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**TOPIC: EFFECTS OF RAPE ON THE FEMALE CHILD AND THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.**

***EFFECTS OF RAPE ON THE FEMALE CHILD AND THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.***

***WHAT IS RAPE?***

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without that person’s consent. In other words, rape is when sexual intercourse is non-consensual, or when a person forces another person to have sex against his or her will. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority, or against a person who is incapable of giving valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, has an intellectual disability or is below the legal age of consent.

In the society, mostly females and children fall victims of rape as they are the easiest targets. On average, 1 in 5 women is raped daily while it is 1 in 75 men that are raped daily. Statistics have it that ninety-one percent of rape victims are women and only nine percent are men. Also, most female victims of completed rape, which is estimated to be about seventy-nine percent, experienced their first rape before the age of twenty- five; forty-two percent experienced their first case of completed rape before the age of eighteen years.

***EFFECTS OF RAPE***

In the aftermath of rape, survivors can face extremely difficult and painful emotions and experiences. Every survivor responds to traumatic events in their own way. The effects of the trauma can be short-term or can last long after the rape.

The common physical effects of rape are:

1. Bruising
2. Bleeding (vaginal or anal)
3. Soreness
4. Difficulty walking
5. Broken or dislocated bones
6. Sexually transmitted infections and diseases
7. Pregnancy

Some common mental effects of rape are:

1. PTSD- post-traumatic stress disorder, including flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and uncontrollable thoughts.
2. Depression, including feelings of hopelessness, sadness, unexplained crying, weight loss or gain, loss of energy or interest in activities previously enjoyed.
3. Suicidal thoughts or attempts.
4. Dissociation, including not being able to focus on work or on schoolwork, as well as not feeling present in everyday situations.

Common effects of rape in the society are:

1. The crime rate increases. As rape is a crime, the more the rape cases increases the more the crime rate will increase also.
2. Abortions. Rape in some circumstances lead to unwanted pregnancies, some women don’t want to be bothered about this such pregnancies and they take the easy way out by aborting such pregnancies.
3. Increased suicide rates. Some victims of rape can’t bear the shame or the pain of rape so in a bid to rid themselves of the stigma the kill themselves.
4. Death. Another effect of rape in the society is death. Some victims of rape don’t even have the opportunities to tell their stories as a result of the violence being committed against them.