was no difference in attitudes amongst women. It seems that women do not make any difference in offence type and had overall more positive attitudes towards any kind of a sex offender.

A similar study was conducted to see the difference in psychology students and non psychology students (Harper, 2012). They were presented with two vignettes; about a young offender and an old offender. All of the participants were asked to answer the ATS after reading the vignette. Harper found a significant difference in attitude towards the young offender and the older one, the attitude for the older offender was less positive. There were no significance difference between psychology students and non-psychology students. Harpers final conclusion was that age does matter, the younger the offender is the more positive the attitude is towards him.

Valliant, Furac, & Antonowicz (1994), studied first and third year psychology students’ attitude towards sex offenders. They hypothesized that the longer the students is enrolled in psychology the more positive the attitude will be. So that the third year students would hold a more positive attitude towards sex offenders. Their results showed no difference in attitude towards sex offenders between first and third year students.

There is one study made in Northern Ireland that compared attitudes of the general public to forensic staff and prison officers (Higgins & Ireland, 2009). Vignettes were used, one for a male offender and one for a female offender and with adult or child age victim. After the participant read the vignette they answered the ATS questionnaire. Higgins and Ireland found no difference in attitude towards different kind of offence type. However there was a significant difference between forensic staff and the general public regarding their attitudes towards sex offenders, the general public viewed sex offenders in a more negative manner. Like other studies have shown (Ferguson & Ireland, 2006), there was a significant difference between the genders, females showed more positive attitudes towards sex offenders. However Rogers, Hirst, & Davies (2011) found no gender difference in attitude towards sex offenders.

The question that this study aims to answer is what will the attitude toward sex offenders be in an Icelandic sample and will it differ from those that have already been studied? The main hypotheses in this study are:

1. A) Individuals that read the vignette about a young victim would have a more negative attitude towards sex offenders than those that read about a same age victim.
B) Men will have a more negative attitude towards sex offenders that offend against a child than a same age victim.
2. Those that have been sexually abused or know someone that has been sexually abused will hold a more positive attitude towards sex offenders than those that don't have a history of sexual abuse or know someone with a history of sexual abuse.
3. Women will have a more positive attitude towards sex offenders than men
4. For the psychology students, the hypothesis is that second year students will have a more positive attitude towards sex offenders than first year students.

5. The general public will have a more negative attitude towards sex offenders than psychology students.

Method

Participants

The participants in this study were undergraduate psychological students in Reykjavík University and the general public. In total the participants were 170, 78 students and 92 from the general public. There were 42 males and 128 females at the age of 18 - 59 ($M = 28.8$, $SD = 10.42$). There were 42 students in their first year, 25 in their second year in psychology. A convenience sample was used from the courses *Réttarsálfræði* (E-315-RETT) and *Lífðlisfræðileg sálfræði* (E-315-LISA) to get access to the psychology students. A convenience sample was used for the general public. The first and second year students gained course credit for taking part in this study. The rest of the participants didn't gain anything from taking part in this study. The exclusion criteria needed for this study was age, if anyone under the age of 18 took part in the study from the general public that individual would be excluded. The participants were split into two groups, one got a vignette about a rapist ($N=88$) and the other one got a vignette about a child molester ($N=82$). All of the participants had to read and consent to an informed consent and all of the participants were promised total anonymity and confidentiality.

Instrument and measures

The measurement used in this study was the Attitude Towards Sex Offenders scale (ATS - (Hogue, 1993)), background questions and vignettes (Appendix A, p. 19). The ATS is a 36-item questionnaire which includes statements about sex offenders, i.e. "*Sex offenders are immoral*" and "*Sex offenders never change*". There are 17 positive statements and 19 negative statements, high scores on the ATS indicates more positive attitude towards sex offenders so the negative statements needed to be conversed. The ATS uses a six point Likert

scale, ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The questionnaire was translated from English to Icelandic by the researcher. Ólafur Örn Bragason then compered the Icelandic version to the English version of the ATS and made a couple of improvements to the Icelandic translation. Previous studies have reported good internal reliability for the ATS ($\alpha.92$) (Nelson et al., 2002). Both studies made by Ferguson & Ireland (2006) and Higgins & Ireland (2009) found similar internal reliability. For this study the Cronbach's Alpha was $\alpha.917$ which is a good internal reliability (Field, 2013). Exploratory factor analysis has been done to establish the validity of the ATS, Johnson, Hughes, & Ireland (2007) found three factors. Factor one was: "Interpersonal qualities of sex offenders and appreciation of their feelings" (p. 36). Factor two was: "Similarities of sex offenders to others and willingness to engage with them" (p. 36). Factor three was: "Supporting treatment for sex offenders" (p. 37).

