

# Acquaintance rape most common in M'sia

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Rape by an acquaintance is the most common form of rape occurring in Malaysia, according to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Professor Madya Dr Balan Rathakrishnan from the Psychology and Social Work School.

In his paper on the management of psychosocial aspect of rape victims, Balan said this form of rape involves rapist who is known by the victim.

He said studies carried out have found that this form of rape is the most common type of rapes that occur in the country.

Categorised under acquaintance rape is date rape, which means the rapist has gone out once or several times with the victim before the rape occurred.

"Most rapes in this category occur because the victim has built a blind trust towards the rapist without really knowing their true virtue," he said.

Other form of rapes are genuine rape, which refers to as sexual abuse by a person unknown to the victim; marital rape which are sex



Balan

crimes that occur between spouses; statutory rape which is consensual sex with a minor; group rapes and drug induced rapes.

Balan said that in Malaysia, marital rape is not considered as an offence in the country's legal system.

On the issue of psychology counselors in Sabah, he stressed that there was a lack of them.

"Specialist counselors are lacking in Sabah. Even at UMS, we only provide clinical counselling," he said.

Balan stressed on the role of parents in their children's upbringing.

"The role of family - the parents, the siblings are very important in guiding a child on the path he or she should go," he said.

He said it is normal for children to want to hide some of the activities they have conducted and cited that this was part of their defence mechanism.

He said that when he was young, right up to when he was 17 years old, his father had ensured he never missed a day of tuition after school.

"He would ensure I was home on time so he could drive me to my tuition. Because of his strict way, I was nervous if I did not make it home before a certain time.

"This kind of values will impact on the child and he or she won't go wrong. Unfortunately, some parents do not bother, and as a result, the child is not scared because he or she will not be disciplined."