Name: Owolabi Oluwanifemi Mopelola

Department: MBBS

Matric number: 19/MHS01/370

Course: GST122

**Rape Culture and Victims Blaming.**

Rape culture has since been defined as “a complex of beliefs that encourages male sexual aggression and supports violence against women,” and which normalizes the physical and emotional scare tactics used to terrorize women (Buchwald, Fletcher, and Roth, 1993). It is also defined as a [sociological](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociological) concept for a setting in which [rape](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape) is pervasive and [normalized](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normalization_(sociology)) due to societal attitudes about [gender](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender) and [sexuality](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sexuality).[[1]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_culture#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_culture#cite_note-Flintoft-2) Behaviours commonly associated with rape culture include [victim blaming](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victim_blaming), [slut-shaming](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slut-shaming), [sexual objectification](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_objectification), trivializing rape, denial of widespread rape, refusing to acknowledge the harm caused by [sexual violence](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_violence), or some combination of these.

Rape culture is sometimes linked to modernisation and industrialisation. This is based on the fact that pre-industrial societies tend to be "rape free" cultures, since the lower status of women in these societies give them some immunity from sexual violence. In industrial rape cultures, women emerge from their homebound roles and become visible in the workplace and other areas traditionally dominated by men, increasing male insecurities that result in their using rape to suppress women.

Others examples of rape culture are the beliefs that due to environmental insecurities, men objectify women as part of their struggle to control their immediate environment. It is also linked to gender segregation, and the belief that rape proves masculinity. Other manifestations of rape culture include [denial](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denial) of widespread rape, institutional apathy toward the problem of rape, minimization of rape cases by government officials and excusing rapists as social anomalies.

Victim blaming on the other hand, occurs when the victim of a [crime](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime) or any wrongful act is held entirely or partially at fault for the harm that befell them. There is historical and current prejudice against the victims of [domestic violence](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence) and [sex crimes](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_crimes)

Many people who are victims of sexual violence are blamed for crimes that happened to them, and not the genuine criminal. Numerous women are assaulted in Africa, as well as all around the globe, and the worst part of this crime is that the women are the ones being rebuked for what happened to them. Victim blaming does not only happen in assaults against women, but also men who are also assaulted suffer the same accusations.

[Sexual assault](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_assault) victims experience stigmatization based on [rape myths](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_myth). A female rape victim is especially [stigmatized](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_stigma) in [patrilineal](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrilineality) cultures with strong customs and [taboos](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taboo) regarding sex and sexuality. For example, a society may view a female rape victim (especially one who was previously a [virgin](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgin)) as "damaged". Victims in these cultures may suffer [isolation](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_treatment), physical and psychological [abuse](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_abuse), [slut-shaming](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slut-shaming), public humiliation rituals, be disowned by friends and family, be prohibited from marrying, be divorced if already married, or even be killed.  For example, in Somalia victims of sexual abuse consistently endure social [ostracization](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostracism) and harassment. In February 2016, the organisations [International Alert](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Alert) and [UNICEF](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNICEF) published a study revealing that girls and women released from captivity by [Nigeria](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria)'s insurgency group [Boko Haram](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram) often face rejection by their communities and families. Their children born of sexual violence faced even more discrimination.

One example of a [sexist](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexism) allegation against female victims of sexual assault is that *wearing*[*provocative*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provocation_(legal))*clothing stimulates*[*sexual aggression*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_assault)*in men* who believe that women wearing body-revealing clothes are *actively trying to*[*seduce*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seduction) a sexual partner.

Victim blaming is also exemplified when a victim of sexual assault is found at fault for *performing actions which reduce their ability to resist or refuse consent*, such as consuming alcohol. The culture of victim blaming, more often than not, leads to the prosecution of the victim rather than the perpetual of the crime. The fact that women are forced to find other avenues to seek justice for the violence committed against them is unacceptable. We must come up with new ways to ensure that those who commit sexual assault face criminal ramifications.