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Study explores dangers of 'benevolent sexism'

Submitted by [Jamie Williamson](#) on [Fri, 01/21/2011 - 10:39](#) [Washington](#)

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Washington, Jan 21 : A new study by the University of Granada reveals that men who perpetrates violence against women are off the hook if he is kind to his women. This phenomenon termed as 'benevolent sexism'.

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The study explored the negative effects of benevolent sexism, a term used for "positive" ideas and attitudes of men towards women, which are based on the idea that men must take care of and sacrifice themselves for women.

Six [studies](#) were conducted, where more than 700 students aged between 18 and 25 from six different Faculties participated. One of such studies was [carried](#) out in collaboration with the University of Kent (United Kingdom).

The results obtained from this study "could be applied for designing and enhancing prevention programs in sexual harassment [prevention](#) mainly for men –with the purpose of reducing harassment rates–, but also for women, to help them become aware of [the reality](#) and help them in [identifying](#) what factors could weaken their assertive reactions".

Mercedes Duran Segura, the author, "the study remarks the negative impact that sexist attitudes of men towards their couples have on our Society.

However, such protection and affection "are not [innocent](#), since men with benevolent attitudes consider women as inferior to men, and that is the reason why they believe that women need their protection and care".

The results were published in a special issue of the most important journal in the field of Gender Roles. (ANI)