

**THE ROLES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE REHABILITATION OF  
RAPE VICTIMS IN EKOSODIN COMMUNITY, EDO STATE**

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**A RESEARCH WORK WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED TO THE  
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**JUNE, 2024**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the study was carried out by Osekhale Deborah Omonforia under our supervisor in accordance with the requirement of the Department of Social Work, University Of Benin, Benin City.

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**Mrs Joy Omosuvbe**  
**(Project Supervisor)**

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**Date**

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**Barr.Dr.Sumaina Yesufu**  
**(Head of Department)**

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to God almighty for the grace bestowed upon me throughout my study in the department of social work, faculty of social sciences, University of Benin, Benin city. This project is also dedicated to my lovely parents.

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**Osekhale Deborah Omonforia**  
**July, 2024**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study.

According to the United States Department of Justice, "rape is defined as penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body parts or objects, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victims". Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) states: "Rape is defined as physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration, even if slight or the vulva or anus, using a penis, or other body parts, or an object." From a broader societal and academic perspective, rape is often discussed in terms of its impacts on victims, its prevalence, and its sociocultural underpinnings. It encompasses a violation of personal autonomy and bodily integrity and can have profound psychological and emotional effects on survivors.

According to the comprehensive approach of studying the background of rape. It draws from multiple disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and gender studies. Rape involves examining various factors such as societal attitudes, cultural norms, power dynamics, and psychological aspects. It's crucial to consider historical contexts, legal frameworks, and the impact of gender roles on understanding the prevalence and perception of rape. Research often delves into how education,

awareness campaigns, and support systems can mitigate its occurrence and address its aftermath.

Rape is a significant concern in Nigeria, with reported cases increasing over the years. The Nigerian government has taken steps to address this issue, including enacting laws such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act in 2015, which criminalizes various forms of violence, including rape. However, challenges remain, including underreporting, lack of prosecution, and cultural barriers. Civil society organizations and activists also play a crucial role in raising awareness, providing support to survivors, and advocating for policy changes to combat rape in Nigeria.

Government bodies around the world combat rape through various means, such as law enforcement agencies investigating cases, legislative bodies enacting laws for harsher penalties, and social service organizations providing support to survivors. These efforts often include awareness campaigns, education programs, and victim assistance services to prevent rape and support those affected.

Victims of rape in Nigeria come from diverse backgrounds and include women, children, and sometimes men. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, with many cases going unreported due to fear of stigma, retaliation, or lack of trust in the justice system. Children, especially girls, are also vulnerable to rape and sexual assault, often by relatives, neighbors, or acquaintances. Additionally, marginalized groups such

as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and people living in conflict-affected areas are at increased risk due to the breakdown of social structures and security.

There isn't a single reason for rape, as it can stem from a variety of factors including power dynamics, psychological issues, societal attitudes towards gender and sexuality, and even cultural norms. It's often about asserting control over another person, rather than a result of sexual desire.

## **1.2 Statement of Research Problem**

Rape as a social problem encompasses recognizing rape not just as an individual crime, but as a broader societal issue with deep-rooted causes and widespread implications. It acknowledges that rape is not merely an isolated incident, but rather a manifestation of larger societal attitudes, power dynamics, and systemic failures (Kilpatrick et al., 2017).

Firstly, rape is a violation of basic human rights and personal autonomy. It robs individuals of their bodily integrity, dignity, and sense of safety. When viewed through a social lens, rape reflects the unequal distribution of power and privilege, often targeting marginalized groups such as women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other vulnerable populations (Smith et al., 2017).

Secondly, rape is perpetuated by cultural attitudes and norms that trivialize or excuse sexual violence. This includes beliefs that justify or normalize rape, such as victim-blaming, slut-shaming, and the perpetuation of harmful gender stereotypes.

These societal attitudes create an environment where perpetrators feel emboldened to commit rape and survivors are discouraged from seeking justice or support (Edwards et al., 2014).

Additionally, the prevalence of rape is exacerbated by systemic failures within institutions responsible for prevention, response, and support. This includes shortcomings in law enforcement, legal systems, healthcare, and education. For example, inadequate training for law enforcement officials or a lack of accessible support services for survivors can contribute to underreporting and a culture of impunity for perpetrators (Sable et al., 2015).

Systemic failures in law enforcement, legal systems, healthcare, and education significantly contribute to the underreporting of rape and the culture of impunity for perpetrators. For instance, inadequate training for law enforcement officials often leads to poor handling of rape cases, where victims are dismissing for reporting the crime. Legal systems also play a role; outdated laws and inconsistent enforcement of newer laws like Violence Against Person Prohibition Act hinder effective justice for survivors (Grubb & Turner, 2012).

Furthermore, the impact of rape extends beyond individual survivors to families, communities, and society as a whole. It can result in long-term physical, psychological, and emotional trauma, as well as social stigma and discrimination (Campbell et al., 2018). Moreover, the fear of rape restricts freedom of movement and perpetuates a culture of fear and distrust.

The systemic shortcomings collectively contribute to the persistence of rape and the difficulty in addressing it effectively in Nigeria. Addressing of rape as a social problem requires multifaceted approaches that challenge societal norms, promote gender equality, strengthen institutional responses, and support survivors. This includes comprehensive sex education, bystander intervention programs, legal reforms, trauma-informed care, and initiatives to challenge harmful attitudes and behaviors. Ultimately, combating rape requires collective action at all levels of society to create a culture of consent, respect, and accountability (Sable et al., 2015).

The issue of rape in Nigeria is deeply concerning and multifaceted. It's a widespread problem cutting across age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Cultural norms, inadequate laws and weak enforcement contribute to the prevalence of rape. Victims often face stigma, making it difficult to report the crime. Education, advocacy and stricter enforcement of laws are crucial steps to addressing these pervasive issues (Breiding et al., 2014).

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The main objective of this research is to investigate the roles of social worker in the rehabilitation of rape victims, as rape could live a long lasting effects on the person's physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing, therefore tampering with their orientation, participation and involvement in the society at large. Other specific objectives are to.

- i. Examine the causes of rape in Ekosodin community, Edo State.

ii. Use knowledge gained about rape, i.e. the psychological effects it has on victims to inform public policy and community based intervention to reduce rape and its negative effects.

iii. Identify the barriers put in place to address rape and its victims in Nigeria.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

In order to address the objectives of the study stated above; the following research questions will be asked.

i. What socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contribute to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin?

ii. What are the psychological effects experienced by rape victims?

iii. How effective are current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study.**

The relevance of this study is that it will raise awareness about the social workers in the community, reducing stigma around seeking help. Educates the public on the supportive roles social workers play, therefore fostering a more supportive environment for survivors. Informs policy makers about the critical roles of social workers, advocating for better resources and support. Encourages the creation of policies that support the training and employment of more social workers specialized in handling sexual violence cases.

This study will increase the body of research on psychological effects on rape victims, it will expose the societal factors that contribute to the underreporting of rape cases, it will strengthen the current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivor's, exposing how cultural attitudes and beliefs influence perception of rape and it's victims and providing intervention and prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of rape in Ekosodin community.

Studying rape in Nigeria is significant for several reasons. It helps raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of sexual violence, facilitates understanding of underlying causes and risk factors, and informs the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Studying the roles of social worker in the rehabilitation of rape victims of rape victims is significant because it highlights the essential contribution these professionals make in the healing process. Understanding their roles help in identifying best practices, improving service delivery, and ensuring that survivors receive comprehensive care.

## **1.6 Scope of the study**

This research will examine literature and concept on the role's of social workers in the rehabilitation of rape victims, to know the reason behind rape, there by addressing the problem and profounding solutions.

The research will also be conducted among students, working class and married couples in Ekosodin community, Edo State.

### **1.7 Operational Definition of Terms**

The operational definition of rape, revised in 2012 by the FBI and used in crimes reporting as of 2014, is: "The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body parts or objects, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victims " This definition encompasses a broader range of acts than the previous definition, including any gender of victims or perpetrators and situations where the victims is unable to give consent due to age, mental or physical incapacity or the influence of drugs or alcohol (Department of Justice, 2012).

The significance of this updated definition lies in its inclusiveness and its reflection of the various forms of sexual penetration that constitute rape, thus providing a more accurate representation of the crime's prevalence. This comprehensive definition is critical for accurately measuring and addressing rape, as it accounts for the experience of all victims and ensure the crime is reported consistently across different jurisdictions.

### **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

Studying rape and its associated factors is complex and subject to several limitations. These limitations can be broadly categorized into methodological, ethical, and theoretical constraints.

1. Methodological Limitations:

- Sampling Bias: Studies often rely on self-reported data, which can be affected by underreporting due to the stigma associated with rape or over reporting due to misunderstandings about the questions asked
- Limited Generalizability: Research often focuses on specific populations (e.g., university students or clinical samples) which may not represent the broader population
- Data Collection Methods: The sensitivity of the topic requires careful data collection methods, often leading to reliance on anonymous surveys which may limit the dept. of information obtained

## 2. Ethical Limitations:

- Participant Safety: Ensuring the safety and confidentiality of participants is paramount, but it can restrict the scope of questions and follow-up interviews, potentially limiting the depth of understanding of the issue
  - Informed Consent: Obtaining informed consent without causing distress to participants is challenging, and researchers must navigate these ethical concerns delicately.

