Rape: A Reoccurring Sexual Disorder in Contemporary Nigerian Society

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Abstract

Rape culture is becoming one of the celebrated sexual assaults wrecking Nigeria and the world at large. The menace is sexual disorder which has left scourges of damages and sufferings on victims and society. The methodologies adopted in this paper are prescriptive, descriptive and analytic. Data were collected from renowned books, journals, magazines, unpublished lecture note, seminar papers and internet sources respectively. The paper discovered causes of rape to include uncontrolled lust, ritual demands for power and wealth, indecent dressing of the female folk which usually spur sexual appetite in hot blooded youths or adults to engage in rape saga. Poor parental training, indiscriminate use of the mass media especially watching and reading of pornographic films on Televisions, internet, phones, satellites, newspapers and Hint Magazines are responsible for the rise in rape cases. There are also influences coming from peer group pressure, demons as well as natural inclination to wickedness. Some of the dreadful consequences of rape as observed by the paper include contacting of sexual transmitted disease like syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV/AIDS, having unwanted pregnancies which prompts the use of abortive pills to dispose the pregnancy,there is loss of womb. Some

victims of rape also suffered from *Vaginal Vascular Fistula* (V.V.F) complications. Also, dignity of human sexuality is been abused on daily basis, and rape victims become traumatized and loss respect in the eyes of their fellow women. The paper recommends the need for men and women to guard themselves against the ravishing impacts of rape. Victims of rape should also be taken to experts to be treated or rehabilitated. Rapists should also be punished severely so as to serve as deterrent for other intending perpetrators. Parents, religious leaders should insist by instilling good character formation of their wards and members especially on the need to eschew indecent dressing, rape and watching of erotic films and movies. Government and Institutions of learning should also stipulate high disciplinary measures on defaulters of dress code so as to safeguard the dignity of human sexuality from being abused by rapists.

Key words: Rape, sexual, Disorder Society, Nigeria, Contemporary and Devastating

Introduction

A virtuous society is one whose cardinal values give true identity of its moral principles, where common aspiration to live harmoniously for the stability of such society is ensured through enactment of moral laws. Sexuality of the human person in contemporary time has lost its real dignity, meaning and value due to moral abuses. Hence, rape has become one of the world' accelerating sexual violences that is busy leaving its scourges among victims to regrets. However, the rising gravity of rape cases among youths and adults, adults and teenagers and even the aged is worrisome in Nigerian today. Morality that was highly cherished in the African past is been given way to promotion of immorality, which is really eye soaring and ear soaring, and the sexuality of the human person in the society is endangered. Rape, which was so strange and hardly could anyone hear of such cases in the African past is today been promoted and is on the rise ravishing the dignity of the human sexuality. Thus, this is not to say that in the African past rape was not carried out, it was highly controlled, and offenders were stiffly punished and people even feared engaging in such act because it was considered an abomination to African culture . It has been by report similarly by Adeniyi that "a survey found out that 54% of women reported are experiencing completed or attempted rape during their life time" (198). Thence, this is indeed regretting because, true meaning of human sexuality is been lost, or at least is not fully been protected due to negligent and laxity on the parts of government, traditional rulers and individuals (Finn and Finn 28).

There can be no accurate percentage on the number of people raped in the world, talk more of narrowing it to our Nigerian society. However, it is worth saying that there is a continual rise in number of rape cases across the world which is a nagging phenomenon today. Rape experience and predicament are so disheartening because victims, parents and society are

left to battle with the raging scourge of the menace as a global pandemic ravishing sacredness of human sexuality in contemporary time. Thence, raped victims are numerous and the gravity of the menace cannot be ascertained because of the continuous rise in such cases.Hence, rape cannot be blamed on the perpetrators alone, the female gender are also a contributing factor for its continual perpetration due to some sexually erotic appealing dresses worn by them. It is interesting to say that, some ladies dressed in erotic appealing dresses thereby exposing their cleavages, buttocks and sacred genitals which contribute in igniting rise in sexual urges of most rapists. Ladies have much portion of blame to share by contributing in the menace too. We can emphatically say without mincing words that both sexes have portion of blames on the rising culture of rape in the society today. The culture of rape is a daily routine been carried out by perpetrators. It is no more news to hear reoccurring cases of between adults and minor, adults and teenagers, youths and under aged. The paper shall take into consideration by examining the history of rape as a sexual disorder,types of rape and samples of rape cases in Nigeria. The paper shall also discuss causes and consequences of rape, then give some recommendations.

