

Rape Culture's Negative Impact

by Ethan Valdez

If someone walked up to you and said, "What is rape?" What would you say? Would you say that it is sex when you don't want it? Would you say that it is something caused by the victim? If this is something you would have said, then you know about rape from the developed rape culture. When most cases of rape are taken to court, the questions asked by officials are, "What was she wearing? Was she drinking?" When people create anti rape ads for newspapers or television they are directing these ads at cases that only include rapes by men. Some of these people aren't fully covering the topic, others are just plain wrong. The world has created a rape culture, and it needs to be vanquished.

Usually, when someone thinks of rape, they picture a complete stranger kidnapping someone in a dark place at night with no one around. While that does happen, it is only proven to be the case 27% of the time. Statistics studied by the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network show that rape is mainly committed by someone known to the victim 73% of the time. 38% of that 73% is done by a friend or acquaintance, 28% is done by an intimate partner, and the last 7% is done by a family relative. That means about three of every four committed rapes are done by someone the victim knows personally.

Everyone knows that rape is a terrible thing, it's common sense. But they don't always have the knowledge to support their thoughts. If the world knows rape is atrocious, then what kind of society do we live in where anti-rape ads are a necessity. Are there really people that need to get the message through that rape is bad? The rape culture has developed a double standard against women. This is the double standard: One of the main reasons men do not want women in places of power is because they say that they are, "Slaves to their emotions." Although, the first argument made in rape cases is, "Look at what she was wearing, how could we expect him to control himself." When people think about rape, they think it is just about sex. Rape is more. Rape is emotional pressure, physical violence that is used for force, and there is certainly a leverage of power because rapes can be done by a stronger individual or multiple people. Dominant emotions in the situation are embarrassment and fear for their life. The victim will not be having happy thoughts when fear has taken over their body.

The main belief in rape culture is that the rape was the victim's fault. In some cases, the rape can be proven to be their fault. The victim could be at the soon to be rapist's house. The victim is flirting; he or she is wearing clothing to their friend's house that is somewhat provocative. The person that could be raped is leading on the future rapist. When asked, the victim says no which causes the rapist to get angry and take advantage of the victim. If the person is drinking by choice, they may drink too much and say things that they don't supposedly mean. This is incorrect because the one who could commit the crime should know that "no" means "no". The rape wouldn't be the victim's fault, the rapist should respect what the victim says no matter what. The rapist could be angry, but they definitely should not take advantage of the victim because of anger. The rapist also shouldn't take advantage of the person they want to do stuff to just because they are unconscious of their alcohol involved choices.

The world knows rape is a problem, but only a few understand that it is a serious problem. More and more people believe in the rape culture because it's what they are taught, it's what they hear from their peers. Usually, when people are told about something like rape for the first time, they choose to believe what they hear that one time. Most people learn and teach the rape culture. People need to learn about rape. They really need to **understand** it rather than just **know** about it.