

AN EXAMINATION OF IMPACT OF RAPE ON THE VICTIM AND THE SOCIO-DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

Alao, Oluwafemi Joseph

Department Of Religious Studies, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Rape is severely under-reported in many parts of the world, rape is rarely reported, due to the extreme social stigma, cast on those who have been raped or the fear of being disowned by their families, or subjected to violence. Furthermore, in countries where adultery or premarital sex are illegal, victims of rape can face prosecution under these laws, where there is no sufficient evidence to prove a rape in the court. Even if they can prove their rape case, evidences during investigation may surface showing that they were not virgins as at the time of the rape. United Nations statistics on incidences of rape compiled from government sources showed that more than 250,000 cases of rape or attempted rape were recorded by the police annually. The reported data covered 65 countries, Nigeria inclusive. The paper thus attempts to examine the prevalence of rape and its implication on the socio economic development of Nigeria. This paper aims to recommend awareness through campaign e.g. media, fliers, also the school's curriculum should fix in a subject that will address its prevalence, non-governmental organization should advocate and sensitize the community among others.

Keyword: *Rape, Implication of rape, victims of rape, socio economic development*

Introduction

Rape in the society can be clearly seen as a crime not only to the victims but the entire society. It traumatized and overwhelmed the victim with great psychological pains and other likely venereal infections like STD. This could lead to fear, panic, nightmares on the victims. The consequence is complex in that the society is prior to economic development and social wellbeing will be demoralized. For clarity, rape is seen as a common phenomenon against the female gender, as they are the most vulnerable. It should be noted here without any reservation that rape is an assault and a criminal offence because if not properly counselled such a victim might be mentally and psychological down.

The aims and objectives of this research work is to consider some common causes and the prevalence on the society. It would also examine the impact of rape on the victim. This would consequently assist in advancing some modest panacea in checking the crime. In addition, the paper would examine the role of the law in combating rape in Nigeria. And on a last move it would be expected that government, non-governmental organization and religious institution should rise in combating this amoral behavior.

Conceptual Clarification

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration, perpetrated against a person without that person's consent. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of giving valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, has an intellectual disability or below the legal age of consent. The term rape is sometimes used interchangeably with the term sexual assault. (wikipedia, 2016)

The term rape originates from the Latin word "rapere" (supine stem raptum), "to snatch, grab, carry off". Since the 14th century, the term has come to mean "to seize and take away by force". Health organizations and agencies have also expanded rape beyond traditional definitions. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines rape as a form of sexual assault, while the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDCP) include rape in their definition of sexual assault; they see rape, as a form of sexual violence. (G. & et al., 2002)

Rape is categorized as follow

- A.** Date rape: this type of rape refers to a rape in which there has been some sort of romantic or potentially sexual relationship between the two parties.
- B.** Gang rape: it occurs when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim.
- C.** Marital rape: this is a non-consensual sex in which the perpetrator is the victim's spouse, it can also be referred to as domestic violence on a partner.

- D.** Incestual rape: this is a sexual activity between the same family members or close relatives.
- E.** Child rape / abuse: this is a sexual activity in which an adult use a child for sexual stimulation.
- F.** Prison rape: it refers to rape occurring in prison, it has come into common usage to refer to rape of an inmate by other inmates.
- G.** Acquaintance rape: is a rape that is perpetrated by a person who is known to the victim.
- H.** War rape: this is a form of rape or sexual violence committed by combatants during armed conflict or war military occupation often as spoils of war.
- I.** Statutory rape: is a sexual activity in which one of the individuals is below the age required to legally consent to the behavior, although it usually refers to adults engaging in sex with minors under the age of consent. (Neumann, 2007)

Factor's Responsible for Rape

1. Drug / Alcohol Addiction

Drug facilitated sexual assault also known as predator rape, is sexual assault carried out after the victim has become incapacitated, due to having consumed alcoholic beverages or other drugs. Alcohol has been shown to play a disinhibiting role in certain types of sexual assault, as have some other drugs, notable cocaine. (Barbaree, H.E.; Marshall, W.L.; Lanthier, R.D., 1979)

2. Psychological factors

It must be stated here that, research has shown that some of the rapists are not aware of the psychological havoc or trauma they have inflicted on their victims, some are not even knowledgeable about the impact of rape on victims. (Higdon, 2008)

3. Peer and family factors

There are some evidences that suggest that sexual violence is also a learnt behavior in some adults, particularly as regards child sexual abuse. Studies on sexually abused boys have shown that, about one in five of these boys continue in later life to molest children themselves. Such experience may lead to a pattern of behavior where the man regularly justify being violent, denies doing wrong, and has false and unhealthy notion about sexuality.

4. Family honor

Sometimes family reaction toward sexual violence makes things worse than the way it is meant, some family blame women without punishing the men, concentrating instead on restoring lost family honor, such a response creates an environment in which rape can occur with impunity. While families will often try to protect their women from rape and may also put their daughter on contraception to prevent visible sign should it occur, there is rarely much social pressure to control young men or persuade them, that coercive sex is wrong!