Elucidation of Key words:

Rape: The term rape originated from the Latin *rapere,* from *raptus,* translated as " to snatch, to grab, to carry off" Adeniyi asserts that " rape is when someone forces another person to have intercourse or other sexual relations by using violence or threats"(199). In a lay man' understanding, rape men's having secret knowledge of a woman' private part without her permission. Adeniyi further puts that "rape in a legal definition is forcing another, without this person' consent and using violence or threatening violence to have intercourse or other forms of sexual activity" (199). In another succinct definition, "rape is having the carnal knowledge of a woman forcibly and against her will. At common law, rape means having carnal knowledge of a female child under the ages of ten without her consent" (Fairchild 247-248).

Sexual: Connected with the physical activity of sex (Hornby 8th edition 1353).
Disorder: An illness or medical condition (*Macmillan School Dictionary* 213).
Devastating: causing a lot of damage and destructions (Hornby 8th edition 400).

History of Rape: Asexual Disorder

Rape belongs to the list of devastating sexual assaults been perpetrated around the globe. However, the history of rape is without accuracy due diversity in cultures and individuals where it occurs in an unprecedented manner. Thus, diversity of cultures among mankind x-rayed vividly that rape is been carried out even in the ancient time but not as celebrated as a global pandemic today. Hence, rape culture and its history is undetermined because

there is no certitude on the exact emergence and those who started rape culture among cultures of the world. Furthermore, there are a lot of complexities with regard to other forms of sexual assaults being perpetrated in diverse manners by agents and in different places. Thus, the impact of rape is felt by all societies of the world because it is a world pandemic sexual disorder that has engulfed those who applaud its prestige for various reasons in the society, which is morally bad.

According to *Wikipedia. Org.> wiki* "the purpose of committing a sex crime emerged as legal distinction in the late Roman Republic. The *Lex Julia de vi publica,* recorded in the early 3rd Century CE but dating probably from dictatorship of Julius Caesar, who defined rape as forced sex against" boy, woman, or any one". However, history of rape is as ancient as the people who practice it. It was carried out in traditional societies though in low tone, because it was considered an abomination by African cultures. But its prevalent is linked to the west where it gained more ground before resurfacing in high gravity into African societies. Rape is an ancient sexual disorder that its existence is as old as the practitioners. It also belonged to the list of sexual assaults whose prolong history is as old as its existence till day.

In ascertaining the origin of rape is not an easy task. Thus, rape has come to lime light as a grievous offence, and in many cases, sanctions were meted rapists with heavy fines (Molema 45). One could also assert that rape is as old as people who practice it. Even though in traditional past, rape was carried out with utmost fear because of the fear of moral sanction by custodians. Regrettably today, the menace is a worldly devastating and celebrated phenomenon which the world is battling with its dreadful scourges. In the past, rape culture was not given much recognition as in the West, where reported cases of it have come to lime light and is today been perpetrated on daily routine. It is worth gain saying also that, throughout history, rape was viewed as a crime because women were considered as inferior to their male counterparts. Thus, they were subjected to be under the control of the superior power(men) (Ogbaki et al10). Hence with such an assertion above, there is rise in the culture of sexual violence often been carried out against the female folk, who are mostly victims of its scourges today.

Types of Rape

There are various types of rape existing in the globe today, but for the sake of this paper, only selected ones are going to be explained here:

1. **Gang Rape**: Gang rape is normally carried out by a criminal group during private events like parties; birthdays, marriage and related feasts. It is in like manner that Adeniyi asserts that "gang rapes may be preplanned to varied degrees, but some

planning always takes place. It could also occur during war as calculated strategy" (203) or during the night, when the gangs will planned and rape a lady or a woman due to sexual feelings been instigated by marijuana and other intoxicants or alcoholic substances. In Hausa, rape is known as *fyade* and it is also nicknamed *giwa ta fadi* (a female elephant has fallen) which randy youths take advantage and rape the said lady be it married or single at specific time and place, thereby leaving its consequences on victims and the society to battle with.