## 3. Theoretical Limitations:

- Complex Nature of Rape: Rape is influenced by a myriad of social, cultural, and individual factors, making it difficult to isolate variables or establish causation in studies

-Definitional Variability: Different studies may use varying definitions of rape and sexual violence, complicating comparisons across research and potentially leading to inconsistent findings.

These limitations highlight the need for careful, ethically sound research designs that acknowledge and attempt to mitigate these constraints. Despite these challenges, identifying and addressing limitations transparently can enhance the validity and impact of research findings on rape and contribute to more effective interventions and policies.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Conceptual Framework**

Rape has a history that almost equalled the history of man's creation. It is on record that the first recorded incidence of rape in the Bible was also in the Book of Genesis. Indeed biblically, rape was a constant feature among men and at a point it was taken as a thing of shame not on the victim but on the family of the person raped.

Culturally, it is an offence which stands on the same pedestal with the offence of murder since a suspect accused of rape is expected to go into hiding while his people

make efforts to cleanse the shame on the face of the family of the rape victim. Despite all these, the offence of rape in Nigeria seems to be on the increase and the question on every lip is what the cause is? Does it mean that the punishment stipulated for it in the extant laws is no longer heavy enough to deter would-be rapist or are there factors which ostensibly offer more incentives for rape than the risk of its punishment. Furthermore, there is the fact that women have always been perceived as the weaker vessel, and so have been subjugated and oppressed by culture in most African societies (Crenshaw, 2015)..

The culture is defined by inequality and the subjugation of the female folk. Forms of gender-based violence, including rape, domestic violence and other sexual abuses, have assumed serious dimensions globally.

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. 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.

The issue of rape is not an abstract issue as it has unveiled its ugly mask in every society, and how do we describe the brutal nature of this shameless masquerade in Africa, especially in Nigeria? What could have triggered the increase in recent times? What could have caused perpetrators to sexually assault their victims.

These questions are not easily answered, because in rape cases questions are easily asked but answers are much more difficult and inconvenient to answer. The closest thing to an answer is the cold shoulder, the emotional reaction that one receives when the issue is mentioned.

In Nigeria, incidences of rape are fast assuming a threatening dimension that requires urgent intervention considering the increasing rate. Rape, like other forms of violence against women, is an infringement on women's rights, privacy, self-preservation and dignity. Available data in the print and electronic media reveal that the issue of rape has become a serious social problem of epidemic proportions and no longer an isolated criminal act affecting just a few women in the society. In recent times the incidences of rape have increased at an alarming rate in Africa and also in Nigeria leading to the death of so many women. There is little or no policy or law that helps protect the victims as they are most times blamed, stigmatized and humiliated by the public if it is brought to the public domain. This hinders victims from embracing a mindset of reporting such an inhumane crime to the appropriate authority.

Since time immemorial, rape which is one of the oldest crimes in the history of the human race has caused a lot of pain and agony to individual rights with different jurisdictions spelling out the punishment if anyone is found guilty of same. However, till date, rape has continued to occur with no sign of ceasing but rather on the increase in virtually every part of the world. This act which at a certain time was largely

perceived to have occurred as a result of lust does not seem to be so anymore (Henry, 2017). However victims of rape have no age limit as babies, and the aged are vulnerable to this menace. Interestingly 90% of victims of rape are female.

With the way things are going, we cannot say that it is a category of a particular age that engage in such act because even the elderly adults in the society partake in this animalistic act. In essence, teenagers, young men and old men engage in forceful sex with the opposite sex.

The definition of rape is inconsistent between governmental health organizations, law enforcement, health providers, and legal professions. It has varied historically and culturally.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines rape as a form of sexual assault, while the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include rape in their definition of sexual assault; they term rape a form of sexual violence.

Rape as generally known to all can simply be put to mean an act of a man having forceful sexual intercourse with a woman or girl.

Rape is defined as the unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent, or with her consent if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind or by fear of harm or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act. Section 357 of the Criminal Code Act applicable in the Southern part of Nigeria, defines rape as follows; "Any person who

has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by personating her husband, is guilty of an offence which is called rape. It follows in section 358 of the same Act that the punishment for the offence of rape is imprisonment for life. It is imperative at this point to refer to the Criminal Code's definition of "carnal knowledge" since that is the key word in the offence. According to section 6 of the Criminal Code Act, the offence of rape is complete upon penetration. Further, unlawful carnal knowledge is one which takes place otherwise than between husband and wife.

Section 282 of the Penal Code which is applicable in the Northern part of Nigeria defines rape as follows;

(1) A man is said to commit rape who has sexual intercourse with a woman in any of the following circumstances:- (a) against her will; (b) without her consent; (c) with her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her in fear of death or of hurt; (d) with her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband and that her consent is given because she believes that he is the man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married; (e) with or without her consent when she is under fourteen years of age or of unsound mind.

(2) Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife is not rape, if she has attained to puberty

The definition presumes only penetration of a vagina by a penis and discriminates against women and girls who may have been raped by use of a foreign object or who have been penetrated orally or anally by the penis. (In addition, the definition in Section 282 is not gender-neutral and is based on the concept that only a woman can be raped.) Furthermore, under Section 1 of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 rape was defined as follows;

□(1) A person commits the offence of rape if- he or she intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person with any other part of his or her body or anything else; the other person does not consent to the penetration; or the consent is obtained by force or means of threat or intimidation of any kind or by fear of harm or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act or the use of any substance or addictive capable of taking away the will of such person or in the case of a married person by impersonating his or her spouse.□ The definitions under the Nigeria Laws have created empty spaces which need to be given the necessary attention hence the amendment. The definition on rape explains the fact that rape can only be committed by a man against a woman and not vice versa. On this note it will be agreed because it has been recognized, that a man may also be a victim of rape and it may be perpetrated by any person including a woman; this has been trending in our

present day society. In the world of science and technology, is it not possible for a woman to actually penetrate a man through the anus or even for a woman to penetrate another woman? As this question is raging, there is also the need to clearly understand the status of a woman who procured another man to rape a woman. Will such a woman be liable as a party under section 7d of the Criminal Code?

Lack of consent is key to the definition of rape. Consent is affirmative [informed approval, indicating a freely given agreement] to sexual activity. It is not necessarily expressed verbally, and may instead be overtly implied from actions, but the absence of objection does not constitute consent. Lack of consent may result from either forcible compulsion by the perpetrator or an inability to consent on the part of the victim (such as people who are asleep, intoxicated or otherwise mentally compromised). However consent of the victim is a complete defence.

Under the Nigerian law, [consent] is not clearly defined in the Criminal or Penal Code. It presupposes that the meaning of the term [consent] can be found elsewhere outside the ambit of the Criminal Code. Under the Sexual Offences Act, Section 74[27] seeks to define consent as a situation where the person offers his agreement by choice and at the same time has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. It follows that in prosecuting such a matter, the prosecutor must ensure that the complainant had the capacity to make a choice about whether or not to take part in the sexual activity at the time in question and secondly establish that the choice was made freely and not in

any way constrained or obtained by coercion. Where these two are satisfactorily established, then it can be said that it is consensual sex.

Social workers approach the issue of rape and its victims from a multi-dimensional framework that considers the psychological, social, cultural, and systemic factors at play. They focus on empowering survivors, addressing trauma, advocating for justice, and promoting prevention through education and awareness. This framework encompasses understanding the dynamics of power, consent, and trauma, while also recognizing the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality, and other identities that can influence experiences of sexual violence.

Social workers utilize a comprehensive conceptual framework to understand rape and its impact on victims. This framework encompasses various dimensions, including individual, interpersonal, systemic, and societal factors. Here's a breakdown of each aspect:

1. Individual Factors: Social workers consider the unique characteristics and experiences of each rape victim, including their age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, mental health history, and prior trauma exposure Heffernan, K. (2016). These factors influence how the individual perceives and responds to the assault, as well as their access to resources and support networks.
2. Interpersonal Dynamics: Social workers examine the interpersonal relationships and interactions that contribute to or mitigate the risk of rape. This includes assessing the

dynamics of power and control within intimate relationships, family dynamics, peer relationships, and social networks Bronfenbrenner, U. (2014). Understanding these dynamics helps social workers identify risk factors for victimization and tailor interventions to promote safety and healing.

3. Systemic Factors: Social workers recognize the role of systemic factors, such as institutionalized sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, in perpetuating rape culture and exacerbating vulnerabilities among certain populations. They advocate for systemic changes to address inequities in access to resources, services, and justice for rape victims, as well as to challenge discriminatory attitudes and policies that perpetuate victim-blaming and minimize the seriousness of sexual violence Crenshaw, K. (2015).

4. Societal Context: Social workers analyze the broader societal context in which rape occurs, including cultural norms, values, and beliefs about gender, sexuality, and power. They work to challenge societal attitudes and behaviors that contribute to rape and create a culture of impunity for perpetrators. This includes promoting consent education, bystander intervention training, and media literacy to prevent sexual violence and promote healthy relationships Chai (2021).

By integrating these dimensions into their conceptual framework, social workers can provide holistic and culturally competent support to rape victims, address

the root causes of sexual violence, and advocate for systemic changes to create a more just and equitable society.

## **2.2 Review of Relevant Concepts**

### **2.2.1 Causes of Rapes**

The cause of rape is never sexual really it's all about power.. and to see someone in a position where they are helpless.. so the rapist can feel powerful.. often they are men who are insecure to approach women openly so they force them.. take them by force. They don't do it to give pleasure.. I do believe that those men get their sexual pleasure and satisfaction.

