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TOPIC: RAPE AND ITS EFFECTS ON ITS VICTIMS AND THE SOCIETY AT LARGE.

 Rape can be defined as a type of sexual assault usually involving having carnal knowledge, which is initiated by one or more persons against another person without that person’s consent. According to the dictionary it is defined as the crime of forcing a woman to submit to sexual intercourse against her will. Rape is a crime in which the stronger uses his advantage of strength to force and obtain sexual gratification from a weaker victim. All this definitions of rape narrows down to the fact that sex occurs forcefully that is without the person’s consent this act is called sexual assault. The rape victim suffers both emotional and physical pains. Whereas the physical pain may heal with time but the emotional may last.

 The law represents that rape is having sexual relationships unwilling with a minor under the age of eighteen or younger, is punishable with imprisonment in state prison. Rape is one of the crimes and social problems that is somewhat regarded as a society’s least priority although the victims suffer from grave physical, mental and emotional consequences. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated or below the legal age of consent. The term rape is used interchangeably with the term sexual assault.

 Rape is a huge issue that plagues the world today. It is a worldwide issue and is not specific to any one or country. Rape also can impact anyone at any time cause it is not specific to any one neighborhood, race, gender, sexual orientation, age or financial status. We cannot turn a blind eye to the recent happenings in our country concerning rape, the episode that sparked off protests involved miss Vera uwaila omozuwa an undergraduate of the university of Benin who was gang raped and murdered while reading inside a church within the same period the police went on a manhunt after 12 men including a 57 year-old man who on several occasions raped a 12-year-old girl in dustse, jigawa state. In India too after a 23-year-old para-medical was gang raped, mauled and left to die naked in the streets of Delhi, the Indian capital. The incident generated widespread national and international coverage and was widely condemned both in India and abroad.

EFFECTS OF RAPE TO THE VICTIM.

 Rape is a traumatic experience that impacts its victims physically, psychologically and sociologically. Although the aftermath of rape differentiate among victims, individuals intend to suffer from similar issues found within these categories. Long term reactions may involve the developments of coping mechanism that will either benefit the victim, such as social support or inhibit their recovery. Seeking support and professional resources may assist the victims in numerous ways.

Among the physical effects include unwanted pregnancies, diseases or health problems and certain disruptions on the woman’s natural bodily functions. On the other hand psychologically effects range from self-pity to more suicidal tendencies.

* Unwanted pregnancy: of course, the most immediate physical effect of rape is the risk for the victim of getting pregnant. Dependent on the age of the victim, she may conceive a child even if she is just reached puberty in most instances rape victims who do become pregnant opt to abort the child that is considered the result of the crime committed against them. In some cases the situation is further complicated due to abortions not being a legal option for the victim.
* Damage or disruption of body organs or functions. Since rape is a form of forced intercourse, the victim’s body usually suffers physical injury particularly to the vagina, uterus, and other parts of the reproductive system. The risks are greater if the rape victim is a child or a very young teen. In addition the rape victims are often beaten up and tortured during and after the rape which might even lead to losing their life in some cases.
* Trauma and paranoia: the foremost psychological effects of rape will be emotional trauma and paranoia. At times, the victim will exhibit symptoms of mental and emotional trauma through solitude and exclusion. They also develop fear in mingling and socializing with strangers and other people especially men. These effects can last for the duration of the victim’s lifetime.
* Self-pity or self-blame: apart from making her aloof and isolated, rape can also lead the victim to pity or blame herself for the crime. This effect is partly caused by the social stigma or shame that societies or communities wrongly attribute to the victim. She is often deprived of the care she should receive from families and society at large, who in turn accuse her of callous and provoking behavior. Which worsens her mental state and she is left emotionally devastated.
* Suicidal tendencies: the most striking effects that rape can produce in a victim is the thoughts or tendencies of committing suicide. Because of trauma, self-pity, and seclusion, rape victims often feel that there is no longer hope and they could no longer recover and that they are not worthy of living.

 EFFECTS OF RAPE TO THE COMMUNITY/ SOCIETY

The effects of rape to a community or society will essentially revolve around the response the community makes. In the “first world” or more highly developed countries, society response will commonly be positive and encouraging for the victim and help her get over the trauma she has faced. But the scenario is notably different in certain societies like Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and other poor countries where rape victims are neglected or the crime itself is not prioritized, society response would often be in a negative way. It could either be in form of neglect, ate such absence of social and legal justice, and putting the blame on the victim herself. It is time that all humans demand changes to all countries that perpetrate such injustice worldwide.