2. **Marital Rape**: this is the type of rape that is very controversial. It could mean spousal rape or domestic rape. Thus, the husband forces the wife even if she says no to sex, he forces her despite strong resistance or protest. Hence, many married men and even women are been raped sometimes due to influences of alcoholic and other related intoxicated substances when taken.
3. **Ritual Rape**: This is the type of rape been carried out by ritualists on demand that they must sleep with an under aged, mad people or innocent girl normally a minor or an adult based on the strong desire to acquire quick money, firm and power. Children at the ages of 3-10 or 11-14 are victims of such ritual rape cases in our society today.
4. **Acquaintance Rape**: This type of rape often takes place among people who are friends, and it emerge due to social activities like partying, where alcohols and other intoxicants are consumed, and the people concerned raped each other due to been tipsy with those substances(202). In most circumstances and places, the prevalence and availability of the locally brewed wine and other liquor instigate rise of the menace to be perpetrated in high degree.

Samples of Rape Cases in Nigeria

In African traditional past, cases of rape were not as advanced and promoted or even heard as today. Thus, the menace was highly nipped in the bud unlike its unprecedented rise today, which is been carried out as a daily routine by perpetrators. However,the current state of Nigeria' respect for human sexuality is dwindling to the dust due to high proliferation of rape cases. Hence, there is need for this paper to sample some selected incidents of related re-occurring rape cases as sexual disorder bedeviling the Nigerian society today. The most recent *PremiumTimesNG* reports on 5th August, 2020 that 799 suspects were arrested by the Nigeria police over rape cases. *BBC News Pidgin* also reports that "Muhammed Zulfara'u confessed that he raped 40 women including 80 year old within a year in Kwanar Dangora in Kano State, North Eastern Nigeria".

In another sad development also, the Nigerian Police in a report says that, she has recorded 717 cases between January and May. The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mumhammed

Adamu, says that there are 799 so far of rapists who had been arrested while 631 cases been conclusively invested and charged to courts (*Premium Time* 15th June, 2020). The same paper also reports that, rape cases increases as a sad story how a 12 year old girl was raped by a gang .According to Adejuma reports "a 12 year old girl in Ajas in Lagos was raped by four masked men in her home one Thursday on 6th June, 2020(*Premium Time*). On a similar sad note also, on 28th July, 2020, a 20 year old woman named Chioma Dioke narrated how she was kidnaped and sexually assaulted by kidnappers in Ezzagu in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State (lindaikejiblog.com). *Premium Times* NG.Com reports also that "a 59year old man from Unguwar Mahauta Gani village in Kano raped a 7 year old girl on 16/7/2020. *Nigerian news* on 30th/7/2020 also reports how an Inspector in the Nigeria Police raped a 23 year old lady at Saakpenwa checkpoint in Tai Local Government Area of Rivers State for not wearing face mask against the threat of the Covid 19 pandemic. One Lady Victoria Okacha also in her 20' from Ubu Uku, Aniocha South Local Government of Delta State narrated how she was raped by herders and offered blood as drinking water.

In another sad report, *Daily Post Nigeria* of 19th August, 2020 reports how police arrests rapist of 11 year old girl after C.C.T.V evidence emerged. Another development is the triggered report of May and June, 2020, were Barakat Bello was raped and killed in her home; Vera Uwa Omozuwa was also killed in her church in Benin and a 12 year old girl was also raped in Jigawa, Northern Nigeria(Adetomiwa 2020). Furthermore, in October 6th, 2020 two Special Anti-Robbery Squad Policemen (SARS) raped Chieturo Precious Chidima and extorted money from her (*NaijaExpress.Com*). Another report by *Guardian*, 6th October, 2020 has it that, "a team of police officers arrested a teacher friend accused of raping a teenager in Osun State".

According to Adebayo "Lagos State Police record 39 suspects in connection with 32 rape cases in June 11, 2020".From these instances of rape , it clearly showed that rape is been perpetrated at varying degrees by perpetrators despite fight on the menace. This write up cannot provide detail and accurate cases of rape due to its continues re-occurring in diverse scope of the society. Thus, re-occurring cases of rape as a sexual disorder in the society today is a daily phenomenon that is on the increase among men of questionable character, which is a menace in the society today.