The background questions were about the participants' gender, age and question regarding history of sexual abuse, *have you ever been sexually abused or do you know of someone that has been sexually abused?* The vignettes used were about a 35-year-old man witch worked in an office in Reykjavík, he had never had a conviction before. The only difference in the vignettes was the age of the victim, either same age victim or younger victim. The perpetrator knew both of the victims (Appendix A, p. 19).

Vignette A

"Gunnar 35 years and works in a office near his home in Reykjavík. He has never been convicted of a crime before, now he is serving time in prison for molesting his friend's young daughter."

Vignette B

"Gunnar 35 years and works in a office near his home in Reykjavík. He has never been convicted of a crime before, now he is serving time in prison for raping his friend."

Research design

The study was a between subject design or independent design, each participant only participated once. The dependent variable used in this study was attitude towards sex offenders which was the total score of the ATS scale. The independent variables were different type of victim, gender of participant, year of psychology students and if the participant had been sexually abused or knew of someone that had been sexually abused as well for the general public and psychology students.

Procedures

First year students were approached in the course E-315-RETT, the second year students in E-315-LISA and third year students were approached at different times during school hours. The researcher told the classes, first and second year students, that this was a study about attitude towards sex offenders and that the participants had to read the information sheet (Appendix B, p. 28) that informs the participant of purpose, risk, and confidentiality of the study. Then the participant had to write their consent on the consent form (Appendix C, p. 31). The questionnaire with the different vignettes was spread evenly between the students. For the third year students the researcher told them individually about the purpose of the study as well of the information that was given the first and second year classes.

The study was online as well using a link that had been programmed to open randomly either the study with vignette A or B. The researcher advertised for participants on her own Facebook page as well in the groups *Spurningakannanir* and *Sálfræðinemar í HR. Árgangur 2013-*. The study was open for 10 days on Facebook from Friday the 11th of mars 2016 to Sunday the 20th of mars 2016.

Analysis

IMB SPSS statistic, version 21, was used to analyze the data. The negative statements in the ATS were conversed, so that high scores on the ATS meant positive attitude. The total score was added together and then reduced by 36, because there are 36 items on the ATS scale. Independent t-test was used to explore any significance differences between the means of the ATS scale and independent variables. Cronbach's Alpha was used to measure the internal reliability of the ATS scale.

Results

In total 170 participants took part in this study, the age ranging from 18 years of age to 59 years of age. The overall mean for the attitude towards sex offenders (ATS) was 92.6 (SD = 24.2). The range in scores was 15-157, higher scores indicated a more positive attitude towards sex offenders. As seen in figure 1 there was a normal distribution for the ATS scores.

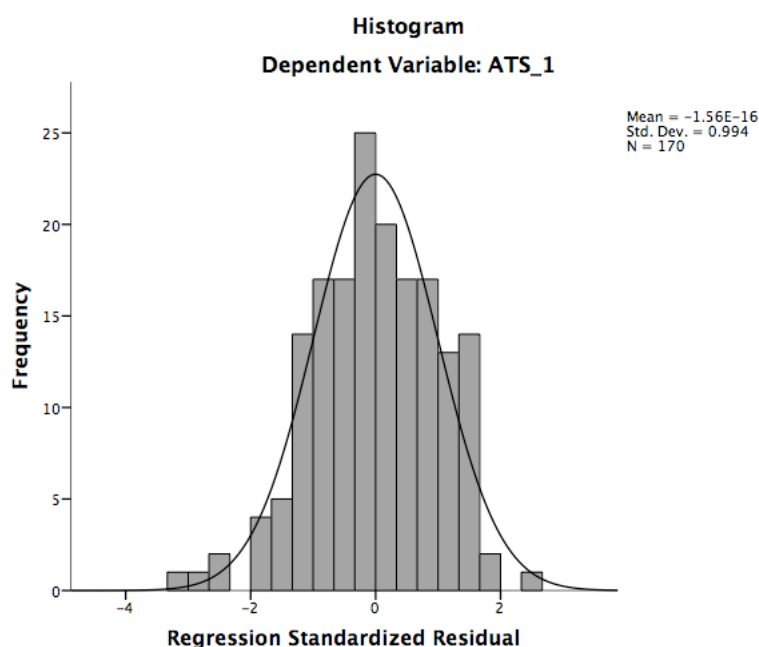


Figure 1. Distribution of ATS scores.

