

Why Do Men Rape : A Psychological Factors

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Abstract

Violence in general is a coercive mechanism to assert one's will over another, in order to prove or feel a sense of power. There are forms of violence which are directed specially against women....rape, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, domestic violence ranging from batter to torture and even death. In a present scenario rape is a very common crime against women all over the world. The American Heritage Dictionary defines rape as the Crime of forcing a female to submit to sexual intercourse. And to legal definition is carnal knowledge through the use of force or threat of force according to FBT uniform crime reports. All definitions describe a violent infringement on the personal dignity of an individual. Rape is a crime that is often misunderstood and surrounded by myths. In the present paper our goal is dissert some psychological aspect of this insidious act and share some of the more recently discovered facts. As well as which psychological factors (Biological, Psychological, Social and Economic etc.) plays an important role in this shameful incidents.

Key Words : Rape, Psychological factors.

Introduction

Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration perpetrated against a person without the person's consent. 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 below the legal age of consent. The term rape is sometimes used interchangeably with the term sexual assault.

Widespread the systematic rape and sexual slavery can occur during international conflict. These practices are crimes against humanity and war crimes. Rape is also recognized as an element of the crime of genocide when committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a targeted ethnic group.

People who have been raped can be severely traumatized and may suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder. Serious injuries can result along with the risk of pregnancy and contracting of sexually transmitted infections. A victim may face violence or threats from the accused rapist, and, in some cultures, from the victim's family and relatives.

Rape is a fact of life across cultures (Roze's, 1993; Sanday, 1981). Rape is likely more common, however, because rapes often go unreported. Researchers estimate that 67-84% of rapes are not reported (greenfield, 1997; Kilpatrick et al., 1992). Although other forms of rape occur (e.g., male-male rape), this article focuses on the rape of women by men. Rape is typically defined in this paper, as the use of force or threat of force to achieve penile-vaginal penetration of woman without her consent (Kilpatrick et al., 1992; Thornhill &Palmar, 2000).

Some research indicates that males of many species have evolved strategies to sexually coerce and rape females. Rape in human must also reflect adaptations constructed over evolutionary time. Although many explanations have been offered to explain rape in humans (e.g., learning or enculturation, mental illness, personality differences, drug and alcohols, and other factors, (Bergen & Bukovec, 2006, Dean & Malamuth, 1997, Lalumie' re & Quinsey, 1996) , all above factors alone cannot explain the existence of such seemingly complex behavior. These factors may increase the likelihood of rape, but cannot explain the complex organized behaviour seen in rape. Only two explanations are likely to be true : that rape is the product of specialized psychological adaption, or that it is a by-product of other adaptations in the male and mind (Palmer & Thornhill, 2003a, 2003b; thronhill & Palmer, 2000).

Now the question is arise why men do rape, which factors responsible for this shameful incident in present society. Different situations in present society may be responsible for this crucial incident. Environmental, Social Physiological, Psychological economic factors are involved in this behaviour. But in this research paper researcher specially emphasis the psychological factors who plays an important role in this shameful act.

The Psychological approach suggests that is power and anger that are predominant within rape, and the act of rape having little to do with sexual needs or lust. It is due to the power and anger that men rape, according to this theory, linked to as Groth, (2001); which is associated largely with feminist theory of rape this theory of rape again linked largely with power.

Next clinical aspect of psychology will be explored, examining the link between hormones and acts of rape, Jesset and Moir (1995). Although how is the link correlated, is it a cause or affect? Personality of rapist is to be examined; research showing rapists are more inclined to suffer personality disorders, Barbaree, Laws & Marshall (1990). Problems are evident of this theory of rape, with lacking in figures and statistics to support the theory. Finally, brain images of sex offenders are discussed and proposed as a factor of rape, however, vigilance should be taken with the reliability of brain image research, due the sample group of sex offenders as whole.

Groth, (2001) suggested rape was 'sexual behaviour in the primary service of nonsexual needs' and 'symptomatic of personality dysfunction' among offenders. Chesire, (2003) Rape is further explained in terms of a 'casual relationship', which starts with psychological needs of the rapist and a 'distorted' and unstable personality development. Groth suggests that rape is due to anger, with men expressing built up anger through sexual act s. Groth proposed; 'Rape is a pseudo sexual act, a pattern of sexual behaviour that is concerned much more with status, hostility, control and dominance than sensual pleasure or sexual satisfaction' This quote from Groth presents the basis of psychological explanations of rape, with sexuality having little to do with the rape, as Groth (2001) explains, by the majority of all rape acts reported showing a unnecessary amount Of force used, which according to this theory of rape, demonstrates the anger present within the act.

