

Malaysians' BELIEFS IN RAPE MYTHS

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83.3%

believe rape happens because men are not able to control their sexual desires.

Sexual desire can be controlled - it is a myth to state otherwise.

Rape is a choice – it does **not** happen “accidentally”, it is a **conscious decision** to violate another person.

When we say that rape happens because someone cannot control their sexual desire, we are letting perpetrators off the hook for their actions.

Rape happens because of how women behave

51% believe rape happens because women do not take care of themselves properly in how they act.

Sex is not transactional and should not be expected automatically. A person's behaviour or attire **does not dictate their sexual willingness.**

Rape happens because of how women dress

49% believe rape happens because women do not take care of themselves properly in how they dress.

These **myths** are based on beliefs that if someone dresses or acts a certain way, they are somehow “**asking for it**” by **leading another person on.**

Importantly, sexual violence is about exerting **dominance** over another individual, **not about sexual desire.**

Victim blaming places the responsibility on the survivor to manage the reactions of others in the way they dress or act – shifting the responsibility of harm from the perpetrator to the survivor. This is a way to justify and rationalise violence on behalf of the perpetrators.

80% believe rape happens because of drugs or alcohol

30% think that if a survivor was raped while she was **drunk or under the influence of drugs**, she is **also responsible** for what has happened.

A person cannot **consent to a sexual act** if they are intoxicated or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol because they are **not clear of mind to make decisions for themselves.**

There are laws in countries such as Australia, France, and the United States which criminalises this.

According to UN Women, consent should be Freely Given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic, and Specific to each act.*

As such, if someone does not know what is happening to them, if they cannot fully agree to what is happening, they cannot be held responsible for the sexual violence that happens to them.