Of those 170 participants, 88 got the vignette about a young victim and 82 about a same age victim. Independent t-test was conducted to examine if there was any differences

between the means of ATS scores of the two groups. As seen in table 1 there was no significance difference between the means, $t(168) = .443$, $p = .658$. Levene's test of equality of variance showed that there was no difference in variance between the groups, $p = .899$. According to Cohen's d the effect size is very low ($d = .081$). An independent t-test showed no gender difference in attitude toward sex offenders in regards to victim type. For males the mean ATS score was 90.6 ($SD = 26.17$) for a same age victim but it was 91.9 ($SD = 26.78$) for a young victim, there was no significant difference between the means, $t(40) = -.157$, $p = .876$. Levene's test of equality of variance showed that there was no difference in variance between the groups, $p = .356$. Attitudes did not differ between different kinds of victim type with women, $t(126) = -.290$, $p = .772$.

Table 1

Mean ATS scores in regard to victim type

Victim Type	<i>M (SD)</i>
Young victim	93.3 (25.02)
Same age victim	91.3 (23.65)

Note. M = mean; SD = Standard Deviation

Table 2 shows average ATS scores by gender, there were 128 females that took part in the study and 42 males. Independent t-test showed that there was no significance difference between the mean ATS scores, $t(168) = .443$, $p = .658$. Levene's test of equality of variance showed that there was not a difference in variance between the groups, $p = .532$. Cohen's d gives us that there is a small effect size ($d = .078$).

Table 2

Mean ATS scores by gender.

Gender	<i>M (SD)</i>
Female	93 (23.65)
Male	91.1 (26.1)

Note. M = mean; SD = Standard Deviation

In total 103 participants either had been sexually abused them selves or knew someone that had been sexually abused. An independent t-test was conducted to test if there was any difference between the means of ATS scores of the two groups. As seen in table 3 there is no significance difference between the mean ATS scores, $t(168) = .036$, $p = .971$. Levene's test of equality of variance showed that there was no difference in variance between the groups, $p = .579$. The effect size was low according to Cohen's d ($d = .004$).

Table 3

Mean ATS scores in regard to sexual abuse

	<i>M (SD)</i>
Have been sexually abused or know of someone that has been sexually abused	92.6 (23.53)
Has not been sexually abuse or doesn't know of someone that has been sexually abused	92.5 (25.4)

Note. M = mean; SD = Standard Deviation

There were 78 psychology students that took part in this study, 42 first year students and 25 second year students. There were only 11 third year students therefore they were not included in the analysis. The independent t-test showed that the difference between first and second year psychology students in mean ATS scores was significant, $t(65) = -2.812$, $p =$

.007. As seen in table 4, second year students have more positive attitude towards sex offenders than first year students. Levene's test of equality of variance showed that there is not a difference in variance between the groups, $p = .607$. The effect size was deemed medium to large according to Cohen's d ($d = .707$).

Table 4

Mean ATS scores between first and second year psychology students

Psychology students	<i>M (SD)</i>
First year	86.8 (22)
Second year	102.2 (21.39)

Note. M = mean; SD = Standard Deviation

There were 92 participants from the general public and 78 psychology students, as seen in table 5 the ATS means between those two groups are almost exactly the same. According to the independent t-test there was not a significant difference between those groups, $t(168) = .204$, $p = .838$. Levene's test of equality of variance shows that there is no difference in variance between those two groups, $p = .236$. The effect size was small according to Cohen's d ($d = .044$).

Table 5

Mean ATS scores for psychology students and the general public

	<i>M (SD)</i>
Psychology students	92.2 (22.43)
General public	92.9 (25.75)

Note. M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation

Discussion

The first hypothesis, that attitude towards the offender against the child victim would be more negative was not supported. Neither was the hypothesis that men would regard

offenders that offend against a child in a more negative manner. Ferguson et al. (2006) concluded that age of the victim did not matter in regards to attitude towards sex offenders, however they found that men had a more negative attitude towards sex offenders that offend against a child therefore that part of their result did not come in line with the result of this study.

