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**RAPE CULTURE IN OUR SOCIETY**

Firstly what is rape culture?

Rape Culture is an environment in which rape is prevalent and in which sexual violence against women is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture. Rape culture is perpetuated through the use of misogynistic language, the objectification of women’s bodies, and the glamorization of sexual violence, thereby creating a society that disregards women’s rights and safety. Rape Culture affects every woman. The rape of one woman is a degradation, terror, and limitation to all women. Most women and girls limit their behavior because of the existence of rape. Most women and girls live in fear of rape. Men, in general, do not. That’s how rape functions as a powerful means by which the whole female population is held in a subordinate position to the whole male population, even though many men don’t rape, and many women are never victims of rape. This cycle of fear is the legacy of Rape Culture.

Secondly what are the causes of rape culture?

1.Deviant sexual preferences:

Research focusing on the deviant sexual preferences propensity model suggests that people who perpetrate acts of sexual violence are sexually aroused by non-consensual sexual interactions more than consensual sexual interactions. The research that seeks to support this model (penile plethysmography) has not been able to reliably find differences in the two different groups of males (those who have committed acts of sexual aggression and those who have not).Instead, the studies are providing more evidence for the cognitive, attitudinal, neuropsychological, and lifestyle differences that impact sexual arousal in certain situations, rather than a deviant sexual preference leading to a higher propensity for sexual violence.

2.Personality disorders and traits;

The last propensity model of sexual violence views the perpetrators of sexual violence through 3 lenses of different personality traits, with interpersonal functioning being the most important factor in whether a person will have a higher propensity for sexual violence. This model is based on the idea that sexual aggression is indicative of problems starting and managing enjoyable intimate relationships.

3.Insecure attachment lens

The insecure attachment style lens stems from research done on sexual aggressors that characterized them as people who had insecure attachment styles (as a result of child abuse, parental divorce, etc.) manifested as low self-esteem, an inability to develop relationships with others, and significant emotional loneliness.[19] Through the lens of this model, sexual aggression is used as a faulty means of fulfilling intimacy needs

Impacts of rape culture

The impacts of rape culture are negative. Within rape culture, women especially are made to feel as though it is their responsibility to avoid being sexually assaulted and police their behaviour as a result .For example, women may choose to avoid wearing certain clothing, drinking alcohol, or walking home alone at night. Survivors are often blamed for the sexual assault instead of the perpetrato, even though it is always the fault of the person doing the harmful sexual behaviour.Rape culture also enforces the unhelpful belief that men cannot be victims of sexual violence. Because of this, survivors are less likely to report their assaults because they are afraid of not being believed. This can slow down the healing process and the perpetrator is not held responsible for their crime.