It has to do with dominance, power, and hating women enough to do something that will humiliate and shame her the most. It has NOTHING to do with a rape victim wearing short skirts, lots of make-up, or wearing shirts that e7 a woman acting so sexy that the jerk who rapes her simply "lost control" of his lust. Only a man who is truly mentally ill can be driven to rape. It is a way for a very angry and sick man to dominate over a woman by the use of power, violence, and fear. NO victim of rape ever "asks" for it. Rape is a multifaceted issue with complex causes and implications for victims. Understanding these factors is crucial for both prevention and support.

1. Power Dynamics: Rape is often about power and control rather than sexual desire. Perpetrators use sexual violence to exert dominance over their victims, exploiting vulnerabilities such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health. Power dynamics play a crucial role in understanding the perpetration and experience of rape. At its core, rape is not merely about sexual desire but rather an exertion of power and control over another individual. These dynamics manifest in various forms, both within interpersonal relationships and broader societal structures.

Within intimate relationships, power imbalances can create environments where one partner feels entitled to control the other's sexual autonomy. This can occur through manipulation, coercion, or outright force. In cases of intimate partner rape, the perpetrator may use emotional or psychological tactics to maintain dominance and undermine the victim's agency. For example, they may employ tactics such as gaslighting, where they deny or minimize the harm caused by their actions, leading the victim to question their own reality (Koss, 2017)..

In situations where rape occurs outside of intimate relationships, power dynamics often intersect with other forms of oppression, such as gender, race, class, or sexuality. Marginalized individuals may face heightened vulnerability to sexual violence due to systemic inequalities that limit their access to resources, support, and legal protection. For example, transgender individuals, particularly transgender women of color, are disproportionately targeted for sexual violence due to transphobia and racism. Societal norms and cultural attitudes also perpetuate power imbalances that facilitate rape. Gender norms that valorize male dominance and female submission contribute to

a culture where sexual aggression is normalized and even celebrated. Media portrayals of masculinity and femininity often reinforce these stereotypes, reinforcing the idea that men are entitled to sex and women's consent is inconsequential (Casey & Lindhorst, 2009).

Addressing power dynamics in the context of rape requires a multifaceted approach that challenges entrenched systems of oppression and promotes equitable relationships based on respect, autonomy, and consent. This involves not only holding perpetrators accountable for their actions but also dismantling the social structures that enable and perpetuate sexual violence. By empowering individuals to recognize and challenge power imbalances, we can work towards creating a society where everyone is free from the threat of rape and other forms of sexual harm.

2. Social Norms and Gender Inequality: Deep-seated cultural attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality contribute to the prevalence of rape. These norms may include victim-blaming, trivialization of sexual violence, and the objectification of women's bodies.

Social norms and gender inequality are significant factors contributing to the prevalence of rape and sexual violence. These norms dictate acceptable behavior within a society and often reinforce power imbalances between men and women, perpetuating a culture where sexual violence is tolerated or even condoned.

Gender norms prescribe rigid expectations for how individuals should behave based on their perceived gender, reinforcing stereotypes that equate masculinity with dominance and femininity with submission. These norms not only limit individual expression but

also create an environment where men are socialized to assert power and control, while women are taught to be passive and accommodating (Casey & Lindhorst, 2009).

In such a context, rape becomes a manifestation of these power dynamics, with perpetrators exploiting and reinforcing gender inequality to assert dominance over their victims. Women, in particular, bear the brunt of these inequalities, facing heightened vulnerability to sexual violence due to their subordinate status in society.

Moreover, social norms often perpetuate victim-blaming attitudes, placing the responsibility for preventing rape on the victim rather than the perpetrator. This victim-blaming mentality further entrenches gender inequality by absolving perpetrators of accountability and reinforcing the idea that women's bodies are inherently objectifiable and violable.

Addressing rape and sexual violence requires challenging these deeply ingrained social norms and dismantling systems of gender inequality. This involves promoting consent education, challenging harmful gender stereotypes, and fostering environments where survivors feel supported and empowered to come forward. By advocating for gender equality and challenging the societal norms that perpetuate rape culture, we can work towards creating a safer and more equitable society for all.

3. Alcohol and Drugs: Substance use can impair judgment and consent, making individuals more vulnerable to sexual assault. Perpetrators may take advantage of someone who is intoxicated or incapacitated, leading to non-consensual sexual encounters.

Alcohol and drugs can significantly contribute to the occurrence of rape and sexual assault by impairing judgment, inhibiting consent, and facilitating predatory behavior. When individuals consume alcohol or drugs, their decision-making abilities may become compromised, making them more vulnerable to manipulation or coercion by perpetrators. Additionally, substances like alcohol can lower inhibitions and increase impulsivity, leading to risky or aggressive behavior.

Perpetrators of sexual violence may exploit these effects to target individuals who are under the influence, knowing that they may be less able to resist or defend themselves. In some cases, perpetrators may intentionally provide alcohol or drugs to their victims as a means of incapacitating them and rendering them unable to resist.

Moreover, substance use can also cloud memory and perception, making it difficult for survivors to recall details of the assault or to accurately report what happened. This can further complicate the process of seeking justice and holding perpetrators accountable (Breiding et al., 2014).

Addressing the role of alcohol and drugs in sexual violence requires comprehensive prevention strategies that target both substance abuse and the perpetration of sexual violence. This may involve implementing policies to regulate alcohol consumption, providing education on consent and bystander intervention, and offering support services for survivors who have experienced assault while under the influence. By addressing the intersection of substance use and sexual violence, we can work towards creating safer environments where individuals are better able to protect themselves and others from harm

4. Trauma and Mental Health: Rape can have severe psychological effects on victims, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Survivors may experience feelings of shame, guilt, and self-blame, which can hinder their ability to seek help and support.

Trauma resulting from rape can have profound and long-lasting effects on mental health. Survivors may experience a range of psychological symptoms, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and disordered eating. These symptoms can impact daily functioning, relationships, and overall well-being. Additionally, survivors may struggle with feelings of shame, guilt, and self-blame, further exacerbating their distress. Seeking professional support, such as therapy or counseling, can be crucial for survivors in processing their trauma, developing coping strategies, and promoting healing. Creating safe and supportive environments where survivors feel validated and empowered to seek help is essential for addressing the mental health consequences of rape and promoting recovery ( Rothman & Silverman, 2007)..

5. Social Stigma and Fear of Reprisal: Victims often face stigma, disbelief, and judgment from society, which can discourage them from reporting the assault or seeking assistance. Fear of retaliation from the perpetrator or repercussions within their social circles may also prevent victims from coming forward.

Social stigma and fear of reprisal are significant barriers that often prevent rape survivors from coming forward, seeking help, and accessing support services. Survivors may fear judgment, disbelief, or blame from others, including friends, family, law

enforcement, and the broader community. This fear of stigma can lead survivors to suffer in silence, further isolating them and exacerbating their trauma.

Moreover, survivors may also fear reprisal from their perpetrators or retaliation from others who may seek to protect the perpetrator or maintain the status quo. This fear of retaliation can be particularly acute in cases where the perpetrator holds power or influence within the survivor's social or professional circles.

The combination of social stigma and fear of reprisal creates a climate of silence and impunity, where perpetrators are able to continue their abusive behavior without consequence, and survivors are left to grapple with their trauma alone. Addressing these barriers requires creating safe and supportive environments where survivors feel validated, believed, and empowered to come forward. This involves challenging victim-blaming attitudes, providing confidential and accessible support services, and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions Chai, J. Y. (2021). By reducing stigma and fear of reprisal, we can create a culture where survivors feel supported and empowered to seek help and heal from their experiences of rape and sexual violence (Tharp et al., 2013).

### **2.3. Clarifying Misconceptions about Rape Victims is Essential for Fostering Empathy and Support.**

Education campaigns and advocacy efforts can challenge harmful stereotypes and promote understanding. It's crucial to emphasize that:

1. Consent is Non-Negotiable: Consent must be freely given, enthusiastic, and ongoing. Lack of resistance does not imply consent, and coercion or manipulation invalidate consent.

Consent is an unequivocal, fundamental aspect of any healthy and respectful relationship, whether sexual or otherwise. It means that each person willingly and enthusiastically agrees to engage in a particular activity, fully understanding what they are consenting to and having the freedom to revoke consent at any point. Consent is non-negotiable because it is a basic human right and a cornerstone of ethical behavior. Without consent, any form of interaction becomes coercion or even assault. Upholding the principle of consent promotes trust, autonomy, and mutual respect in relationships. It is essential to prioritize clear communication, active listening, and ongoing consent throughout any interaction. Consent should never be assumed, coerced, or manipulated; it must be freely given by all parties involved.

2. Victim Blaming is Unacceptable: No one asks to be raped, and responsibility lies solely with the perpetrator. Blaming the victim reinforces harmful stereotypes and undermines survivors' experiences.

Victim blaming is a harmful and unjust practice that shifts responsibility from the perpetrator to the victim, often exacerbating the trauma they've experienced. It perpetuates harmful stereotypes and undermines efforts to support and empower survivors. Victims of any form of harm, including rape, assault, or harassment, deserve compassion, support, and respect. Blaming the victim not only fails to address the root causes of violence but also contributes to a culture of silence and shame that discourages

survivors from seeking help or reporting their experiences. Instead of blaming victims, it's crucial to hold perpetrators accountable, challenge harmful attitudes and behaviors, and create supportive environments where survivors feel safe to come forward and receive the assistance they need to heal and seek justice.

