

## Understanding the Motives of Rape in the Context of Bangladesh

Md. Najemul Alam \*

**Abstract:** Rape is one of the most prevalent crimes against women worldwide, including in Bangladesh. Rape is a complex issue that has been viewed as a crime against the person as well as property. This is both a sexual act and an act of aggression, where a person does sexual intercourse or is forced to do such things against the victim's will. The consequence of this act of force is that girls and women do not feel safe when walking on the lonely streets even in daylight. The current analysis aims to shed light on what motivates rapists to commit such horrible crimes. The study also tries to figure out why rapists continue to rape despite understanding the consequences of their actions. The study reveals that the perpetrator's anger, wishes of humiliating the victim, power exercise, the desire for sex, and getting the girl are the main motives that work behind this crime. In general, the research will help the investigators to better treat and control the culprit by understanding his/her motives behind the crime. The results of the present study also help to apply the appropriate rehabilitative method for the perpetrators and the victims.

**Introduction:** In Bangladesh, rape is an issue that is similar to cancer. Rape is a brutal, horrible, dehumanizing, and violent crime. Media such as newspapers, social media, breaking news on TV, etc. are filled with the new news of girls, boy children, or women being raped by men. Ain O Salish Kendra, an organization that provides legal assistance to victims of violence in Bangladesh, reported on October 1, 2020, that from January to September of this year, males raped over 1,000 women. Forty-three of the women were killed, while more than 200 others escaped rape attempts ("Rape in Bangladesh"). Even during the epidemic of covid-19, rapes and sexual assaults occur both inside and outside of houses (Jahid). For millions of women in underdeveloped nations, rape is a constant fear and a reality (World Health Organization). Rape is a common word that means forced sex with anyone without her/his consent. The self or subjecthood of the victim is destroyed or severely undermined by the experience of being raped, to the point where she becomes dehumanized in her own lived experience (Du Toit). Parents fear letting their girls or women go out of the house because of the incidents of rape. Everybody including the highest scholars of the country wants the government to enact strong law like giving capital punishment to the rapists so that not a single girl, woman, or child becomes a victim of rape. We should look at the motives working behind the rape and fix the main things for why a rapist rapes a girl though he knows the consequences of this heinous crime. Then we should teach our children so that they know the bad things about rape and keep themselves away from such crimes. This paper tries to explain about motivation working behind the average rapists as well as try to give some suggestions for the women and parents so that women can be careful about their safety

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\* Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Chittagong.

and the parents can save their girls from being raped. This research will benefit investigators in better comprehending rape incidents in general. They may be able to treat and control the culprit better by understanding his motives for the crime. When the motives behind the rape are understood, then to penalize and rehabilitate the offender, a suitable disciplinary, clinical, or preventative strategy might be used.

**Literature Review:** The second most prevalent kind of cruelty in Bangladesh is rape, which includes acts of violence that result in women being sent to hospitals for treatment (Khan 116). Rape has been declared a criminal offense in Bangladesh, punishable under the British Penal Code 1860, as well as the Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance 1983, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980, and the Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 (Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act), modified in 2003. Rape is punishable by up to 10 years in jail or life in prison, according to section 376 of the Penal Code 1860 (Khan). Recently on October 13, 2020, the government of Bangladesh issued a gazette notification of the ordinance amending the Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain Women and Children Repression Prevention Act to include the provision of a capital penalty for rape. The ordinance replaces the phrase "Lifetime Rigorous Imprisonment" in Section 9(1) of the Act with "Death or Lifetime Rigorous Punishment" (Sun). Even after introducing the death penalty for rape the number of rapes in the country is not decreasing but increasing day by day. From January to March 2021, there were 317 rapes, including 127 women, 164 children, and 7 unidentified ages of females (Odhikar). The occurrence of rape has received very little serious investigation, and as a result, denied the status of a real problem. Although the media becomes serious about rape from the day it occurs a few days later the whole country remains silent. It motivates rapists to repeat this heinous crime again and again. The occurrence of rape is a common matter in Bangladesh, but little research has been done on the motivation behind this crime. The majority of international expertise regarding sexual abuse derives from their work with female survivors. Today is the era of great development. Every country is competing to be one of the developed countries. For being a developed country every citizen needs to contribute to the sectors of education, technology, business, etc. Men are not the only ones needed to contribute to the economy; women are equally needed. The combined contribution of men and women can lead a country to be a developed one. The matter of concern is that women in our country cannot come out of the home safely alone. Violations like rape affect the confidence and self-esteem of women, which prevent them from accelerating the growth of their country (Terry 470). There is much news of women who have been raped in the workplace such as in offices, fields, transport, and even in the police stations or educational institutions. Dates, relatives, friends, bosses, husbands, neighbors, coworkers, and other males known to the victim perpetrate the vast majority of rapes (Whisnant). Many research papers discussed the sexual abuse that rapists themselves had undergone. Rapists may have a bitter experience of sexual harassment in childhood as a result they cannot realize the consequences of their crime. Most of the time perpetrators tend to express their anger about being abused in childhood through rape. According to some studies, males have evolved psychological processes that encourage them to rape in particular situations (McKibbin et al. 86). Rape is often a response to an amount of pain in a perpetrator's life, and raping helps him to relieve that turmoil (Bumby). The majority of these guys first committed rape when they were between the ages of 15 and 19, whereas, 60.8 percent of rapists in China were between the ages of 20 and 29 when they