Causes of Rape

Amidst re-occurring culture of rape cases as a sexual disorder on victims and society, there are so many resultant causes of the menace as shall be examined below:

1. **Indecent dressing**: Women are poetically scientific in choosing their wears which are determined by whom they want to meet; where they want to go and what they want to do. Hence, aesthetic belongs to the women because they spent a lot of time and money on themselves to be attractive. Thus, indecent dressing ignite passion in rapists which is responsible for the continual reports in our tertiary institutions and even in social gatherings today.

Tsavwua succinctly asserts on dress code thus:
Some of the dresses worn by these women at public functions, exposes the private parts and at the same time distract onlookers. These dresses arouse the curiosity of the on lookers especially the opposite with high passion to have sex with those kind of ladies (1).

Indecent dressing by ladies who called themselves 'swagger babes' in more specific term is an attitude of showcasing their beauty and boasting of having attractive cleavages, buttocks, laps or hips, pubic hairs for admirers to succumb. Once these rapists see such attractive and protruded sacred images in those erotic wears of these ladies, these randy youths think of next line of action, which is to rape these girls who exposed some of their sacred organs obviously in deliberate act to look sensually tantalizing and stimulating so as to draw the attention of the opposite sex . Hence, this act is more prevalent among single ladies today(Ogueche et al 167). In indecent dressing is becoming fashionable ,competitive and is responsible for the rise in rape cases today in our society.

2. **Youth Factor**

Youth factors is also responsible for the rise in rape among youths today. Thus, inherent sexual instincts in these youths aid to inflict pains, punishment and even death on others, which has lead some of these youths to engage in related crimes like rape and drug trafficking (Shishima36). Furthermore, sexual intercourse especially rape is as a result of uncontrollable passion (Finn and Finn 28). Lust in some of these youths is alarming today as it is been instigated by variant factors. Thus, Tsavwua asserts that "some of these youths do lost control as they see these ladies dressed in sexually appealing dresses" (7).

3. **Peer Group influence**

Peer group is made up of members who are about the same age status. The peer group is concerned about its own immediate concerns (Shishima and Apenda38). They constitute one of the fastest groups where influences of all sorts are on the increase among members. Interesting to say also that, in such groups, influence from members are been hailed when members even engaged in an immoral act, who feel as being on top or are the most feared and powerful in terms of display of randy characteristics. Hence, youths occupy a significant place as well as the adults in society because, by natural design, they fill the vacuums created by the adult generation when need the latter outlive their age (Aliba 38).

Normally, youths who fall within this group, must conform to act of the group in order to maintain full pledge loyalty, support in order to enjoy the benefits that are obtainable.Every member of the peer group is expected to think and behave in a particular way (38-39).

In most rape cases been recorded today, youths are mostly having high number of as perpetrators. Thus, in most peer groups, criminal activities like rape and armed banditry, child trafficking, kidnapping and drug and substance abuse are learnt and perpetrated by fellow youths due to influences coming from peer group. Thus, peer group pressure is a reckoned factor that gravitate friends together and most times for evil or negative tendencies to be portrayed (Ogueche et al 171). In another perspective, peer group has strong influence on the execution of criminal tendencies by these youths in the present and later life, because such vices are taught to the younger generations as a legacy to be continued later in life.

4. **Demonic influences**: Rape is a sexual disorder that is becoming a global pandemic. However, demonic influences in some people often instigate them to carry out rape on any person where the spirit leads them to. It is interested to note also that, the demon is a strong agent of moral destabilization. Hence, demons stimulate or become provocative among these youths and even adults, who raped either a matured adult or a minor, leaving scourge of the stigma on the victims, family and society to battle with.

5. **Natural wickedness**: This is another factor that is responsible for promoting rape culture in our society. Hence, inclination to be wicked in carrying out rape is inherent in some people, which is indeed very bad. Thus, people are indeed unpredictable because of the wicked nature in them, which prompts them to engage in rape culture. However, natural wickedness in some people has instigated them to carry out rape even on people who needed special care.