3. Supportive Resources Exist: Rape crisis centers, hotlines, counseling services, and support groups offer confidential and nonjudgmental assistance to survivors. Encouraging victims to seek help can empower them to begin the healing process.

Supportive resources for victims of various forms of harm include hotlines, counseling services, support groups, and advocacy organizations. Hotlines such as rape crisis lines provide immediate support, information, and referrals to local resources. Counseling services offer therapy and emotional support tailored to the needs of survivors, helping them process their experiences and cope with trauma. Support groups connect survivors with others who have had similar experiences, fostering a sense of community and solidarity. Additionally, advocacy organizations work to raise awareness, promote policy changes, and provide legal assistance to survivors seeking justice. These resources play a crucial role in empowering survivors, offering them a safe space to share their stories, access support, and navigate the path toward healing and recovery.

4. Legal Recourse is Available: Reporting rape to law enforcement can be daunting, but it's an option for pursuing justice. Legal protections, such as anonymity and victim advocacy services, aim to safeguard survivors throughout the legal process.

By addressing the root causes of rape and providing comprehensive support to survivors, we can work towards creating a society where sexual violence is eradicated, and victims are empowered to seek justice and healing.

### **2.3.1 The Sociocultural, Economic and Institutional Factors that Contribute to the Prevalence of Rape**

The prevalence of rape in Nigeria is influenced by a complex interplay of sociocultural, economic, and instructional factors. Here is an overview of how each of these domains contributes to the issue:

#### **1. Sociocultural Factors**

**i. Cultural Taboos, Silence and Stigma:** Talking about sex and sexual violence is often taboo, leading to underreporting and lack of support for victims. The stigma attached to rape survivor's further discourages them from coming forward.

Cultural taboos surrounding discussions of sex and sexual violence can contribute to a culture of silence and denial regarding rape. In some societies, discussing sexual assault is considered shameful or taboo, leading survivors to suffer in silence rather than seeking help or reporting the crime. This silence perpetuates the invisibility of survivors and allows perpetrators to act with impunity.

Cultural silence and taboos surrounding rape can stem from deeply ingrained beliefs, societal norms, and power dynamics. In some cultures, discussions about sexuality and violence are considered taboo, leading to a reluctance to acknowledge or address incidents of rape. This silence can be perpetuated by fear of stigma, shame, or

reprisal, especially for survivors who may face ostracism or retaliation for speaking out. Additionally, cultural norms that prioritize family honor or community reputation may discourage reporting or seeking justice for rape survivors.

These taboos can also intersect with gender dynamics, with women often bearing the burden of preserving family honor or reputation. Consequently, many cases of rape go unreported or are handled informally within communities, further perpetuating a culture of impunity for perpetrators. Challenging cultural silence and taboos requires addressing underlying power structures, promoting open dialogue, and providing support systems that prioritize the needs and voices of survivor's

i. Patriarchal Norms/Cultural Norms Surrounding Gender and Sexuality: Nigeria society is patriarchal, which perpetuates gender inequality and they subordination of women. The norms often manifest in the beliefs that men have to do right to control a woman's bodies.

Cultural norms dictate expectations regarding gender roles, sexuality, and power dynamics, which can influence perceptions of rape. In many societies, traditional gender roles portray men as dominant and sexually aggressive, while women are expected to be submissive and modest. These norms can perpetuate the belief that men are entitled to sex and that women should comply, leading to victim-blaming attitudes when non-consensual sex occurs.

In the case study of rape, cultural norms surrounding gender and sexuality often perpetuate harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to the prevalence and mishandling of such cases. Traditional gender roles play a significant role, with societal

expectations often placing the burden of prevention on victims, particularly women, rather than addressing the behavior of perpetrators. Victim blaming is common, with survivors facing stigma and scrutiny for their actions, clothing choices, or perceived lack of resistance.

Toxic masculinity also influences perceptions of rape, with notions of male dominance and entitlement intersecting with sexual violence. This can result in underreporting of assaults by male survivors and a culture that minimizes or excuses rape perpetrated by men. LGBTQ+ individuals may face additional challenges due to cultural norms around sexuality and gender identity, including discrimination and disbelief when reporting assaults.

Legal and judicial systems are also influenced by cultural norms, leading to biases that favor perpetrators, particularly if they hold privileged positions. Intersectionality further complicates the issue, with marginalized communities experiencing compounded barriers to justice and support.

Efforts to address these cultural norms include challenging gender stereotypes, promoting consent education, and advocating for survivor-centered approaches. However, progress requires sustained efforts to shift societal attitudes and beliefs surrounding gender, sexuality, and power dynamics.

ii. Traditional Practice: Certain cultural practices, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), contribute to an environment where women's autonomy is undermined, making them more vulnerable to sexual violence.

iii. Religious and Moral Beliefs: Religious teachings and moral beliefs can shape attitudes towards rape and its victims. In some religious traditions, patriarchal interpretations emphasize female purity and obedience, contributing to victim-blaming and the stigmatization of survivors. Additionally, misconceptions about rape being a punishment for immoral behavior or a test of faith can further marginalize survivors within religious communities

Religious and moral beliefs can significantly influence attitudes toward rape within a cultural context. Some religious doctrines may condemn rape as a grave sin or moral transgression, emphasizing principles of respect, consent, and the dignity of every individual. However, interpretations of religious texts can vary widely, and in some cases, certain teachings or cultural practices may perpetuate harmful attitudes, such as victim blaming or the objectification of women.

Furthermore, religious and moral beliefs can intersect with cultural norms, shaping societal responses to rape survivors and influencing legal and judicial systems. In some instances, religious leaders or moral authorities may wield significant influence in shaping community attitudes and responses to sexual violence. Efforts to address rape within religious and moral frameworks often involve dialogue, education, and advocacy to promote values of compassion, justice, and accountability while challenging harmful interpretations or practices.

iv Myths and Stereotypes Perpetuated by Media: Media representations of rape often reinforce harmful myths and stereotypes, shaping public perception and attitudes towards survivors. For example, portrayals of rape as a crime of passion committed by

strangers in dark alleys overlook the reality that most rapes are perpetrated by acquaintances in familiar settings. Furthermore, sensationalized reporting and victim-blaming narratives can lead to skepticism towards survivors' accounts and minimize the seriousness of the crime.

Media often perpetuates myths and stereotypes about rape, such as portraying victims as responsible for their assaults due to clothing or behavior. Additionally, media may romanticize or trivialize sexual violence, reinforcing harmful attitudes. These portrayals can contribute to victim blaming and minimize the seriousness of rape as a crime.

v. Intersectionality and Marginalization: Cultural attitudes towards race, ethnicity, class, and other intersecting identities can compound the challenges faced by marginalized survivors. Historical stereotypes and systemic inequalities can influence perceptions of who is considered a "credible" victim and shape responses to rape within different communities. Marginalized survivors may face additional barriers to reporting, accessing support services, and seeking justice due to cultural stigma and discrimination. Intersectionality highlights how various aspects of identity, such as race, class, gender, and sexuality, intersect to shape individuals' experiences of marginalization and oppression. In the context of rape, marginalized communities, such as LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and those with disabilities, face compounded barriers to justice and support. Discrimination, stereotypes, and systemic inequalities intersect, often resulting in disproportionate rates of sexual violence and limited access to resources and services for survivors within these communities.

vi. Normalization of Violence and Objectification: Cultural norms that normalize violence and objectify women contribute to a climate where rape is seen as less serious or inevitable. From media depictions of sexualized violence to everyday language that trivializes consent, these cultural messages reinforce the idea that women's bodies are objects to be controlled and dominated. This normalization of violence can desensitize individuals to the realities of rape and perpetuate victim-blaming attitudes.

The normalization of violence and objectification in media, culture, and societal attitudes contributes to a climate where rape is trivialized and perpetrators are excused. Portrayals of aggression and dominance as masculine ideals, coupled with the objectification of women's bodies, reinforce harmful gender norms. This normalization desensitizes individuals to the severity of sexual violence and perpetuates a culture where consent is disregarded and boundaries are violated. Consequently, rape is often normalized or dismissed, and survivors may hesitate to report their experiences due to fear of not being taken seriously or facing victim-blaming attitudes.

### **Conclusion:**

Cultural attitudes and beliefs profoundly influence perceptions of rape and its victims, shaping societal responses to sexual violence. By challenging harmful stereotypes, promoting gender equality, and fostering empathy and understanding, societies can work towards creating a culture that supports survivors, holds perpetrators accountable, and prevents sexual violence. Education, advocacy, and cultural interventions are essential for dismantling the cultural barriers that perpetuate rape culture and fostering environments of respect, consent, and dignity for all individuals.

## **2. Economic Factors**

i. **Poverty and Economic Disparities:** High levels of poverty and economic inequality can exacerbate vulnerabilities. Women and girls in impoverished situations may be more susceptible to sexual exploitation and abuse.

ii. **Lack of Employment Opportunities:** Economic dependency on men due to limited job opportunities for women can increase their vulnerability to sexual violence, as they may lack the resources to leave abusive situations.

iii. **Transactional Sex:** Economic desperation can lead to situations where women and girls engage in transactional sex for survival, increasing their risk of being raped or sexually exploited.