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perpetrated their first offense. 75 percent of rapists in Bangladesh admitted to raping women with numerous perpetrators (Rayed). Males of numerous animals have devised strategies to sexually force and rape females, according to several studies (McKibbin et al.). These variables may raise the risk of rape, but they do not explain the motivations underlying rape. Most of the previous papers (Bumby; McKibbin et al.) lacked the main motives behind rape. They shed light only on the reasons for rape. The rapists' rape is not motivated by a single factor, but rather by a combination of factors.

### Research Questionnaires

The goal of the study is to find answers to the following questions:

- What is meant by rape in Bangladesh?
- What is the motive for being tempted to such a brutal act?
- How does rape hinders the speed of development of countries like Bangladesh?

### Research Objectives

The following are the study's objectives:

- To address the definition of rape in Bangladesh;
- To discuss how rape hinders the speed of development of countries like Bangladesh;
- To comprehend and explore the motives of perpetrators working behind rape;

**Methodology and Materials:** To discover the research gap, the author first began analyzing several research articles regarding the causes and motives for rape, which he gathered from a variety of reputable data sources, including Google, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia, and Newspaper. As a result, the author discovered that various grounds for rape have attracted the attention of scholars without revealing the motives behind it. To uncover the true motives of rape offenders, the author has undertaken a comprehensive and systematic study. It is essential to emphasize that, because this study focuses on psychology, utilizing the scientific method is crucial for ensuring its validity and reliability. The author used the qualitative design of research technique in the field of psychology and social science, applying explicative discoveries without any numerical results, as a suitable way for identifying outcomes according to objectives and title. Furthermore, this study is successfully driven by secondary data, in general, to make the qualitative technique successful. Secondary data is gathered from journal publications, reputable media, websites, and organization reports. In conclusion, this is qualitative research dominated by secondary sources.

**Motives of Rape:** The ways of understanding rape between patriarchs and feminists are different. Man thinks rape is a crime because it destroys the honor of a family whereas a feminist's understanding of rape proceeds on recognizing it (rape) as a serious crime, its harm is to lie seen in the attack on a woman's autonomy and bodily integrity (Menon). Rape victims experience sexual, physical, as well as psychological damages. This heinous crime violates the principle of the value of life, goodness, justice, and individual freedom of the victim (Thiroux and Krasemann 156). According to Knight, rapists have four major motivations: chance, general fury, sexual gratification, and retribution (Knight 303). Sexual harassment, such as rape, endures because the real problem is never addressed. Some steps are made in rural regions to avoid rape, such as

women being advised not to cross over the reality they are in. Women's activities outside the house are often banned as part of these restrictions. Violence against women, ranging from verbal harassment to rape, has been tolerated, normalized, and even denied in some cases. As a result, raping women is sometimes implicitly regarded as a masculine prerogative. Because of these factors, violence against women, such as rape, is rising rather than decreasing. Even consensual sexual activity should be scrutinized to see if there is any emotional, political, physical, or psychological pressure. After the analysis of the data, four primary motivations for the rape of women and children have been discovered:

