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**ESSAY TOPIC:** SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE SOCIETY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Consent, the need and use of this in several relationships could still lead to abuses sexually, this becomes a devastating issue that could drive people of power, has when people **yes or no** are now taken for granted. It’s the sad truth that, in today’s society, rape and sexual assault are a common occurrence, with the victims being women, children and even men. This horrendous act is defined as any type of forcible sexual activity. In other words, it is said to be forcing someone to take part in a sexual intercourse against the individual will. Sexual abuse or assault is also known as Rape. Rape also includes having sexual relations with someone who has intellectual disabilities or someone who is unconscious, but the worst thing is that the doesn’t end with the act itself. Victims can suffer the impact for years’ afterword and that’s only the beginning. Rape is a crime that is punishable by law. Sometimes the victims of rape fail to report this crime to authorities because they feel that society will look down on them, especially if the perpetrator is a person of authority. Rape is a serious issue affecting many societies today.

No one ever asks to be raped or sexually assaulted. It’s a terrible thing we all wish could never happen to anyone. However, when it does, the victimization of the victims doesn’t end with just the act itself. There could be years of emotional trauma that come along with it. This may include post-traumatic stress disorder or rape trauma syndrome. These two disorders manifest with all different kinds of symptoms and can pop up at any time, effecting the victim’s life dramatically. These symptoms include intrusive symptom, which happen when memories of the traumatic even are triggered. An example of this would be nightmares. There are also avoidance phenomena symptoms, which surface when the victim continues to distance themselves from loved ones and people, they care about so they don’t have any emotional ties to others. Lastly, there are hyperarousal symptoms, where the victim feel they are always threatened by their triggering even. All of these can result in tangible and intangible losses, but can also completely destroy the victim’s personal life. They will most likely have to seek counselling and it could take years to recover, as mentioned previously. Personal relationships are greatly affected, as well. Here, we talking about relationships with family, friends and even intimate relationships. Such traumatic events and disorders that come along with them have a good chance of leading to depression. This is, in no way, the victim’s fault. It can also lead to lack of intimacy with romantic partners due to an ongoing fear of being taken advantage of.

According to Rape Victim Advocates, a non-profit organization based in Chicago, ‘’The most immediate person affected by sexual violence is the victim/survivor, but the effects of sexual violence also go far beyond individual survivors, impacting their closest relationships as well as impacting communities and our society at large’’.

In the 1940’s Hentig tried to explain why people are victimized by using personal factors. He created twelve categories with biological, social and psychological characteristics. In relation to rape and sexual abuse, the first was young people. In this case it would be children, and he believed they were more likely to be victimized because of their immaturity and vulnerability. Females were his next history. There, he stated that they are generally weaker than men, so they were also vulnerable to sexual assault. Other group that aren’t specified as vulnerable to most crimes in general include mentally defective individuals, immigrants, minorities, normal individuals and lonesome and heartbroken individuals.

Another theory of victimology that can be applied to rape and sexual assault cases is Sellin and Wolfgang’s typology of victimization. Their victimization was based on the situations victims and perpetrators were in, rather than their relationship to each other. The most useful one here would be primary victimization. Primary victimization is when a person is directly victimized, for a certain reason. In most rape and sexual assault cases, someone is targeted because they are a woman, child, man or because they are easily accessible. Either way, they are directly victimized.

So, what more could be done to help these victims? Well, a better response system in order to make people who have not reported their sexual assaults case due to the fear of not being believed. This is an increasing problem, especially with females. The only way to combat it is to open up safe spaces around in order to make women, men and children feel safe and valid in reporting their sexual assault. This, combined with the right therapy and medical treatment to get them back on their feet. As suggested earlier, rape is a crime which is punishable by law irrespective of the status of the perpetrator. Women, men and even children are victims of sexual abuse and rape every day, all over the country. In fact, rape is actually legal in some countries. Victims of sexual assault have to deal with years of trauma and sometimes, it doesn’t stop there. With the right treatment, we can begin to help these victims and hopefully change the way we look at assault for good.