## **3. Instructional Factors**

i. **Inadequate Education:** Lack of comprehensive sex education means that many young people are not informed about consent and sexual rights. This ignorance can perpetuate myths and misconceptions about rape.

ii. **Insufficient Legal Education and Awareness:** There is often a lack of awareness about legal rights and the mechanisms available for reporting and addressing

### **2.4 Psychological Effects on Rape Victims.**

Rape can have profound and varied psychological effects on victims including;

1. **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):** Many survivors experience symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, and avoidance behaviors.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, such as rape. Symptoms of PTSD may include intrusive memories of the trauma, flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, and avoidance of reminders of the event. These symptoms can be severe and persistent, interfering with daily functioning and quality of life. PTSD can also lead to emotional numbness, difficulty concentrating, and heightened reactivity to triggers associated with the trauma. Treatment for PTSD often involves therapy, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR), as well as medication to manage symptoms. With appropriate support and treatment, individuals with PTSD can learn to cope with their experiences and reclaim a sense of safety and well-being cognition (Campbell et al., 2017).

2. Depression and Anxiety: Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and anxiety are common reactions to the trauma of rape.

Depression and anxiety commonly co-occur with the experience of rape, exacerbating the psychological toll on survivors. Depression manifests as persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed. Anxiety can manifest as excessive worry, restlessness, and feelings of impending danger or panic attacks. The trauma of rape can amplify these symptoms, leading to significant impairment in daily functioning, relationships, and overall well-being (Ullman et al., 2014).

. Survivors may struggle to trust others, experience difficulties in forming or maintaining relationships, and may engage in avoidance behaviors to cope with distressing emotions. Treatment for depression and anxiety often involves a combination of therapy, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) or medication, to address symptoms and support healing and recovery.

3. Guilt and Shame: Victims may blame themselves for the assault or feel ashamed of what happened to them, leading to self-esteem issues and self-blame.

Guilt and shame are common emotional responses experienced by rape survivors. Victims may unfairly blame themselves for the assault, questioning if they could have prevented it or if they somehow deserved it. Shame often stems from societal stigma and misconceptions surrounding sexual violence, leading survivors to feel dirty, damaged, or unworthy of support. These feelings can be deeply ingrained and pervasive, impacting self-esteem and hindering recovery. It's crucial for survivors to recognize that they are not to blame for the actions of their perpetrators and to seek support from trusted individuals, therapists, or support groups to address and overcome these feelings

4. Trust Issues: Rape can shatter trust in others and the world at large, leading to difficulties in forming or maintaining relationships.

Rape can profoundly impact a survivor's ability to trust others and the world at large. The betrayal of trust by the perpetrator can shatter one's sense of safety and security,

leading to heightened vigilance and skepticism in interpersonal relationships. Survivors may struggle to confide in others or form close connections, fearing vulnerability and potential betrayal. Trust issues can manifest as difficulty in trusting romantic partners, friends, or authority figures, as well as generalized mistrust of strangers or unfamiliar situations. Rebuilding trust is a complex process that often involves therapy, support from understanding individuals, and gradually relearning to trust oneself and others. It's essential for survivors to recognize that healing is possible and that they deserve relationships built on mutual trust and respect.

5. Sexual Dysfunction: Survivors may experience changes in their sexual functioning, including decreased libido, difficulties with intimacy, and negative associations with sex.

Sexual dysfunction following rape is a distressing consequence experienced by many survivors. It can manifest in various ways, including but not limited to:

a. Physical Symptoms: Survivors may experience physical pain during sexual activity due to injuries sustained during the assault. These injuries can lead to difficulties with arousal, lubrication, and penetration, contributing to sexual dysfunction.

b. Psychological Impact: The trauma of rape can lead to a range of psychological issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. These mental health conditions can significantly affect a survivor's sexual functioning by causing intrusive thoughts, flashbacks, and emotional numbness.

c. Trust Issues: Rape can shatter a survivor's sense of trust and safety, making it difficult to engage in intimate relationships. Fear of intimacy and distrust of others can hinder sexual desire and pleasure, leading to sexual dysfunction.

d. Self-Blame and Shame: Survivors often experience feelings of guilt, shame, and self-blame, which can contribute to low self-esteem and negative body image. These factors can undermine sexual confidence and enjoyment, exacerbating sexual dysfunction.

e. Impact on Relationships: Sexual dysfunction can strain relationships with partners, leading to communication breakdowns, feelings of rejection, and conflicts. Partners may struggle to understand the survivor's experience and needs, further complicating intimacy and sexual satisfaction.

Addressing sexual dysfunction in rape survivors requires a holistic approach that addresses both the physical and psychological aspects of trauma. Therapy, including cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and trauma-focused therapy, can help survivors process their experiences, manage symptoms, and rebuild a healthy sense of sexuality. Additionally, open communication, education, and support from partners and healthcare providers play crucial roles in healing and recovery.

6. Substance Abuse: Some victims may turn to alcohol or drugs as a way to cope with the emotional pain and distress caused by the assault.

Substance abuse can be both a coping mechanism and a risk factor for rape. In some cases, perpetrators may use drugs or alcohol to incapacitate their victims, making them

more vulnerable to sexual assault. Survivors of rape may turn to substance abuse as a way to cope with the trauma and alleviate symptoms such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Substance abuse following rape can exacerbate mental health issues, impair judgment, and increase the risk of revictimization. Drugs and alcohol can interfere with the survivor's ability to process and heal from the trauma, leading to a cycle of self-destructive behavior.

Addressing substance abuse in rape survivors requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both the underlying trauma and the addiction. Therapy, support groups, and rehabilitation programs can help survivors develop healthy coping strategies, rebuild their lives, and reduce the risk of future harm. It's essential for survivors to seek professional help and surround themselves with supportive networks to overcome substance abuse and reclaim their well-being.

7. Suicidal Thoughts: Feelings of hopelessness and despair may lead some survivors to contemplate or attempt suicide.

Experiencing suicidal thoughts after sexual assault, such as rape, is unfortunately not uncommon. The trauma of such a violation can lead to overwhelming feelings of despair, shame, and hopelessness. It's crucial for individuals grappling with these thoughts to seek help and support immediately.

The aftermath of rape often involves a complex mix of emotions. Survivors may feel an intense sense of violation, fear, anger, and guilt. These emotions can be so

overpowering that individuals may struggle to cope, leading to thoughts of ending their own lives. One of the reasons suicidal thoughts can arise after rape is the profound sense of loss of control. Rape is a complete violation of one's autonomy and can shatter a person's sense of safety and trust in the world. This loss of control over one's own body and circumstances can leave individuals feeling utterly powerless and unable to see a way forward.

Moreover, the stigma and shame surrounding sexual assault can exacerbate these feelings. Survivors may blame themselves for what happened or fear judgment and disbelief from others if they disclose their experience. This sense of isolation can intensify suicidal ideation, as individuals may believe that ending their lives is the only way to escape the pain and shame.

Additionally, the physical and psychological consequences of rape can be overwhelming. Survivors may experience flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, and panic attacks, all of which can contribute to a sense of hopelessness and despair. Chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections, and unwanted pregnancies resulting from the assault can further compound these challenges. In the midst of such profound suffering, it's crucial for survivors to know that help and support are available. Seeking professional counseling or therapy can provide a safe space to process emotions, develop coping strategies, and work towards healing. Support groups, both in person

and online, can also offer validation, understanding, and solidarity from others who have experienced similar traumas.

Additionally, reaching out to loved ones or trusted friends can provide crucial emotional support. It's essential for survivors to know that they are not alone and that there are people who care about them and want to help

If suicidal thoughts become overwhelming or if there is a risk of self-harm, it's imperative to seek immediate help from a mental health professional or a crisis hotline. There are resources available 24/7 to provide support and assistance to those in crisis.

Ultimately, while suicidal thoughts may feel insurmountable in the aftermath of rape, it's important to remember that healing is possible. With the right support and resources, survivors can gradually reclaim their sense of agency, rebuild their lives, and find hope for the future. It's important for survivors to receive support from mental health professionals who can help them navigate these effects and begin the healing process.

## **2..5 Societal factors contributing to the underreporting of rape cases in Ekosodin community.**

Understanding the societal factors contributing to the underreporting of rape cases requires a multifaceted analysis encompassing cultural norms, victim-blaming attitudes, institutional barriers, and systemic inequalities. Here's an exploration of these factors:

### **1. Cultural Norms and Stigma**

Rape is often surrounded by stigma and shame in many societies. Victims may fear being blamed, judged, or ostracized by their communities. Cultural expectations regarding gender roles and sexuality can exacerbate this stigma, making it difficult for victims to come forward. For instance, in cultures that prioritize chastity and purity, victims may fear being labeled as "impure" or "damaged goods."

## 2 . Victim-Blaming Attitudes

Victim-blaming attitudes are pervasive and can discourage survivors from reporting their experiences. Statements like "she was asking for it" or "he should have been more careful" shift the responsibility from the perpetrator to the victim, minimizing the severity of the crime and undermining the victim's credibility. This blame can come from peers, family members, or even law enforcement officials, further deterring survivors from seeking justice.

## 3. Distrust in the Justice System

Many survivors lack confidence in the justice system's ability to deliver justice effectively. Concerns about retraumatization during legal proceedings, fear of not being believed, or experiencing secondary victimization from law enforcement officials can dissuade survivors from reporting their experiences. Moreover, the perception that perpetrators often go unpunished due to loopholes in the legal system can discourage reporting.

