

‘IDEAL VICTIMS’ OF SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE: WHY IS IT ALWAYS FEMALE?

Shafiqul Islam¹

School of Business and Economics, United International University
BANGLADESH

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper, which is based on secondary research involving analyzing a range of journal articles, periodicals, books, reports, government publications, newspaper articles and documentaries, is to critically examine the construction of ‘ideal victim’ presented in the sociocultural rhetoric, academic discourses and criminal justice systems. The paper looks at the role of social stereotypes in establishing female as ‘ideal victim’ and the direction towards their placement at the heart of the justice systems. This includes the interdisciplinary conceptualization on ‘ideal victim’ of sexualized violence and how these conceptualizations are misfits to demystify the actual victims, makes female more potential victims, fails to resist and challenge the perpetrators and finally lead to a default criminal justice systems.

Keywords: Sexualized Violence, Ideal Victim, Perpetrators, Rape, Intimate-Partners-Violence

¹MPhil in Theory and Practice of Human Rights, (University of Oslo, Norway); MSc in Gender Studies (Lund University, Sweden), MSS and BSS (Hons.) in Sociology (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh). Currently, I have been working as a part-time faculty in Sociology at the School of Business and Economics, United International University, Bangladesh. Correspondence: shafiq.bd07@gmail.com