1. Anger
2. Humiliating victim
3. Power exercising
4. The desire for Sex

**Anger:** Most incidents of rape happen because of the deadly anger of the perpetrator. Their acts of violence are intended to vent wrath, relieve anger, or exact retribution (Pardue and Arrigo). It is related to the psychological disorder of a man. Rape, sometimes, is used as a medium of expressing anger towards the victim or her family. Anger rapists are defined by their desire to hurt, humiliate, and devalue their victims bodily (Palermo and Kocsis 138-140). For example, any girl or woman may dishonor a boy or man intentionally or unintentionally. The man takes it seriously and gets angry. He may lose his control and seek any opportunity to take revenge for dishonoring him. Maybe one day he gets the girl and rapes her. It is a matter of psychological disorder. These rapists may accidentally murder their victims amid a frenzy of what they only meant to be sexual assaults due to their disorganized style and excessive fury (Groth and Hobson). If the incidents of dishonoring the man by the woman are known by the senior members of the society they live in, they (senior members) can take a step to solve this problem by giving punishment to the man or woman who is the real culprit. Sometimes it can be solved by compromising the man and woman mutually.

**Humiliating victim:** Some people in our society are unwilling to accept the achievements of others. They are jealous of the individual who has succeeded. He attempts to degrade the successful guy or woman out of jealousy. There have been cases when a jealous person rapes a lady or any female associated with a successful guy, or where a gang rapes with the help of wicked people. In countries like Bangladesh, the pride and honor of the family rest on the shoulders of the female. It does matter if a female gets raped more than the male commits rape in our society. Evil person, most of the time, targets the women or girls of the family he wants to humiliate. In those cases, rape is used as a weapon of humiliation. Some fundamentalists are unable to tolerate any religion other than their own. They are continually looking for ways to disrespect the religions they despise. They use rape as a weapon to dissuade followers of a religion they despise. These types of rape can be avoided by offering moral education to all pupils at the start of elementary school, madrasa, and mosque. They must be taught that every individual, regardless of gender, caste, or religion, deserves respect. There are incidents where rape is used as a weapon against feminist movements. In underdeveloped and developing

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countries, many evil men also resort to rape to suppress girls. Bhanwari Devi, an Indian Dalit lady, was raped by upper-caste men for enforcing the government's ban on child marriage in her village Bhateri (Menon).

**Power exercising:** Rape is also being used to intimidate and displace a community, forcing women and their families to evacuate. Rapist often takes advantage of their physical, political, and economic power and position and preys on women beneath them by sexually harassing or assaulting them. Rape, according to Havelock Ellis, was the genuine expression of masculine sexual arousal that was violent and exploitative by definition (Department of Public Administration and Buratai). Rapists' primary motivation is to demonstrate their dominance in all of the occurrences that occur in society by killing the victim after rape. Rape is being utilized as an instrument of power in this case. As a way to accommodate their hopelessness and validate their masculinity, power rapists exercise power, dominance, and control over their victims. In patriarchy males disproportionately occupy positions of power and authority, basic norms and values are associated with manhood and masculinity, and men are the primary center of attention in most cultural locations (Johnson). The patriarchy and rape in Bangladesh are inextricably linked. The patriarchal system subjugates and rules over the victims while protecting the perpetrators from punishment (Chowdhury et al. 59). Furthermore, accused person forces the victim and his family to withdraw the rape case. Most of the victims are so devastated after being raped that they will be unable to continue their lives normally and rapists use this fear as an opportunity. Renowned feminist philosopher Susan Brown miller presented an early version of the feminist idea that rape is mostly about power rather than sexuality (Brownmiller).

**The Desire for Sex:** Every animal has the desire for sex and as an animal-human being is not exceptional. Every living creature possesses an instinctual drive to mate, fulfilling a fundamental biological need that ensures the continuation of their species. It is undeniably a natural matter. At various stages of animal maturation, physical and behavioral changes occur, leading to the development of anger, which can result in fights, the devastation or harm of alive or inanimate objects, or even the murder of other living creatures from the same species, family, herd, or group under certain types of situations (Bedekar). Man, like all other animals, craves sex. In other words, he'd like to engage in sexual activity with a female partner. In his book *Psychopathia Sexualis* (1886), Richard von Krafft-Ebing claimed that rapists had a mental susceptibility to lust and that this mental weakness causes them to lose control of women (Rayed). In our society and culture, engaging in sexual relationships outside marriage undermines core values and is generally viewed as unacceptable. It's impossible to satisfy one's sexual needs without being married. In contemporary culture, however, marriage is far from simple. Before marrying their daughter to a boy, the girl's family thinks about the source of the boy's income, or whether the boy has ancestral property. There is a tendency for a girl to find a boy with a good career rather than a good boy as a groom. As a result, many men are not able to form a good career and cannot get married even after reaching the appropriate age for marriage. To fulfill the desire for sex, many people get involved in heinous crimes like rape. To satisfy their craving for unlimited sex, people with perverted minds may engage in horrible crimes such as necrophilia. In this case, the perpetrator's desire for ultimate control over sexual partners is similar to the act of rape (Islam et al.). On November 19, 2020, the Criminal Investigation Department of police detained a 20-year-