## 4. Power Dynamics and Institutional Barriers

Power imbalances within institutions such as workplaces, educational settings, or the military can contribute to unrepercussionsderreporting. Survivors may fear retaliation or professional if they accuse someone in a position of authority. Additionally, institutional procedures for reporting and handling rape cases may be inadequate or biased, further dissuading survivors from coming forward.

#### 5. Intersectionality and Marginalization

Marginalized communities, including people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with disabilities, face unique challenges when it comes to reporting rape. Historical mistrust of authorities, experiences of discrimination, and limited access to resources can compound the barriers to reporting. Intersectional identities intersect with systemic inequalities, making it even harder for survivors from these communities to seek justice.

#### 6. Media Portrayal and Public Perception

Media representations of rape often perpetuate harmful stereotypes and misconceptions, shaping public perception and influencing survivors' decisions to report. Sensationalized reporting, victim-blaming narratives, and the glamorization of violence can further stigmatize survivors and discourage them from seeking help or speaking out.

#### 7. Lack of Support Services and Resources

Limited access to support services such as counseling, medical care, and legal aid can hinder survivors' ability to report and navigate the aftermath of rape. Financial

constraints, lack of awareness about available resources, or geographic barriers may prevent survivors from accessing the help they need

Conclusion:

Addressing the underreporting of rape cases requires a comprehensive approach that addresses cultural attitudes, systemic inequalities, and institutional barriers. Efforts to combat victim-blaming, increase trust in the justice system, and provide accessible support services are essential. Additionally, promoting survivor-centered approaches, amplifying marginalized voices, and challenging societal norms that perpetuate rape culture are crucial steps toward creating a more supportive and equitable environment for survivors.

## **2.6 How Effective are the Current Legal Systems in Providing Justice and Support for Rape Survivor's?**

The effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors reveals a complex landscape marked by both progress and persistent challenges. While legal frameworks vary across jurisdictions, several common themes emerge regarding their efficacy in addressing the needs of survivors. Here's a detailed analysis:

### **1. Legal Frameworks and Definitions of Rape**

Legal definitions of rape vary widely, influencing how cases are prosecuted and survivors are treated. Historically, narrow definitions of rape focused on physical force

and penetration, excluding other forms of sexual violence such as coercion, incapacitation, or non-consensual touching. Many jurisdictions have expanded their definitions to encompass a broader range of behaviors, reflecting a more comprehensive understanding of consent and sexual violence.

## 2. Prosecution Rates and Conviction Rates

Prosecution and conviction rates for rape cases vary significantly across jurisdictions and are influenced by various factors, including evidentiary standards, prosecutorial discretion, and jury biases. Low prosecution rates can be attributed to challenges in gathering sufficient evidence, credibility issues, and systemic biases within the legal system. Similarly, low conviction rates highlight the difficulty of securing guilty verdicts beyond a reasonable doubt, particularly in cases with no eyewitnesses or physical evidence.

## 3. Trauma-Informed Approaches

Efforts to incorporate trauma-informed approaches into legal proceedings have improved the treatment of survivors within the criminal justice system. Specialized training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on understanding the neurobiological effects of trauma has led to more empathetic and supportive responses to survivors. However, implementation remains uneven, and many legal professionals still lack adequate training in trauma-informed practices.

## 4. Victim Advocacy and Support Services

Victim advocacy programs and support services play a crucial role in assisting survivors throughout the legal process. These services provide emotional support, information

about legal rights, assistance with navigating court procedures, and access to resources such as counseling and medical care. However, funding constraints, limited availability of services in rural areas, and gaps in culturally competent care can hinder survivors' access to support.

#### 5. Rape Shield Laws and Protections

Rape shield laws, which restrict the admissibility of a survivor's past sexual history as evidence in court, aim to protect survivors from irrelevant and prejudicial questioning. While these laws are intended to prevent victim-blaming and slut-shaming tactics, enforcement varies, and survivors may still face invasive inquiries into their personal lives during cross-examination.

#### 6. Backlog of Untested Rape Kits

The backlog of untested rape kits in many jurisdictions represents a significant failure of the legal system to prioritize survivors' cases. Untested rape kits not only delay justice for survivors but also allow perpetrators to remain unidentified and potentially commit further crimes. Efforts to address this backlog, such as funding for testing and reforms to improve kit tracking and processing, are essential for ensuring accountability and preventing future assaults.

#### 7. Restorative Justice and Alternative Approaches

Restorative justice practices offer an alternative to traditional legal processes by focusing on repairing harm and addressing the needs of survivors, offenders, and

communities. These approaches prioritize survivor autonomy, emotional healing, and offender accountability through dialogue, mediation, and restitution. While restorative justice has shown promise in certain contexts, its effectiveness in cases of sexual violence depends on survivor consent, offender willingness to participate, and community support.

**Conclusion:**

While progress has been made in improving legal responses to sexual violence, significant challenges persist in providing justice and support for rape survivors. Efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, enhance trauma-informed practices, expand victim advocacy services, address systemic biases, and prioritize survivor-centered approaches are essential for achieving meaningful change. By recognizing survivors' experiences, empowering their voices, and holding perpetrators accountable, legal systems can play a critical role in promoting healing, justice, and prevention within society.

**2.7 What intervention and prevention strategies are most effective in reducing the incidence of rape in Ekosodin Community.**

To effectively reduce the incidence of rape in ekosodi community, a comprehensive approach involving both intervention and prevention strategies is necessary. Here's a breakdown of various strategies, including both individual-level and societal-level interventions:

1. Education and Awareness Programs: Implementing educational programs in schools, colleges, and communities to raise awareness about consent, healthy relationships, and gender equality can help change attitudes and behaviors related to sexual violence.
2. Bystander Intervention Training: Training individuals to recognize warning signs of potential sexual violence and empowering them to intervene safely and effectively can prevent assaults from occurring or escalating.
3. Targeted Support Services: Providing accessible and confidential support services for survivors, including counseling, legal assistance, and medical care, can encourage reporting and help survivors heal from trauma.
4. Community Mobilization: Engaging community leaders, organizations, and stakeholders in collaborative efforts to address the underlying causes of sexual violence, such as harmful gender norms and power imbalances, can create a supportive environment for prevention initiatives.
5. Legislative and Policy Changes: Enacting and enforcing laws that criminalize rape, protect survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable can deter future offenses and promote justice for survivors.
6. Media Literacy Programs: Promoting critical thinking skills and media literacy can help challenge harmful portrayals of sex and violence in media, reducing the normalization of rape culture.

7. Engaging Men and Boys: Encouraging men and boys to be allies in the fight against sexual violence through programs that promote healthy masculinity, respect for women, and active bystander intervention can shift social norms and behaviors.
8. Supporting Marginalized Communities: Recognizing the intersectional nature of sexual violence and addressing the unique vulnerabilities faced by marginalized communities, such as LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities, is essential for effective prevention efforts.
9. Early Intervention Programs: Identifying and addressing risk factors for perpetration, such as childhood trauma and exposure to violence, through early intervention programs can prevent future incidents of sexual violence.
10. Collaboration with Law Enforcement and Justice Systems: Improving coordination between law enforcement, legal authorities, and victim advocates to ensure a survivor-centered response to sexual violence cases can increase reporting and conviction rates.
11. Social Norms Campaigns: Conducting public awareness campaigns that challenge harmful attitudes and beliefs surrounding rape and promote positive social norms can create a culture of respect and consent.
12. Research and Evaluation: Investing in research to better understand the root causes and dynamics of sexual violence, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of prevention programs, can inform evidence-based interventions and policies.

By implementing a combination of these strategies at multiple levels, societies can work towards reducing the incidence of rape and creating safer communities for everyone.

## **2.8. Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework surrounding rape and its victims encompasses various perspectives from fields such as psychology, sociology, criminology, and feminist theory. Here's a broad overview:

**1. Social Learning Theory:** This perspective suggests that individuals learn behaviors through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. In the context of rape, it could mean that individuals may learn violent or coercive behaviors through exposure to certain social environments or media depictions.

**2. Feminist Theory:** Feminist perspectives often focus on power dynamics, gender inequality, and patriarchy. They argue that rape is not just an individual act of violence but is deeply rooted in societal structures that disempower and marginalize women and other vulnerable groups. Feminist theories also highlight the importance of understanding the social, cultural, and institutional factors that contribute to rape and its aftermath.

**3. Trauma Theory:** This framework emphasizes the psychological impact of sexual violence on victims. It examines how experiences of rape can lead to trauma responses such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and other mental

health issues. Trauma theory also explores coping mechanisms, resilience, and the role of social support in the recovery process.

**4. Social-Cognitive Theory:** Building on social learning theory, social-cognitive perspectives focus on how individuals' thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes influence their behavior. In the context of rape, this theory explores factors such as rape myths, victim-blaming attitudes, and cognitive distortions that may contribute to the perpetration of sexual violence.

**5. Routine Activity Theory:** This theory suggests that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. Applied to rape, this perspective examines situational factors such as alcohol use, location, and the presence of bystanders that may increase the risk of victimization.

**6. Intersectionality:** Intersectional perspectives highlight how various forms of oppression, including race, class, sexuality, and ability, intersect to shape individuals' experiences of rape and its consequences. It emphasizes the importance of considering multiple social identities and structural inequalities when understanding and addressing sexual violence.

**7. Ecological Systems Theory:** Developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner, this framework examines how individuals are influenced by multiple levels of their environment, including the microsystem (immediate surroundings), mesosystem (interactions

between different settings), exosystem (external influences), and macrosystem (cultural values and norms). Applied to rape, this theory explores how factors at each level of the social ecology may contribute to victimization and recovery.

