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19/MHS01/198

MBBS

GST 122

RAPE AND ABUSE OF THE FEMALE GENDER.

In the beginning, God made man and woman, and charged them to be fruitful and multiply through the act of sexual intercourse. Over time, the purpose of sex has evolved from not only being a way to procreate, but also a way of achieving pleasure. For this to happen, both parties involved are to give consent to it. In a case where consent isn’t given, the case of rape arises.

Rape can be defined as an unlawful sexual activity, usually in the form of sexual intercourse, carried out forcibly or under some form of threat against a person’s will or with an under aged person or someone incapable of giving consent due to mental illness, unconsciousness, intoxication or deception. The term ***rape*** originates from the Latin word, ***rapere***, meaning to snatch, to grab or to carry off.

Rape can be dated as far back as the biblical times where King David raped Bathsheba, though rape had been in existence before that as there were situations of war rape around that time. In the 12th century, the kinsmen of the victim were given permission to carry out the execution of the guilty party. Around the 14th century in England, the victim might be expected to gouge out the eyes and/or sever the testicles of the offender. Though barbaric, it was a befitting punishment as at then.

Rape is an unspeakable act but in recent times, has become more popular than it should be giving the fact that it is recognised as a crime in the constitution of almost every country of the world. In 2015, UNICEF reported that in Nigeria, one in four girls and one in ten boys had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. According to a survey by Positive Action for Treatment Access, over 31.4 percent of girls there said that their first sexual encounter had been rape or forced sex of some kind. In the first two weeks of June 2020, about nine cases of sexual violence arose in Nigeria with some leading to the death of the victims. One of the victims was a first year university undergraduate in the University of Benin. She was aged 22 and when her body was found, her face appeared to have been disfigured by a fire extinguisher which was lying close to her lifeless body. This goes to show the inhumanity and barbaric nature of the people involved in this merciless act and till date, the perpetrators are yet to be caught. During this same period, a man was arrested in Kano state, Nigeria after having raped about 40 women over the span of a year.

Some people, in an act to justify the rapists, say that the victim is at fault for wearing “indecent clothing”. I for one find that ridiculous because there is absolutely nothing one could say to justify the animalistic act of rape. The only person guilty in the situation of rape is the rapist. Some studies have been able to link the act of rape to mental illness. An example is the infamous American serial killer, Theodore Robert Bundy also known as Ted Bundy. He is said to have assaulted and killer over thirty women all while attending college, maintaining a political status and being in a long term relationship showing just how much of a psychopath this man was.

Though rape is never the fault of the victim, there are some precautions that can be taken in order to prevent the situation of rape from arising. Some of these precautions are:

* Avoid going through dark alleys at odd times.
* Ensure to not get involved with dangerous individuals.
* Walk confidently, directly and at a certain pace.
* If you feel you are in danger, try to escape by running away if you can or draw attention to yourself by yelling.
* If possible, take self defence courses.
* If you feel you are being followed, head towards a properly lit area were people are.

These are some measures among many that one could take in order to prevent rape.

As seen earlier in this piece, rape is an unspeakable act and should never be encouraged no matter the case. Law have been put in place to curb this disease and it is our duty as citizens to provide assistance to our government so as to achieve a rape-free society.