old man named Munna Vhakta on allegation of necrophilia (having sex with corpses at the morgue), who had been working in the morgue of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh for the previous few years (“Morgue Worker Arrested for Having Sex with Corpses”). Consensual sex before marriage is illegal in Bangladeshi society. But, in marginal areas, if an adult male still rapes a girl, then society lets the perpetrator marry his victim through compromise. Russia, Thailand, Venezuela, and Kuwait are some of the 20 nations that still let an offender marry his victim lawfully with her guardian's approval (“‘Marry Your Rapist’ Laws”). It motivates a wicked man to rape a girl to get her to be his wife. Rape is often used by rapists to get access to women who are reluctant or unavailable (Scully and Marolla).

**Suggestions:** The economic growth of Bangladesh largely depends on securing women's safety. Women's economic empowerment has various growth-enhancing effects, including higher savings, which can change families' saving behavior (Seguino and Floro 147), more efficient use of investments and loan repayment (Stotsky), and higher investments in children's health and education, which in turn results in economic growth. Rape is a heinous crime (Kumar and Parkash). Sexual violence, such as rape, can have severe negative impacts on the psychology, emotions, and body of a survivor (*Effects of Sexual Violence / RAINN*). This type of crime creates barrier to socio-economic development of society, hinders investment, and maximizes the transaction-cost and fuel migration (Jonathan et al. 71) consequently, which retards growth and development of a country (Osawe 123). Every man should respect women as he respects his family members. In our society, proper education is not delivered to the children. Males are taught to identify masculinity with might, dominance, strength, vitality, and supremacy, while females are taught to link femininity with helplessness, passivity, weakness, and incompetence (Scully and Marolla). It should be changed as soon as possible. Adolescent education programs should include sex education. Every teenager living in slums and marginalized areas deserves access to comprehensive sex education. It is vital for their health, safety, and well-being. Naveen Kumar, a psychologist at the Manas Foundation stated, that they are not part of an educational system. Nothing has been taught to them. They live in dysfunctional or divorced families for the most part. The fact that these people had moved or come from someplace else may be determined by anybody. The absence of this kid, teen, or adult for four days or four hours will not be questioned by anybody (Rayed). In elementary school, students should be informed about the motives for rape and be offered sex education. It is not enough to give sex education through textbooks; specific training for teachers should also be ensured so that they can convey sex education to pupils without difficulty. Government should take action to address the motives of the rapist, rather than introducing capital punishments. Even though the announcement of the death penalty for the rapists, the number of rape cases has not declined yet. More research should be done for understanding the motives of rapists. Because it is our responsibility to pave the way for women so that they can feel safe as men to move freely.

**Conclusion:** As rape becomes a more common form of violence against women in nations like Bangladesh, it is important to understand what the different motives are working behind it. The greatest motivation of a person is himself. The pace of his future activities depends on the context in which a person grows up. This is what the twentieth-century French philosopher Michel Foucault said. Why does a rapist choose to rape? Most research articles' answer is that the rapist

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is evil. But it is not the only cause. When a man stops seeing a woman as a human and starts to see her as a mere object of pleasure, there can be born the desire to exercise power by assaulting a woman sexually in the mind of the man. Most of the men who later become rapists felt extreme loneliness in their early life. These men will rebel against the women who keep rejecting them because they are so eager for company, like a thirsty guy grasping for a glass of water that keeps leaping out of touch. This indicates that rape is a mental illness. In the future, this research will help investigators to treat and control the culprit better by understanding his motives behind the rape. This paper suggests that the law enforcement authorities concerned should not send the rapist to jail in the first place but should check whether or not the perpetrator has any psychological problem, and if there, then arrange therapeutic treatment for them.

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