

# Sexual Harassment in Transmen: A Case Study at Khaosan Road, Thailand

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**Abstract :** This is qualitative research with the aim to (1) to define the means and origin of sexual harassment in transmen. (2) to study the life experience and how to solve the sexual harassment when the situation comes and (3) to make a this research grounded theory of sexual harassment in transmen. The key informants are 15 transmen in road area utilized selective sampling method and snow ball sampling method to collect data by in-depth interview, and of record, and review the related literature.

Sexual harassment is the molestation of others with out consent, the origin of sexual harassment is coming from behavior or acting to show to others. In transmen, when they face the harassment situation, they will ignore unsatisfied countenance or reject with impolite words, which depend on the degree of harassment action. The conclusion of theory is (1) whenever the transmen show or act as attention to other, then she will have a chance to get harassed. (2) there are 2 levels of sexual harassment as low action and high action of harassment. The harassing behavior will have different degrees of violence.

**Keywords :** Transmen sexual harassment, Khaosan Roads.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment is the kind of selecting action in gender which spread and become to be the challenge of the nation and the International Labor Office. (Online. 2013) which originates from physical and verbal action which is undesired, and invitation such as touching or asking for sexual intercourse (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Online. 2015) that effects the mind. (Orapin Chuchom et al, 2005: 35)

Nowadays, related studies in sexual harassment mostly highlight the course and effect of the phenomena and often study women only (*Kittikorn Sankatiprapa*, 2550: 1). They're which found the women who got sexual harassed a persons who had a financial dependance on others and the person who live as displaced (International Labor Office. Online. 2013). The empirical evidence of Chonticha Thippatum and Prasobcahi Pasunon (2558: Abstract) found most of the sexual harassment victims are heterosexual (International Labor Office. Online. 2013)

The reason for the phenomena might be from the different status makes Heterosexuals have a position, status and prestige of unequal to the major genders and also the system of differentiation makes the sexual identity to be less humble and lower than others (*Kittikorn Sankatiprapa*, 2550: 2-3). Sexual harassment in transgenders has recently stated that in few people and area. In fact, this challenge should be considered as major studying area and should be defined the concrete solution (Ratchadaporn Sriraksa, Siriporn Panyametheekul, 2014 : 56).

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Thereby, the profound understanding into sexual harassment in transmen might not be measured by Positivism but that base view might be used to explain these phenomena, and to study in an individual level that only highlight the lack of mental health (Kittikorn Sankatiprapa, 2007: 4). This has lack of depth and lack of interpretation into the core of humans.

For these reasons, the researcher would attend to study Sexual harassment in transmen to understand the meaning from their perception as a legal pluralism that needs to be accepted as hegemony as well as to open the social space for these voices by their thinking and point of view which will bring about the understanding regarding sexual harassment in transwomen.

## **2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

What is the meaning of Sexual harassment, and the cause and the experiences including how to solve and face from that from the Transmen in the Kao-sarn Road area.

## **3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To define the meaning and origins of sexual harassment in transmen.
2. To study the life experience and how to solve sexual harassment when the situation comes and
3. To make a Grounded theory of sexual harassment in transmen

## **4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design**

This research is qualitative research that used Grounded theory method with interpretivism by Charmaz (2006 : 107), aimed of finding the meaning, causes, experience, solution and how to face sexual harassment situations for transmen. It uses in-depth interviews to define the explanation of phenomena in sexual harassment in transmen

### **Research Area**

For the content framework, the forms and behavior in kinds of sexual harassment will be divided to into degrees as per Orapin Sopchokchai (1999 : 5), as follows: (1) Verbal harassment (2) Demeanor harassment and (3) Physical harassment.

For the area framework, the researcher studied transmen in the Kao-sarn road area since that is a tourist attraction which has a chance for risk at sexual harassment.

The the timing framework, the researcher collected the data during June 2016

### **Key informants and Theoretical Sampling**

The Researchers selected Key informants and Theoretical Sampling by the relation with research objective, by focus on transmen that were working in the Kao-sarn road area. Because there are tourist attractions, this has a risk and chance of sexual harassment, and the researchers selected purposive sampling was based on logically and reasonably and in accordance with academic practice using Non-Participation Observation and Snow ball sampling (Prasopchai Pasunon, 2012 : 187) with In-depth interviews. Through this filed-operation, the researchers were able to get data from a total of 15 key informants.

### **Research instrument**

The researchers prepared the research questions as Open ended questions, and used a voice recorder, and camera conduct research and also review literature and research related to sexual harassment to support the researchers Theoretical framework.

## Data collection

This research used Non- Participation Observation to avoid making the key informants feel disturbed or interrupted, and has an interview by purposive key informants.

There are 3 steps in collecting data as follows: (1) by reviewing literature and related documents to make conceptual framework and question guidelines. (2) In-depth interview and (3) appearances observation. Before any interview, the interviews are accepted before running the questions to respect the human rights.

## Research Validation and Reliability

The researchers used Triangulation to validate the reliability as per Supang Chantavanich. (2010 : 128 - 130) practiced as follows.

1. Data triangulation to validated the data from different persons by interviewing transmen that have been working in the Kao-sarn road area in Bangkok.
2. Investigator Triangulation to validate data from key-informants which collates with different researchers to find the gap or argument.
3. Methodological Triangulation to validate the different data collection methods by in-depth interview and focus groups.

The researchers made a tentative hypothesis by new data collected to create the new concept until data salutation which means the hypothesis has no challenges from new data, then the researchers would not find another key-informant and go to Theoretical conclusion.