The second hypothesis, that individuals that have previous history of sexual abuse or know someone that have been sexually abused would have a more positive attitude towards sex offenders was not supported. These results are not in line with previous studies, which showed there was a relationship between knowing someone that had been sexually abused and having a more positive attitude towards sex offenders (Ferguson & Ireland, 2006; Nelson et al., 2002).

The third hypothesis was about the gender differences, but no gender difference was found in attitude towards sex offenders so the hypothesis was not supported. These results are in line with the results from Rogers et al. (2011). However Ferguson et al. (2006) found that women had overall more positive attitude towards sex offenders, the same goes for Higgins & Ireland (2009).

The fourth hypothesis was supported, second year psychology students did in fact have a more positive attitude toward sex offender than first year students. These results are not the same as found in a study made by Valliant, Furac, & Antonowicz (1994). They did not find any difference in attitude for first and third year psychology students.

The fifth and the final hypothesis was not supported, the general public did not have a more negative attitude towards sex offenders than psychology students. Harper (2012) found similar results in his study. However Higgins et al. (2009) did find that forensic staff had a more positive attitude towards sex offenders than the general public.

There are some limitations to the present study, first of all there was no trial run for the questioner that later on revealed that there could have been a better organization for the questions. The background question should have been in the front, then the vignette and final the ATS questions. But in this present study the vignettes were in front of the background questions. Therefore many of the participants disclosed to the researcher that they did not answer the ATS questions with the vignettes in mind, which was the hope of the researcher to gain insight into attitude of sex offender regarding different kind of victim type. As well as for the question, *have you ever been sexually abused or do you know of someone that has been sexually abused?* could perhaps have been to split into two questions. This was intentionally not done for the reason that it would be a sensitive question to answer especially for the psychology students who answered in a classroom setting where there is not much privacy. The researcher can't be sure if the variable, general public is only the general public. The participants that were identified as the general public by the researcher took part in the online survey. There were no background questions in the online study so there could have been some psychology students from other programs in Iceland that took part in the survey, affecting the results.

We could say that the present study is a pilot study even though it was not thought of such at the beginning of the research process. Further research should aim more at the general public's view on sex offenders and perhaps include some personality traits. There should as well be more participants to examine the scale in details, for example an exploratory factor analysis to be sure that the ATS is truly measuring what it is supposed to be measuring. Perhaps future researchers should not look at attitudes in regards to different kind of vignette however look at the attitude as a whole. Or perhaps more vignettes and more detailed but for that to work there is a need for more participants. There should as well be a study for Icelandic psychologist, police officers, correctional officers and individuals that work around

or with people. This should be done to examine the attitude of those that may work closely with sex offenders or their victims.

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Appendix A

Vignette A

Gunnar er 35 ára og vinnur á skrifstofu nálægt heimili sínu í Reykjavík. Hann hefur aldrei verið dæmdur fyrr en núna og er hann í fangelsi fyrir að hafa misnotað unga dóttur vinar síns.

Vignette B

Gunnar er 35 ára og vinnur á skrifstofu nálægt heimili sínu í Reykjavík. Hann hefur aldrei verið dæmdur fyrr en núna og er hann í fangelsi fyrir að hafa nauðgað vinkonu sinni.

Viðhorfsskönnun - kynferðisafbrotamenn

Hér á eftir koma 5 bakgrunnsspurningar og 36 staðhæfingar sem þú ert beðin um að svara miðað við lýsingu á einstaklingi sem hlotið hefur dóm fyrir kynferðisbrot. Til að svara bakgrunnsspurningunum krossar þú við rétt svar eða fyllir inn upplýsingar. Til að svara staðhæfingunum dregur þú hring utan um það númer sem lýsir best þinni skoðun. 1 = mjög ósammála, 2 = ósammála, 3 = frekar ósammála, 4 = frekar sammála, 5 = sammála og 6 = mjög sammála. Það eru engin rétt eða röng svör.

Bakgrunnsspurningar :

Kyn:

KVK: ____

KK: ____

Annað: ____

Aldur: ____

Í hvaða deild stundar þú nám?

Lagadeild: _____

Tölvunarfræðideild: _____

Tækni- og verkfræðideild: _____

Viðskiptadeild: _____

Sálfræðisvið: _____

Á hvaða ári ertu í háskólanámnu þínu?

