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**Dept: LAW**

**Course: Communication in English**

**ASSIGMENT: Write a 3 paged essay of any topic of your choice.**

**FEMININE SUBJUGATION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NIGERIA, THE WAY FORWARD.**

It is fact the female subjugation has not only been in practice in Africa but throughout the world. Disenfranchisement, refusal to own properties, denial of decision making rights, denial of western education, denial of economic rights, male dominance have been in existence and were promoted by religion, and society in the world. Over time, the activities of feminist and various women activist and has led to reduction in the rate of feminine subjugation and harassment democratic states, such as the 19th amendment passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. As seen if agitation has led to the restoration of part of the womens right in democratic state, what of non-democratic colonies like monarchy, and dictatorship where freedom to protest, speech are not allowed. Therefore the advancement in knowledge, technology has led to a slight reduction in female subjugation as most advance, powerful country on the world still have records of female subjugation and sexual assault.

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. Sexual violence is "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object."

According to UN statistics, A [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) statistical report compiled from government sources showed that more than 250,000 cases of rape or attempted rape were recorded by police annually. The reported data covered 65 countries. Rape is a severely under-reported crime with surveys showing [dark figures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_figure_of_crime) of up to 91.6% of rapes going unreported, as [South Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa) having 500,000 rapes per year, [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) having 31,833 rapes a year, [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_in_Egypt) having more than 200,000 rapes a year, and the United Kingdom at 85,000 rapes a year.

Rape in [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) is a crime which can be legally prosecuted, but in practice it is very rarely reported, because of the immense risks that women face if they report it. Rape victims in the country face a double risk of being subjected to violence: on one hand they can become victims of honour killings perpetrated by their families, and on the other hand they can be victimized by the laws of the country: they can be charged with adultery, a crime that can be [punishable by death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punishable_by_death). Furthermore, they can be forced by their families to marry their rapist.

*Times of India* reported the data by National Crime Records Bureau unveiling that 93 women are being raped in India every day, this data shows the number of reported cases, unreported cases are said to be 68% more than reported cases, estimate proves that 2,146,681 women, girl child suffers from rape every year. Indian courts disposed of only about 18,300 cases related to rape that year, leaving more than 127,800 cases pending at the end of 2017. Instances of brutal rape and violence against the women who report it have given India the dismal reputation of being one of the worst places in the world to be female.

Jan. 2018: An 8-year-old Muslim girl is drugged, held captive in a temple and sexually assaulted for a week before being strangled and battered to death with a stone in Kathua town in northern India. Six men, including a Hindu priest and three police officers, were convicted of the crime. Three were given life sentences,

In United State of America, A 2011 report on [prison rape](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison_rape) stated that "in 2008 there were at least 69,800 inmates who were raped under conditions involving force or threat of force, and more than 216,600 total victims of sexual abuse, in America’s prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers. A 2007 survey by the [National Institute of Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Institute_of_Justice) found that 19.0% of college women and 6.1% of college men experienced either sexual assault or attempted sexual assault since entering college. , D. Tuerkheimer reviewed the literature on rape allegations, She pointed to national survey data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centers_for_Disease_Control_and_Prevention) that indicates 1 in every 5 women will be raped during their lifetime at some point. Based on this data 33,184,000 women out of 165,920,000 women in the United State would be rape during their lifetime.

Nigeria, According to Amnesty International, police forces in [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) are reported to have perpetrated acts of rape and other sexual abuse against women, in public locations, or while women were transferred to police stations, or while women visited male detainees in police custody; and sometimes police used sexual violence in order to extract confessions and other information.

A study of students of the Polytechnic, [Ibadan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadan) found that in their lifetimes 1.7% (2.5% of males and 1.1% of females) had raped 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ebonyi_State_University_Abakaliki&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Ebonyi State University Abakaliki (page does not exist)) 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).[[170]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_statistics#cite_note-170)

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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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.[[171]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_statistics#cite_note-171)

A study analysing the hospital records of 76 sexual assault victims in [Ile-Ife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ile-Ife) from 2007-2011 found 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_kits) have yet to be introduced in the country.

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.

Recently, the case of Miss Uwa a Uniben student that was raped and akilled in a church brought about sentiment while most people took to the social media in attempt to get justice for Uwa murder, some men and women took shades saying that the cause of rape is as a result of the way female gender dress in public, while most people supported this idea other cases shows that the mind of a rapist doesn’t give thought to feminine dressing, the raping of a 9 years old girl by 11 men shows that rape is performed by sex addict irrespective of age, looks, dressing as long as the rapist get his satisfaction that all that matters.

Regardless of rape, sexual violence between partners, explains the need of re-orientation of the African/ Nigerian society, Feminine gender has been under subjugation and even though the society tends to propagate that equality exist but that is not the mentality of the average African man, or elderly women in the society, most of which accepted their fate while some has believed in family tradition. The cause of feminine subjugation and sexual assault starts and end with the following factors, religion and culture.

Religiously the segment of every religion tries to state and over emphasis female subjection to male, in the course of teaching lies are propagated that the idea that God created a female is that she must be subject to the will of a man in Christianity, while Islam are indoctrinated that women as reward to men, and are therefore rendered nothing in both the religious and family setting, they tend to molest and do whatever they can to these women.

Culture, most African and Nigerian practice customs believe in male dominance, an Igbo man remains unsatisfied if he hasn’t given birth to a male child, he finds nothing bad in leaving his wife that had 6 daughters for him, to any woman that can give him just a boy, this mentality state clearly how worthless an average Igbo man sees a lady and would not hesitate to abuse or treat her as a slave, this same applies to all traditions in Africa, the Hausas sees the feminine gender as a slave and a piece for satisfaction and would do nothing but use her in this capacity. The Yorubas believe in male dominance and would never allow female in decision making process, some believe that they men are god and their wife must shows high level of respect when dealing with them, if she disobeys instruction these so called men would take delight in beating her as if she was a child.

Most often people tend to become self-righteous and try to praise that equality has been given, legally, religiously there is a bit of truth, but the fact still remains that this ideology has not been corrected but modified to suit laws.

We need reorientation and stand against inequality feminine subjugation and sexual assault, let reforms take place in religions and culture, we should teach young boys to respect the feminine gender, also older men should have self control, avoid taking advantage of women, husband love your wife.