These theoretical perspectives provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the complex dynamics of rape and its impact on victims. They help researchers, practitioners, and policymakers develop interventions and support services that address the multifaceted nature of sexual violence.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter described the various research methodologies that would be used. The design of the study, its purview, its intended audience, its sample and sampling techniques, its data collection instrument, its instrument's validation and reliability, and its approach to data analysis are all provided. The methodology of this study are;

Research design

Population of the study

Area of the study

Sample and sampling techniques

Research instruments

Validity of the institution

Reliability of the instrument

Ethical consideration

Methods of data collection and methods of data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Designs.**

The research adopted a qualitative method, it uses content, document analyses, which are case laws book, textbooks, print media, journals, articles, write-ups, internet based

materials, authentic internet sources on rape cases and it's victims. Surveys and questionnaire used to gather data from large populations about the prevalence, characteristics, and consequences of rape. Questionnaire was distributed through various means such as mail, online platforms, or face-to-face interviews. Official statistics and records analysis of data from police reports, hospital records, and other studies.

### **3.3 Population of the Study.**

The female students and women in ekosodin community are the study target's population. The population comprises of females who are 15-50 years. According to the 2006 census population( female) in ovia north-east, Nigeria was 74,911 (National Population commission(NPC) 2006), using the female population in 2006 (74,911) as a base of 0.3 as a national population growth rate and 17 as the year difference between 2006-2023, we can project the female population in 2023 is 78,797.

### **3.4 Area of the study**

This research will specifically investigate roles of social worker in the rehabilitation of rape victims. It investigate the causes, psychological effects and legal actions that are backing rape and it's survivors. This area is chosen to understand how social worker influence the exp and recovery processes of survivors.

### **3.5 Sample and sampling techniques.**

Simple random sampling is used in the Sampling procedures to choose rape victims . This method involves selecting individuals from a larger population entirely at random. This can help ensure that the sample is representative of the broader population. The study sample size consist of 50 females which are part of the overall population.

### **3.6 Research instrument**

This study present a questionnaire with the title "social workers responsibilities in the rehabilitation of rape victims ". The questions would be closed ended in nature, meaning that answers will only be allowed to choose one choice that best fit their response. Bio-data including the sex, age, marital status and working status. There are five sections to the research questionnaire: the tittle, institutions on how to answer the questionnaire, and the researcher's institutional affiliation are listed in the first section. The portions labeled section A to E comprises the second section. In Section A, the sections to collect the respondent's demographic information, section B to E is where respondent opinion is gathered. Respondents are asked to rate this instrument on a four-point rating scale: strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD).

### **3.7 Validity of Institution**

The tool for validity will be when the researcher give la a copy of the questionnaire to the supervisor. The supervisor provides feedback, recommendations, and edits are incorporated into the final draft of the questionnaire.

### **3.8 Reliability of the instrument.**

Internal consistency reliability will be employed to guarantee the instrument's dependability, and this will be accomplished by giving the instrument to a set of five respondents who are not among the respondents who will be chosen for the study.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

This study will abide by ethical standards, which include getting each participant's informed consent and protecting data confidentially. Additionally, participants will be made aware of their freedom to leave the study at any moment

### **3.10 Method of Data Collection**

To ensure the anonymity of the data obtained, the researcher and two trained research assistants will deliver the instrument to the respondent along with a letter of introduction. The researcher and research assistants will then retrieve the instrument from the respondent as soon as they have completed the item on the instrument..

### **3.11 Method of Data Analysis**

To address respondents' demographic questions, the obtained data will be analyzed using frequency counts and percentages; to address research questions, mean and standard deviation were employed.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter contains the findings of the Study. The responses to the various items were also organized and presented. The research questions were tested using mean and standard deviation.

#### 4.1 Presentation of the Result

**Research Question One:** What socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contribute to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin?

**Table 1:** Mean and S.D on how the socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the prevalence of rape

---

| S/N | ITEMS | N | Mean | Standard<br>Deviation | Decision |
|-----|-------|---|------|-----------------------|----------|
|-----|-------|---|------|-----------------------|----------|

---

|    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | The inadequate legal penalties for rap contribute to the ongoing issue of rape                        | Agree |
| 2. | The lack of effective law enforcer contributes to the prevalence of rape                              | Agree |
| 3. | The economic hardship in the commu leads to higher rates of rape incidents.                           | Agree |
| 4. | The cultural norms that blame victims re than perpetrators increase the occurrenc rape                | Agree |
| 5. | The low level of public awareness education about rape and its consequ contributes to its prevalence. | Agree |

**Benchmark: 2.50**

Research question one examines the socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin. The analysis reveals that the inadequate legal penalties for rapists (Mean: 3.44, S.D: 0.644), lack of effective law enforcement (Mean: 3.42, S.D: 0.499), economic hardship (Mean: 3.48, S.D: 0.505), cultural norms blaming victims (Mean: 3.06, S.D: 0.620), and low public awareness and education about rape (Mean: 3.32, S.D: 0.653) all significantly contribute to the prevalence of rape, as indicated by the participants' agreement with these statements.

**Research Question Two:** What are the psychological effects experienced by rape victims?

**Table 2:** Mean and S.D on the psychological effects experienced by rape victims

| S/N | ITEMS | N | Mean | Standard Devia | Decision |
|-----|-------|---|------|----------------|----------|
|-----|-------|---|------|----------------|----------|

|    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | The inadequate legal penalties for rap contribute to the ongoing issue of rape                        | Agree |
| 2. | The lack of effective law enforcement contrib to the prevalence of rape                               | Agree |
| 3. | The economic hardship in the community lea higher rates of rape incidents.                            | Agree |
| 4. | The cultural norms that blame victims rather perpetrators increase the occurrence of rape             | Agree |
| 5. | The low level of public awareness and educa about rape and its consequences contributes t prevalence. | Agree |

**Benchmark: 2.50**

Research question two examines the psychological effects experienced by rape victims. The analysis indicates that participants generally agree that inadequate legal penalties for rapists (Mean: 3.44, S.D: 0.644), lack of effective law enforcement (Mean: 3.42, S.D: 0.499), economic hardship in the community (Mean: 3.48, S.D: 0.505), cultural norms blaming victims (Mean: 3.06, S.D: 0.620), and low public awareness and education about rape (Mean: 3.32, S.D: 0.653) all contribute to the prevalence of rape.

**Research Question Three:** How effective are current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors.

**Table 3:** Mean and S.D on the effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors

| S/N | ITEMS | N | Mean | Standard | Decision |
|-----|-------|---|------|----------|----------|
|-----|-------|---|------|----------|----------|

|    |  | <b>Deviation</b> |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | The victim has difficulty trusting others after assault.                 | Agree            |
| 2. | The victim frequently has flashbacks nightmares related to the incident. | Agree            |
| 3. | The victim exhibits symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).   | Agree            |
| 4. | The victim experiences severe anxiety following the incident.            | Agree            |
| 5. | The victim experiences emotional numbness from others.                   | Agree            |

**Benchmark: 2.50**

Research question three examines the effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors. The mean scores suggest that the victims, on average, agree that they face significant challenges post-assault, including difficulty trusting others (Mean = 3.40, SD = 0.571), frequent flashbacks or nightmares (Mean = 3.22, SD = 0.708), symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (Mean = 2.74, SD = 0.828), severe anxiety (Mean = 3.32, SD = 0.653), and emotional numbness (Mean = 2.74, SD = 0.828). These findings indicate that despite legal interventions, survivors continue to experience profound psychological distress, highlighting the need for more comprehensive support and justice mechanisms.

#### **4.2 Discussions of Findings**

Research question one revealed several socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin. Participants expressed agreement that inadequate legal penalties for rapists, lack of effective law enforcement, economic hardship, cultural norms blaming victims, and low public awareness and education about rape significantly contribute to the prevalence of rape in the community. This aligns with study by Mideksa (2024) on the factors affecting gender-based violence against women in Adama city. The quantitative data obtained through questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, as well as inferential statistics, such as Pearson correlation coefficients and multiple regressions using SPSS version 26. The study revealed several main types of gender-based violence prevalent in the area, including sexual violence (38.9%), psychological violence (14.8%), physical violence (16.7%), economic violence (24.1%), and labor abuse (5.6%). It also identified the primary locations where such violence frequently occurred, namely nightclubs (38.9%), hotels and bars (29.6%), homes (27.8%), and workplaces (3.7%). Furthermore, the study highlighted various factors impacting the prevention of gender-based violence, including institutional, social, cultural, political, legal, and individual factors.

Research question two delved into the psychological effects experienced by rape victims. The analysis indicated a consensus among participants that factors such as inadequate legal penalties, ineffective law enforcement, economic hardship, victim-blaming cultural norms, and low awareness contribute to the prevalence of rape. This finding highlights the interconnectedness between societal factors and the psychological

well-being of survivors, emphasizing the importance of addressing these issues holistically to support survivors and prevent future occurrences.