Consequences of Rape in Contemporary Nigerian Society

Rape as a sexual disorder is becoming a global and worrisome pandemic, whose numerous consequences in contemporary Nigerian society are lamentable as would be examined here:

20. Moral character of the society is been rubbished due to rising cases of rapes either coming from randy perpetrators due to lust, or ritual demands for firm, power and wealth. Thus, such scenario in Nigeria is dreadful which are indeed melancholic , where standard of morality is being abused and weakened by frequent rape cases on daily basis. Finn and Finn maintained similarly also that "moral integrity has been lost, or at least been degenerated to be a daily routine that the country has to battle with, which is an enormous fight awaiting the country and all those who reside within her" (28).

21. Most of rape victims have been traumatized and develop post-traumatic stress disorder. Hence, serious injuries have resulted along with high risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Those who are raped and contacted related disease like HIV / AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea are posed with the threats of health challenges, which they suffered from and their families spent much money in order for them to survive. Alechenu et al reiterated also that "some of these rape victims who contacted the viral diseases end up terminating their lives" (88). Many ladies and infants or minors, who are victims of rape have also been dis-virgin, some impregnated, and in the process of carrying out abortion, many have lost their wombs, some have died of unwanted pregnancies (Ogbaki 10). Also, the rate of *Vascular Virginal Fistula* (V.V.F) is also on the increase due to rape cases among other sexual assaults been perpetrated in the country today(Ezeoba et al 73).

22. Rape is a sexual disorder, and is been regarded evil by African culture. Hence, Kpaado enthused thus "there is high moral stigma due to rape as experienced by victims especially women, who constitute half of Nigeria' population" (8). It is pathetic that, the impact of rape yields to cultural stigma thereby reducing the virtue of womanhood in Traditional African society. Furthermore, the lady who is raped, she either contacts viral diseases or become figure of shame and remain helpless and embarrassed (Agbali 6).Since rape is generally frowned in traditional African society, the lady is forced to bear the enemy' [rapist'] child (8) since life is considered sacred by Africans. Hence, rape has contributed in giving birth to rising number of bastards and miscreants, nuisance, thugs,who are destroyers of morality in the society today every now and then.

23. Another demoralizing consequences of rape is the rate it lowers the spiritual and moral repute of individuals in the society. In some instances, many innocent youths who are either told or heard of rape cases, also imprint on their minds a distorting image of morality, which is not worth applauding and leaving them with night mares of moral decay. The moral integrity of the human sexuality is threatened and becomes devastated leaving moral observance at the door of total collapse (Martins and Tonga 185). In a related observance also, rape has indeed destroyed respect attached to human sexuality. Thus, Ogbaki et al posit succinctly that "the sacredness of human sexuality is been damaged beyond recall (1).

24. Perpetrators of sexual violence have brought disgrace upon themselves, families, communities and society at large because, their moral integrity has been jeopardized by such ill acts. Some rapists are experiencing varying degrees of stigma and punishment in jails. Most of the time spent by these rapists in jails if utilized well, would have been used to achieve meaningful human as well as capital development in the society. Thus, their bright future have been thwarted due to jail time been fixed by the law for them to spent in order to be morally rejuvenated. Thus, some of these rapists, their burden of been

incarcerated in jail is still shouldered on their parents, who spend much time and resources to billed or rehabilitate them, which has indeed brought untold hardship to them and their families.Thus, some of these rapist haven spent some jail time, which has made some of them to become frustrated and posed threats to peaceful coexistence of their families and society as a whole. Hence, children whose parents engaged in rape cases often become victims of such an act if care is not taken (Martins and Tonga 104).

Way forward

Rape is been considered an immoral offence against the dignity of human sexuality. In the likes of the ravishing effects of rape, this paper makes the following recommendations:

1. There should be ban on immoral show case of sexual activities especially at clubs, social nights in school, cinema houses and religious institutions by relevant authorities. In the African past, it was a serious crime to engage in rape because sanctions were imposed on perpetrators. This should be reawakened by relevant authorities in case of great disparity of social standing (Molema 45). Perpetrators of sexual violence should also be punished with severe sanction so as to nip the menace in the bud from wrecking harvocs to the moral peace of the society. We must also rise to the challenge of defending and protecting our moral values in a modernistic era like this, where the sanctity of human sexuality is been abused on daily basis (Igwekaile and Enwefah 2).
2. Formal education has become an important process of ensuring intellectual growth in most African societies and the world at large. Hence it should be promoted to aid in human development of both sexes so as to enable people know their alienable rights, which they need to defend at all times amidst the wanton sexual assaults bedeviling the country today (Achadu et al 73).
3. Government should monitor and ban exhibition of immoral programs especially films that are tantamount to spurring sexual urges in men with the view of curtailing the instincts of rape from ravishing the moral sanity of the society. Tailors, who are found sewing sexually appealing dresses should also be sanctioned. Furthermore, media channels that show cased immoral films or pictures should totally be punished and banned. Also,programs on sex education should highly be promoted via those media channels (Dagin196).
4. Traditional and religious leaders can as well equally come together at their usual respective gatherings make pronouncement informs of preaching against rape and in a written communique by condemning rape culture in their domains, which will go a long way in restraining rising cases of sexual assaults bedeviling the society(193). Interesting to reiterate further,the usual strokes of cane given to rapists and other

similar wrong doers in traditional past should be revisited and encouraged inorder to curtailed the menace of rape uprising.

5. The needs, inclination and affections are innate tendencies of the parents and the ties of blood with all the implied bodily and spiritual affinities leave no doubt of its natural constitution (234). Hence, parents should have it as a point of duty to train their children in the way and fear of God (Shishima 75). They should also checkmate what their children read and watch, and the kind of friends they keep. This will go a long way in controlling immoral behaviours that destroys the moral repute of the society.
6. Nigerian Association of film markers and producers should sensitize and scrutinize the kind of dresses to be worn by actors and actresses in movies inorder to curtailed immoral exhibition that could spur rapes from being perpetrated. Also, scenes of sexual violence should totally be banned inorder to save the youths from the dangers of been instigated to carry out such violent acts in their respective places, which are capable of destroying the sacredness of human sexuality (Ogueche et al 175).
7. Institutions of higher learning should come up with strict measures on decent dress code. Those who go contrary to the law by wearing immoral dresses like fly over me, your back, hip stars, naked gowns, spider hug, and spaghetti which ignite sexual appetite should be severely punished so as to serve as deterrent for others. Hence, such dresses should totally be banned from been sewed by tailors and even sold in the markets (Tsavwua 7).
8. Rapists needs adequate counselling, job creation oppurtunities,medical and spiritual assistance in order to get over the menace. Hence, religious leaders should carry out their functions fervently by praying for the rapists and victims and also by condemning the menace. On the part of medical experts treating those related with sexual disorders, they should assist the rape patients with subsidized medical fares when taken to them to be remedied from such sexual disorder. And rehabilitation centers should also be established, while the existant ones should be refurbished with basic facilities needed for the treatment of sexual assaults.Those Sexually assaulted should be treated with utmost care and without delay inorder to save the moral integrity of human sexuality from dwindling (Martins and Tonga186).

Conclusion

In the foregoing, the paper examined history of rape as a sexual disorder, types of rape and samples of rape cases in Nigeria. It further examined some consequences of rape in contemporary Nigerian society and proffered some recommendations. Rape generally is a re-occurring sexual disorder that has continued to wreck havocs on innocent victims by its perpetrators despite efforts by various agencies and private bodies in our society to fight the menace. Thus, the menace is already existing, and is one of the fastest growing

pandemics which is becoming a world celebrity despite stringent measure been put in place to curtailed its ravishing impacts on individuals in society today. As a menace, rape has conveniently find its way in every nook and cranny of the society. Indexes of rape victims in the world cannot be ascertained due to daily rise of such pandemic. In the past, respect was accorded human sexuality, and strong sanctions are been meted rapists in order to curtail its dreadful impacts on victims and society. Sad to say that, what we see or hear happening today in our society is a total moral degeneration of human sexuality which is destroying the moral life and sanctity of society, where sexual assaults of all sorts prevailed and celebrated. Rape is a sexual disorder that has continued to leach its effects on victims and society, and is gradually erasing the high observance of morality in contemporary time. Despite the clarion call on the fight against rape , the menace still persist in wrecking more havocs and must be fought squarely by concerted efforts in order to salvaged the moral sanctity of the human persons from being damaged.

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