1.ár: _____

2.ár: _____

3.ár: _____

Hefur þú orðið fyrir kynferðisofbeldi eða þekkir einhvern nákominn þér sem hefur orðið fyrir kynferðisofbeldi

Já: _____

Nei: _____

Viðhorfsskönnun - kynferðisafbrotamenn**ATS – Attitude towards sex offender scale****1. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru frábrugðnir flestum**

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

2. Einungis fáir kynferðisafbrotamenn eru hættulegir.

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

3. Kynferðisafbrotamenn breytast aldrei

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

4. Flestir kynferðisafbrotamenn eru fórnalömb aðstæðna og eiga skilið að fá hjálp

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

5. Kynferðisafbrotamenn hafa tilfinningar rétt eins og við hin

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

6. Það er ekki skynsamlegt að treysta kynferðisafbrotamanni of mikið

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

7. Ég tel að mér myndi líka vel við marga kynferðisafbrotamenn

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

8. Lélegar aðstæður í fangelsum auka aðeins biturð kynferðisafbrotamanna

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

9. Ef þú réttir kynferðisafbrotamanni litla fingur þá tekur hann allan handlegginn

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

10. Flestir kynferðisafbrotamenn eru heimskir

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

11. Kynferðisafbrotamenn þurfa hrós og ástúð eins og hver annar

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

12. Þú ættir ekki að búast við of miklu af kynferðisafbrotamanni

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

13. Betrun kynferðisafbrotamanna er bæði tíma- og peningasóun.

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

14. Þú getur aldrei vitað hvort kynferðisafbrotamaður sé að segja sannleikann

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

15. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru hvorki betri né verri en aðrir

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

16. Þú þarft ávallt að vera á varðbergi í kringum kynferðisafbrotamenn

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

17. Almenn séð þá hugsa og haga allir kynferðisafbrotamenn sér eins

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

18. Ef þú sýnir kynferðisafbrotamanni virðingu þá gerir hann slíkt hið sama

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

19. Kynferðisafbrotamenn hugsa bara um sjálfan sig

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

20. Sumum kynferðisafbrotamönnum myndi ég treysta fyrir lífi mínu

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

21. Kynferðisafbrotamenn hlusta á rök

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

22. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru of latir til þess að vera í heiðarlegri vinnu

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

23. Mér væri alveg sama þó ég myndi búa við hliðina á kynferðisafbrotamanni sem hefur fengið meðferð

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

24. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru vondir í eðli sínu

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

25. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru alltaf að reyna fá eitthvað frá einhverjum

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

26. Gildi flestra kynferðisafbrotamanna eru þau sömu og hjá okkur hinum

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

**27. Ég myndi aldrei vilja að barnið mitt væri í sambandi við endurhæfðan
kynferðisafbrotamann**

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

28. Flestir kynferðisafbrotamenn geta sýnt ást

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

29. Kynferðisafbrotamenn eru siðlausir

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 MJög sammála

30. Kynferðisafbrotamenn ættu að vera undir ströngu eftirliti

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

31. Almennt séð þá eru kynferðisafbrotamenn slæmir einstaklingar

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

32. Flesta kynferðisafbrotamenn er unnt að endurhæfa

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

33. Sumir kynferðisafbrotamenn eru frekar vingjarnlegir einstaklingar

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

34. Ég mundi vilja eiga í samskiptum við suma kynferðisafbrotamenn

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

35. Kynferðisafbrotamenn virða aðeins hörku

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

**36. Kynferðisafbrotamanni gengur vel í fangelsi/spítala þá ætti hann að fá
reynslulausn**

Mjög ósammála 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mjög sammála

Appendix B

Upplýsingar fyrir þátttakendur

Heiti rannsóknar: Viðhorf til kynferðisbrotamanna (Attitudes towards sex offenders)

Þér er boðið að taka þátt í þessari rannsókn. Áður en þú tekur ákvörðun er mikilvægt að þú skiljir afhverju það er verið að framkvæma þessa rannsókn og í hverju hún felst. Þetta *Upplýsingablað þátttakenda* upplýsir þig um tilgang, áhættu og ávinning af rannsókninni. Ef þú ákveður að taka þátt verður þú beðin/n um að skrifa undir upplýst samþykki. Ef það er eitthvað sem er óljóst skaltu snúa þér til rannsóknarmanns til að fá frekari útskýringar. Endilega taktu eins mikinn tíma og þú þarft til þess að lesa þessar upplýsingar. Þú ættir aðeins að samþykkja þátttöku þegar þér finnst þú skilja hvers er ætlast til af þér og þú hefur fengið nægan tíma til þess að hugsa þig um. Takk fyrir að lesa þetta.