Groth suggests that rape is caused by built up anger, and for this reason, it takes time for his frustration to reach a dangerous unstable point, with his 'extent to hurt and degrade the victim, his weapon sex, and his motive revenge' Growth, (2001) 17. With the revenge a rapist being discussed by Jesset and Moir (1995) who maintain that revenge rape has little to do with the victim, but more to do with women in general, or to even get even with a victims male partner, linking in with the feminist approach of the victim being the man's property, with revenge rapists thieving another man's property.

In terms of the psychology of the brain, research has suggested that rapists have certain dysfunctions within their brain, hormones or neural pathways. Jesset and Moir (1995), given a theoretical psychological view why men become sexually deviant and commit rape. Ellis, cited in Jefferson & Grover (1993) suggests through research findings that rapists generally have higher hormone levels, of androgens, which are known to increase sex drives and also minimise threats of punishment, and sensitivity of other feelings; this work by Ellis, compared to non-rapists.

Although, hormonal diversity within the brain is able to explain some of the variance in aggressive sexual behaviour in general these explanations are unable to explain how much of the variance is due to sexually aggressive behaviour, (Jefferson & Grover, 1993).

Rape cannot therefore be described to a single chemical hormone, due to the multiplicity of different rapes. Groths (2001) research examining the two different power and anger rapes. It is wrong to assume, that all rape is caused by one chemical hormone, as research strongly suggests throughout this paper that rape is a complex act with different kinds of rape, with it having little to do with sex. But other aspect, according to Frances (2013) DSM-5 conforms that rape is crime, not mental disorder.

Some other relevant factors are given, which is directly or indirectly related to rape.

Self- esteem

The evidence on self-esteem and sexual aggression however is inconclusive. The Minnesota Student Survey found the adolescents who had been sexually violent did not have lower self-esteem (Borowsky IW, Hogan Metal. 1997). Meta- analyses show that there is evidence of significantly lower self-esteem among adolescent sex offenders and child sex offenders when compared to adult sex offenders, non-sex offenders or non-offenders (Whitaker DJ, Le B et al. 2008; Seto and Lalumiere 2010).

Empathy

It has been postulated that empathy may act as an inhibiting factor that operates to prevent sexual violence perpetration by men. The research on this inconclusive. Abbey, in research with a community-based sample of adult men in the United States, found higher levels of empathy to be an important deterrent of rape perpetration (Abbey A, Parkhill MR et al. 2006). However, a large South African study found that men who have raped have lower levels of empathy than those who have not, but that empathy per se was not important after adjustment for psychopathy per se was not important after adjustment for psychopathy dimensions (Jewkes R, Sikweyiya Y et al. 2011). In their meta-analysis, Whitaker et al found that sex offenders against children did not demonstrate more general empathy deficits, or more specific deficits in emotional or cognitive empathy, than those offending against adults, non-sex offenders or non-offenders (Whitaker DJ, Le B et al. 2008).

Psychopathic traits

While a range of personality disorders have been linked to rape perpetration, psychopathy has been the most extensively discussed in the literature. Psychopathy is a constellation of personality traits and socially deviant behaviours, spanning affective, interpersonal and behavioural traits. Hare has proposed that the characteristics of psychopathy include egocentricity, lack or remorse and empathy, pathological lying, manipulateness, and the persistent violation of social norms (Hare 1996).

Conclusion

Above all factors which is discuss here plays important role in this shameful incident but some other facts also plays important role such as : Insensitivity for other's emphasis on self, belittling behaviour or attitude towards other, negative behaviour and comments, hostile and threatening language, building, excessive anger, brooding/revenge, obsession, extreme mood swings, physical tantrums, jock or gorilla mentally, a men drunk, alcohol or drug abuse, development process, economic status and class system also responsible for this crime.

In the light of the findings it can be concluded that many psychological factors involves in rape incident. Psychology overview is a powerful heuristic tool that allows researchers to consider rape in a new Light. Researchers have argued that men have evolved psychological mechanism that motivate them to have evolved psychological mechanisms that motivate them to have in specific contexts. Researchers purpose that a more nuanced view of rapists is needed, in which rapists may be thought of as belonging to one of several types distinguished by the contexts in which they are predicted to commit a rape.

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