Messy stories of rape

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Book review  
  
Title: Don’t mess with their flowers  
  
Author: Bukoladeremi Ladigbolu  
  
Reviewer: Victoria Amadi  
  
Publisher: Diamond Publications Ltd  
  
Pagination: Pages: 51  
  
The human society is faced with a lot of mishaps, which have affected almost all sectors including the emotional stability of its human inhabitants.  
  
The book, Don’t Mess With Their Flowers is written by Bukoladeremi Ladigbolu. It is a book that has encompassed into writing, the reality of the society. It brings to the doorposts of the readers, the sad reality of rape and its effects on the victims in a bid to enlighten the readers and to curb the outrage of rape (which has increased in statistics in the present day).  
  
The book is divided into sub-sections; The Reality, Supporting Victims, The Punch of Rape, Statistics and Advisory. The autobiographical book, through the eye of the author reveals the ordeals of rape victims. Indeed they are sad experiences.  
  
The forward of the book was done by Olori Janet Afolabi, an award winning journalist.  
  
The author, who had his first published article titled: Tackling Little Foxes in Speaking Well, begins with an eye-opening strategy in Chapter One by introducing the concept of rape. Rape, according to Bukoladeremi, is ‘the use of force to take something, seizure, and imposition of an aggressor’s will on the victim.’ He further explains it as ‘the unlawful sexual intercourse or any other sexual penetration of the force, by a sex organ, other body parts, or foreign object without the consent of the victim.’  
  
This book looks at different types of rape. These include: Date rape; this is when a person is raped by someone familiar like a boyfriend, acquaintance rape; this is committed by someone who knows the victim, gang rape; …when a group of people rape a single victim, spousal rape; carried out by one’s marital spouse, rape of children; this is rape committed on a child by a fellow child. Others include: Prison rape, payback rape, war rape and custodial rape and lot more.  
  
In as much as the act of rape is unjustifiable, there are several reasons why people indulge in such disdainful act. Some are peer pressure, pitiful and emotional unsupportive childhood experiences like family violence, lawlessness in the society, seduction, rape culture and exposure to pornography. It is therefore, pertinent to note that most perpetrators of sexual assault are male, while the majority of sexual assault victims are women, and girls. However many males are sexually assaulted too. Rape can take place in the victim’s unconscious state, as form of sexual intercourse, forced oral sex.  
  
Of a truth, rape increases in number every day, and it can be avoided. Other avoidance strategies include: keeping one’s door locked at all times, walking in groups at night, do not be dependent on an opposite sex for financial assistance, do not visit the opposite sex alone, do not send your nude to the opposite sex, do not accept rides from an opposite sex, keep your sensitive body parts away from strangers and the opposite sex, be conscious of your environment, file a report if threatened, be careful with offers like drink. The top-notch of the avoidance strategies is to stay safe. When faced with rape sceneries, the victim is advised to yell to attract attention, talk his way out of it, use any available weapon for defense.  
  
The book, Don’t Mess With Their Flowers is more like an autobiographical experience of the author. This must have propelled him to pen down such rape experience with an intending employer. Fortunately for her, she fought back. The book is also a biography of some rape victims who explain their rape experience. All of them, point to the fact that rape is evil to the mental health of its victims.  
  
Rape has not stopped. Rape is still with us. With the recent outrage in 2017, 2018, 2021 till present, it is crystals clear that the Society frowns at it.  
  
No one prays to be raped, but if raped, be observant in other to identify the attacker, do not change clothes or bathe in order to capture the physical evidence of the rapist, report your rape case, get tested for pregnancy or any STI, talk to a professional or trustworthy family members. Parents are also advised to look out to certain behavioural changes in their children like change in their sleeping habit, withdrawal from hobbies, depression, helplessness and loss of concentration. Parents of rape victims should be accommodating and supportive and not being judgmental.  
  
Rape is a universal case. Exclusively all the countries of the world record rape incidences. Statistics have it that Zambia in 2017, recorded a total of 1,466 defilement cases. Democratic Republic of Congo in 2007, recorded about 3,436 rape cases. In Ghana, approximately 1,862 rape cases were recorded in 2015. India records rape incidence in every 15 minutes. Nigeria is no left out of the statistics. The increasing cases of rape have become bothersome to concerned citizens.  
  
All rape case is punishable by law. An instance is a Lagos High Court sitting in Ikeja which led to the sentence of a University of Lagos lecturer, Afeez Baruwa to 21 years imprisonment on 20th February 2020 for the rape of an 18th year-old girl who sought admission into the higher institution. A lot more punishments are on record.  
  
The book ends with an advisory notes to mothers, parents, rapists. Rape has never done any good to human. The act is dehumanising so is the aftermaths. Hence, shun rape. Report rape. And avoid rape in all ways possible!