Tilgangur rannsóknarinnar

Tilgangur rannsóknarinnar er að skoða viðhorf sálfræðinema til kynferðisafbrotamanna. Allir sálfræðinemar á fyrsta og öðru ári hafa verið beðnir um að taka þátt. Þátttaka felst í að svara spurningalista sem er hannaður til þess að finna út viðhorf til kynferðisafbrotamanna. Spurningalistinn inniheldur 36 spurningar, einnig verða 3 staðhæfingar um þig. Það mun taka u.þ.b. 15 mínútur að svara þessum spurningalista. Könnunin er nafnlaus og verður því ekki hægt að rekja svörin til þín.

Þátttaka

Verð ég að taka þátt?

Það er undir þér komið að ákveða hvort þú tekur þátt eða ekki. Ef þú ákveður að taka þátt

færð þú eintak af upplýsingablaðinu og þú verður beðin/n um að skrifa undir upplýst samþykki. Ef þú ákveður að taka þátt þá er þér samt leyfilegt að hætta við hvenær sem er án þess að gef upp ástæðu.

Hvað felst í því að taka þátt?

Þú verður beðin/n um að skrifa undir upplýst samþykki. Eftir það þá veður þú beðin/n um að svara spurningalista um viðhorf þitt til kynferðisafbrotamanna. Þér er ætlast til að svara spurningalistanum eins heiðarlega og hægt er.

Hvað mun minn þáttur í rannsókninni taka langan tíma?

Þátttaka í rannsókninni mun taka u.þ.b 15 mínútur og það verður ekki haft samband við þig aftur.

Hverjir eru hugsanlegir ávinningar þess að taka þátt?

Það að taka þátt í rannsókninni minni verður metið til einkuna í þínu námi. Einnig styður þú við nýsköpun þekkingar þar sem niðurstöðunum verður miðlað til vísindasamfélagsins.

Hverjir eru hugsanlegir áhættuþættir þess að taka þátt?

Ekki er að sjá að áhætta stafi af því að taka þátt í rannsókninni önnur en hugsanlegt álag við að svara staðhæfingum um kynferðisbrotamenn.

Hvað gerist við lok rannsóknarinnar?

Eftir að rannsókninni hefur verið lokið er þér velkomið að hafa samband við rannsakendur ef einhverjar spurningar vakna upp. Einnig til þess að fá upplýsingar um niðurstöður rannsóknarinnar.

Hvað gerist ef ég skipti um skoðun varðandi þátttöku?

Þér er velkomið að hætta þátttöku hvenær sem er án nokkurrar afleiðinga.

Við hvern hef ég samband til að fá frekari upplýsingar

Ef einhverjar spurningar vakna hvað varðar rannsóknina þá er þér velkomið að hafa samband við mig, rannsakanda, í gegnum netfangið: sarab13@ru.is.

Ef þú hefur einhverjar áhyggjur hvað varðar þessa rannsókn og vilt hafa samband við einhvern í trúnaði þá mátt þú hafa samband við **stjórn sálfræðideildar Háskóla Reykjavíkur**.

Appendix C**Upplýst samþykki**

Númer þátttakenda.: _____

Heiti á rannsókn: Viðhorf til kynferðisbrotamanna (Attitudes towards sex offenders)

Nafn rannsakenda: Sara Björgvinsdóttir

1. Ég samþykki að ég hafi lesið upplýsingablað þátttakenda ☐
um rannsóknina og staðfesti að ég hafi fengið tækifæri til þess að
spyrja spurning.
2. Ég skil þær upplýsingar sem mér voru gefnar og ég fékk nægan ☐
tíma til þess að íhuga upplýsingarnar.
3. Ég skil að þátttaka mín er valfrjáls og að ég geti hætt við hvenær ☐
sem
er án þess að gefa upp ástæðu. Einnig að það hafi engin áhrif á
lagaleg réttindi mín.
4. Ég samþykki að taka þátt í rannsókninni. ☐

Nafn þátttakenda

Dagsetning

Undirskrift

Sara Björgvinsdóttir

Rannsakandi

Dagsetning

Undirskrift

1 afrit fyrir þátttakenda; 1 afrit fyrir rannsakenda