5. Societal factors

National policies relating to gender equality in general and to sexual violence more specifically, as well as norms relating to the use of violence, while the various factors operate largely at local level, within families, schools, workplaces and communities, there are also influences from the laws and norms working at national and even international level.

6. Poverty

Poverty may be linked to both the perpetration of sexual violence and the risk of being a victim of it. Several authors have argued that the relationship between poverty and perpetration of sexual violence is mediated through forms of crisis of masculine identity. Some other factors include pornography, indecent dressing and gang members who may likely advice their friend to commit the act of sexual assault on someone proving difficult.

Prevalence of Rape

Amnesty International and the Nigerian Police force are reported to have recorded acts of rape and other sexual abuse against women, in public facilities, or while women were transferred to police stations, or while women visited male detainees in police custody; and sometimes police use sexual violence in order to extract confessional statements and other information from their victim.. A study conducted on students of the Polytechnic, Ibadan shows that in their lifetimes 1.7% (2.5% of males and 1.1% of females) had raped other individuals and 2.7% (5.3% of males and 0.9% of females) had attempted rape. Out of a sample of 295 female students from Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki in Southeast Nigeria, 36.7% had experienced sexual harassment/victimization at least once on campus. Of this, 32.4% had been raped (10.8% of the sample). A study comparing the sexual practises of 12 to 19 year old students with and without mild / moderate intellectual disabilities from schools across Oyo State, Nigeria found that 68.3% of the sexually experienced intellectually disabled females reported a history of rape victimization compared to 2.9% of the sexually experienced non-disabled females. (Harrendorf, Haskenan, Malby, Stefan, Marku, Steven, 2016)

A study analyzing the hospital records of 76 sexual assaulted victims in Ile-Ife from 2007-2011 found out that, the majority (76.1%) of the victims that sought help at a hospital did so within 24 hours of their sexual assault, but forensic evidence was not gathered because rape kits is yet to be introduced in the country. (Adepegba, 2016) In a 2013 poll of 585 randomly selected adults from six Nigerian geopolitical zones by NOI Polls, 34% answered 'What do you think is the most prevalent cause of rape in the society?' with 'indecent dressing'. 29% said they personally knew a victim of rape. Also the Lagos state police command has arrested a man Ike Iwuanyanwu (punch, 2016) for allegedly raping and impregnating his 15years old daughter at Ajao Estate, in Isolo area of Lagos State. Furthermore, the court in Edo state has sentenced a man to 14 years' imprisonment for raping his 17years old daughter for alleged money ritual. So it is never a gain saying that rape has turned to a cankerworm in the fabric of our nation.

The Implication of Rape on the Victim and the Society

Whatever happens to any victim of rape will surely affects the society in that a single person means a lot to the family and the society at large, sexual violence can have psychological, emotional and physical effects on a victim? These effects aren't always easy to deal with, but with the right help and support they can be managed. The focus of this section of the write-up is to look into the side effect of rape to the victim and the society at large.

1. Flash backs

Most of the victim of rape are always with psychological defect, when it is normal for human being to reflect on things been done in the past, so there is tendency for any victim of rape to flash back, which might render the victim redundant if not properly advised.

2. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The victim feels depress psychologically once he/she remembers the occurrence. He/she will feel perplexed to the extent that the thinking and thought of such a victim will be negativity if not properly handled and advised. (Kehinde, Austin, & Taiwo, 2014, p. 124).

3. Self-Harm

The negativity in the mind, soul and heart of the victim will automatically graduate from flashing back, post- traumatic stress disorder to self-harm due to the fact that their mind refuse to see the positivity in themselves and this might lead the victim to self-harm, this may lead to suicide.

4. Sexually Transmitted Infection

The Victims are prone to sexually transmitted diseases which might threaten the existence of such a victim, in that numerous diseases are transmitted through sex, examples include chronic pelvic pain, urinary infection, and HIV/AIDS (Kehinde Obasola, Austin Omonia, Taiwo Omonia, 2014).

5. Dissociation

Some of the problems associated with sexual assault has to do with the rapist and the victim living closer to each other within the same community, so the person in question might be going around molesting the victim, most especially gang rapist could go around bragging about their evil acts thereby bringing more ridicule on their victim.

6. Pregnancy

It should be noted here that any pregnancy that comes from rape is likely to affects the society if not properly handled, such a baby might face humiliation from the mother and those who surround such a victim.

Conclusion

It should be noted here without any reserve that the solution to the myriad of rape in our society call for quick action, the issues behind some kind of illicit dressing among the women should be eradicated, government and N.G.O should help community policing so as to bring an atmosphere of peace in our society, also individual should be self-conscious and be vigilant, by so doing Nigeria will be a citadel of peace.

Recommendation

1. Awareness Campaign e.g. media, fliers
2. The school's curriculum should fix in a subject that will address and bring about self-consciousness.
3. Vocational training for secondary school leavers.
4. Non-governmental organization should advocate and sensitize the community with different methods available.
5. Law enforcement should make sure that any individual that find him or herself infringing the right of a victims such a person will definitely face the rhythm.

6. Every parent has a role to play in child/ren upbringing, we should not easily forget that charity begins from home.

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