## Manipulate and Data analysis

The researchers select Grounded theory since this method is able to study social phenomena systematically and able to divide to 4 steps as follows:

**Step 1:** Open coding by dividing the total data to be sub-data then grouping the similar meanings to define the code for next processes.

**Step 2:** Create concept by using all sub-data which defines the code to grouping as sub-data interrelation.

**Step 3:** Categorize the data, namely using all grouped data which has the same meaning and is useful to be able to answer the research question and to a base to find the model in the study area.

**Step 4:** Connect the Category got from finding the theoretical conclusion.

## 5. FINDING

### The meaning of Sexual harassment in Transmen

Sexual harassment in Transmen means an action or appearance in molestation without consents which is divided into forms.

1. Mental harassment such as staring to be ashamed but has less effect to them.
2. Physical harassment by any improper action with unacceptable risk or danger to their life such as molestation, touch or rape.

### The originate of sexual harassment in transmen

1. Unintentional, namely some transmen are friendly to others and prefer to show-off, therefore there are the risks to get harassed.
2. From Cynical by social, this is caused from judgement that Transmen are people who have a sexual dysfunction, different from others.

## **Sexual harassment experiences in Transmen**

Transmen pass the truths by desiring to be a man under the women's body in oppressive social structure. The Sexual harassment experiences can be divided into 2 degrees as follows.

1. Low degree, or mental harassment such as staring at the body to make ashamed.
2. High degree, or Physical harassment such as molestation, touch or rape.

### **How Transmen solve or face the harassment situation**

1. For the low harassment degree, Transmen would not have an aggressive retort because they will not make it better and they will solve the harassment attack by compromising such as ignoring or evading.
2. In the case of high harassment degree, they will express the countenance maybe use force against the culprit if necessary to abolish the harassment.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

### **Theoretical conclusion**

1. Whenever Transmen have interesting behavior to others then they will get a chance to face sexual harassment, which is divided into 2 types (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment.
2. The Sexual harassment can be divided into 2 degrees Low degree is Mental harassment and high level is Physical harassment.
3. Whenever Transmen face sexual harassment in low degree, then they would not have an aggressive response and they will solve the harassment by compromising such as ignoring or evading.
4. Whenever Transmen face the high degree of harassment, then they will express the countenance maybe using force against the culprit to abolish the harassment.

### **Research conclusion**

1. Sexual harassment's meaning is any molestation or behavior without consent which originates by 1) self-performing and social insulting.
2. From sexual harassment experiences in Transmen we are able to divide into 2 levels: (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment. For low degree, they would solve the harassment attack by compromising such as ignoring or evading and for high degree of harassment, they would express the countenance and maybe using force against the culprit to abolish the harassment.
3. Theoretical conclusion of Sexual harassment in Transmen
  - Whenever the Transmen have interesting behavior to others then they will have a chance of facing sexual harassment, which is divided into 2 types: (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment.
  - Sexual harassment can be divided into 2 degrees: (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment.
  - Whenever Transmen face sexual harassment in low degree, then they would not have an aggressive response retort and they will solve the harassment by compromising such as ignoring or evading.
  - Whenever Transmen face the high degree of harassment, then they will express the countenance and maybe using force against the culprit to abolish the harassment.

## **7. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

1. The sexual harassment can be divided into 2 types: (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment, which relates to the research of *Orapin Sopchokchai* (1999) Staring or touching are

kinds of harassment. This might be by self-performing such as they have friendly and open mind and relation that might be caused to get chance to harassment.

2. The sexual harassment experiences in Transmen can be divided to 2 levels as low degree Mental harassment and high degree Physical harassment. In the case of low degree they will ignore and accept the harassment attack as ordinary happening but for high degree of harassment, they would express the countenance and maybe use force against the culprit to abolish the harassment. The caused for this counter action might be from Transmen, they have high masculinity and wish to express this identity to other.
3. Theoretical conclusion of Sexual harassment in transmen has a relation to conceptual framework of Orapin Sopchokchai (1999):
  - Whenever Transmen have interesting behavior to others then they will have a chance to face sexual harassment which is divide into 2 types: (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment. The caused for this action might be the reason they have high of masculinity and wish to express this identity.
  - Sexual harassment can be divided in to 2 degrees (1) Mental harassment and (2) Physical harassment. The cause of these might be because of the habitude and held as normal action but if high level, they would consider that attack as the personal violation.
  - Whenever Transmen face sexual harassment in low degree, then they would not have aggressive retort and they will solve the harassment attack by compromising action such as ignoring or evading which is related to Panida Ninaroon (2016), into stated the Transmen would have realize to their mind and aware in their body and would select the solution to solve the trouble situation to fit with the role even though they might have a feeling the harassment action, the realization would overcome to the harassment climate or attack.
  - Whenever Transmen face a high degree of harassment, then they will express the countenance and maybe use force against the culprit to abolish the harassment, the reason being they have high degree of masculinity and they wish to express this identity to stop the harassment.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

### **Research recommendation**

1. Should consider the research finding to solve the sexual harassment problem as concrete object in the capital of Bangkok to provide more social security in life in tourist attraction area to Transmen
2. Should provide the mental development program to Transmen to be aware of the limit of friendly or disposition would be the cause of damage or disadvantage to them.

### **Future research recommendation**

1. Should use this Grounded theory to study form in other content and also finding the meaning of sexual harassment from different key informant.
2. Recommend to use another research method such as Focus group to study and conceptualize the alternative solving from sexual harassment.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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