Research question three assessed the effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors. Despite legal interventions, participants expressed agreement that survivors face significant challenges post-assault, including difficulty trusting others, frequent flashbacks or nightmares, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, severe anxiety, and emotional numbness.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The purpose of this research was designed to investigate the roles of social workers in the rehabilitation of rape victims in Ekosodin community, Edo State. 50 females living in Ekosodin community were explored. The researcher made effort in investigating The researcher investigated the causes of rape in the Ekosodin community, Edo State, using knowledge about the psychological effects on victims to

inform public policy and community-based interventions aimed at reducing rape and its negative impacts, and identified barriers to addressing rape and supporting its victims in Nigeria, all of which are discussed in detail in the literature review.

The collection of data was carried out through the administration of questionnaire to fifty (50) female residents in Ekosodin community. The data were interpreted and discussed using mean and standard deviation table. The sampling technique used for the research is the stratified random sampling technique.

The findings based on the research question revealed that several socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contribute to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin. Participants highlighted inadequate legal penalties for rapists, ineffective law enforcement, economic hardship, victim-blaming cultural norms, and low public awareness as significant contributors to the issue. Furthermore, participants expressed consensus regarding the psychological effects experienced by rape victims, emphasizing the interconnectedness between societal factors and survivors' well-being. Despite legal interventions, survivors continue to face significant challenges post-assault, including trust issues, flashbacks, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and emotional numbness. These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to address societal attitudes, enhance support systems, and improve justice mechanisms for survivors of sexual violence.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study underscores the intricate web of socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors that contribute to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin.

The findings highlight the pressing need for comprehensive interventions targeting inadequate legal penalties, ineffective law enforcement, economic hardship, victim-blaming cultural norms, and low public awareness about rape. Addressing these interconnected issues is crucial for creating a safer environment and preventing future occurrences of sexual violence in the community.

Furthermore, the study emphasizes the enduring challenges faced by rape survivors in accessing justice and support within the current legal systems. Despite legal interventions, survivors continue to grapple with profound psychological distress, including difficulty trusting others, recurring nightmares, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, severe anxiety, and emotional numbness. These findings underscore the imperative for enhanced support mechanisms and more effective justice responses to alleviate the suffering of survivors and ensure their well-being in the aftermath of sexual violence.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Community-based economic empowerment programs can be implemented to provide alternative sources of income and improve livelihoods. Implementing integrated support services that address both the immediate needs of abused children and the underlying factors contributing to their vulnerability is crucial.

- Awareness campaigns and education programs should be conducted to challenge these harmful beliefs and promote a culture of empathy, support, and accountability. This includes engaging community leaders, religious institutions, and educational institutions in promoting gender equality and respect for survivors.
- Comprehensive awareness campaigns should be developed and implemented to educate the public about the realities of sexual violence, its impact on survivors, and available support services. This should include targeted interventions in schools, workplaces, and communities to foster a culture of consent, respect, and support.
- There is a critical need to enhance support systems for survivors, including mental health services, counseling, and legal assistance.

### **Suggestion for Further Studies**

The study revealed various socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the prevalence of rape in Ekosodin, such as inadequate legal penalties, ineffective law enforcement, economic hardship, cultural norms blaming victims, and low public awareness and education about rape. These findings align with Mideksa's (2024) study on gender-based violence in Adama city, which used descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze data and identified several types of gender-based violence

and their common locations. Additionally, the study explored the psychological effects experienced by rape victims, emphasizing the need for holistic approaches to support survivors. Despite legal interventions, survivors face challenges like trust issues, flashbacks, PTSD, severe anxiety, and emotional numbness. Future studies could focus on the following topics:

- The effectiveness of legal penalties and law enforcement in reducing rape incidents.
- Economic factors influencing the prevalence of rape.
- The role of cultural norms in victim-blaming and its impact on reporting rape.
- Public awareness and education strategies to prevent rape.
- Institutional responses to gender-based violence.
- Comparative studies on gender-based violence in different cultural contexts.
- The impact of socio-economic status on the likelihood of experiencing gender-based violence.
- The effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for survivors.
- Long-term psychological impacts of rape and effective therapeutic interventions.

### **Suggestions for Social Work Education**

Social Work Education should incorporate comprehensive training on addressing socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the prevalence of rape, as identified in Ekosodin. Key factors include inadequate legal penalties for rapists,

ineffective law enforcement, economic hardship, cultural norms that blame victims, and low public awareness and education about rape. Common locations for such violence include nightclubs, hotels, bars, homes, and workplaces. Social work students should learn to analyze quantitative data using tools like SPSS, as done in the study, to understand the prevalence and types of gender-based violence and identify the primary locations and factors impacting prevention. Additionally, education should cover the psychological effects on rape survivors, such as trust issues, flashbacks, PTSD, anxiety, and emotional numbness. Training should emphasize the importance of addressing these factors holistically to support survivors and improve prevention efforts, while also critically evaluating the effectiveness of current legal systems in providing justice and support for rape survivors

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**APPENDIX**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

**TOPIC**

**ROLES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE REHABILITATION OF RAPE**

**VICTIMS QUESTIONNAIRE (RSWHRVQ) IN EKOSODIN COMMUNITY,**

**EDO STATE**

Dear Respondent,

## REQUEST FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

I am an undergraduate student undergoing the B.sc programme in the Department of Social Work, University of Benin. This questionnaire is designed for academic purposes. It is structured to find out your perception on the roles of social workers in the rehabilitation of rape victims in Ekosodin community, Edo State.

Please respond sincerely to the questions by ticking [✓] where applicable. Your responses will be treated with a high level of confidentiality. Thank you

Yours faithfully

---

**Researcher**

## STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Please respond sincerely to the questions by ticking [✓] where applicable. Your responses will be treated with a high level of confidentiality. Thank you.

### SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

*Instructions:* Please tick ( ✓ ) where applicable.

#### Data on Questionnaire

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA); Agree (A); Disagree (D); Strongly Disagree (SD).

|            |   |           |          |          |           |
|------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>S/N</b> | <b>WHAT SOCIO-CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREVALENCE OF RAPE IN EKOSODIN?</b> | <b>S</b>  | <b>A</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>SD</b> |
|            | The inadequate legal penalties for rapists contribute to the ongoing issue of rape                                |           |          |          |           |
|            | The lack of effective law enforcement contributes to the prevalence of rape                                       |           |          |          |           |
|            | The economic hardship in the community leads to higher rates of rape incidents.                                   |           |          |          |           |
|            | The cultural norms that blame victims rather than perpetrators increase the occurrence of rape                    |           |          |          |           |
|            | The low level of public awareness and education about rape and its consequences contributes to its prevalence.    |           |          |          |           |
|            | <b>WHAT ARE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS EXPERIENCED BY RAPE VICTIMS?</b>  | <b>SA</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>SD</b> |
|            | The victim has difficulty trusting others after the assault.  |           |          |          |           |
|            | The victim frequently has flashbacks or nightmares related to the incident.                                       |           |          |          |           |
|            | The victim exhibits symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)   |           |          |          |           |
|            | The victim experiences severe anxiety following the incident.   |           |          |          |           |
|            | The victim experiences emotional numbness from others.  |           |          |          |           |
|            | <b>HOW EFFECTIVE ARE CURRENT LEGAL SYSTEMS IN PROVIDING JUSTICE AND SUPPORT FOR RAPE SURVIVORS?</b>               | <b>S</b>  | <b>A</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>SD</b> |
|            | The current legal systems adequately punish perpetrators of rape.   |           |          |          |           |
|            | The current legal systems prioritize the needs and well-being of rape survivors.                                  |           |          |          |           |
|            | The current legal systems adequately provide justice and support for rape survivors.                              |           |          |          |           |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | The current legal systems offer accessible avenues for rape survivors seek justice.        |  |  |  |  |
|  | The current legal systems empower rape survivors to come forward report incidents of rape. |  |  |  |  |

**RELIABILITY**

[DataSet3]

**Scale: ALL VARIABLES**

**Case Processing Summary**

|       |                       | N | % |
|-------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Cases | Valid                 |   |   |
|       | Excluded <sup>a</sup> |   |   |
|       | Total                 |   |   |

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

| Cronbach's Alp | N of Item |
|----------------|-----------|
|                |           |

**Scale Statistics**

| Mean | Variance | Std. Deviation | N of Items |
|------|----------|----------------|------------|
|      | 4        |                |            |

**Descriptive Statistics**

|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|--|---|------|----------------|
| The inadequate legal penalties rapists contribute to the ongoing of rape                           |   |      |                |
| The lack of effective law enforcement contributes to the prevalence of                             |   |      |                |
| The economic hardship in community leads to higher rate rape incidents.                            |   |      |                |
| The cultural norms that blame victims rather than perpetrators increase occurrence of rape         |   |      |                |
| The low level of public awareness education about rape and consequences contributes to prevalence. |   |      |                |
| The victim has difficulty trusting others after the assault.                                       |   |      |                |
| The victim frequently has flashbacks or nightmares related to the incident.                        |   |      |                |
| The victim exhibits symptoms of traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).                                  |   |      |                |
| The victim experiences severe anxiety following the incident.                                      |   |      |                |
| The victim experiences emotional numbness from others.   |   |      |                |
| The current legal systems adequately punish perpetrators of rape.                                  |   |      |                |
| The current legal systems price the needs and well-being of survivors.                             |   |      |                |
| The current legal systems adequately provide justice and support for survivors.                    |   |      |                |
| The current legal systems accessible avenues for rape survivors to seek justice.                   |   |      |                |

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|--|--|--|--|
| The current legal systems emp<br>rape survivors to come forward<br>report incidents of rape. |  |  |  |
| Valid N (listwise)   |  |  |  |