

A New Way to Resist Rape

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Abstract

In a case of sexual assault, rape was prevented by biting of portion of the tongue of the accused by the victim. This case is reported to highlight an almost unheard-of measure the victims girl adopted to prevent rape.

Key words: Rape, Resistance to rape, Rapr prevention.

Introduction:

Rape has been treated through history with silence. People find it difficult to talk about and the police and legal system find it equally difficult to deal with. Professionals often avoid rape cases because of the paraphernalia of the judiciary system.

Sexuality is a topic which is not to be disclosed in modern Indian society. Much attention has been given to the changing role of women in our society in areas like equality in employment and in the family. Much less attention has been given to the fundamental way in which the rights of women are violated through sexual assault. From prehistoric times, rape has played a conscious process of intimidation by which men keep women in fear[1]. There is no doubt that in our society males have more power and status than females. It has been suggested that men's possession of greater power contributes to the rape of women.

According to the data of The Ministry of Home Affairs, National Crime Records Bureau(2004), Crime in India 2002, New Delhi, 16496, 16075, and 16373 cases of rape have occurred in our country in the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively..

In many western countries school-going children and teenagers are taught self-defense skill applicable in rape resistance. Sexual assault is a serious problem, particularly for the young, and forceful resistance can be effective in preventing rape. Self-defense training can also contribute to psychological health. Even when resistance does not prevent rape, it can yield important benefit. A woman who does not resist may not be viewed as sympathetically nor her trauma be treated as seriously as one who does fight back, because nonresistance may be viewed by others as consent on the part of the victim.

Case Report:

An accused person of sexual assault was brought to the Dept. of FSM, Medical College, Kolkata for examination. He was a twenty seven yr old male person..He was an employee of a private farm which was situated some 60 KM away from his

residence. History revealed that a married woman, a school teacher with a child used to stay in his locality. Her husband used to work in a far-away place and she had to stay there mostly alone. The victim used to take help from the accused as well as his friends of the locality in different matters from time to time.

On the day of the incidence the accused came home from his working place after 15 days. During the night he went to the victim's house. The door at the backside of the room in which she was sleeping was kept open as it was a very hot night. He crossed over the boundary wall and entered into the house. As he found her sleeping on her bed he jumped over her and started to assault her sexually. The victim first tried to thwart his approach by shouting and physical resistance. Then as he introduced his tongue in her mouth in an attempt of forced kissing, she bit off portion of his tongue with her teeth. The accused began to bleed profusely. By the time the neighbours woke up and came rushing to the spot, the accused fled away.

Examination which was done 5 days after the incidence revealed a raw ulcerated area 1x 2/3" on rt. lateral aspect of tongue with distal portion of rt. half of the tongue missing. There was no other injury and the subject was sexually potent.

Discussion:

Rape resistance is a poorly researched area. While the effects of rape on the individual have been described

and fairly good data are available on the prevalence of sexual assault against women, not much research has been done on the use and effectiveness of various anti-rape strategies adopted by the victims. Probably assault survivors, even those who resisted successfully, are reluctant to share their experience with strangers including the researcher[2].

Women are often advised to use non-aggressive strategies against sexual assault[3]. Research suggests that this is a poor advice. According to one study, women who used non-forceful verbal

strategies, e.g, crying or pleading with the assailant were raped about 96% of the time[4].

Forceful verbal resistance, including loud screaming was more effective than non-forceful verbal resistance. These strategies were associated with completion of rape from 44%-50% of the time[5].

Running works even better than verbal resistance. Researches indicate that only 15% of women who attempted to flee were raped[6].

Forceful physical resistance is an extremely successful strategy. The completed rape dropped to 14% when the rapist's attempt was met with violent physical force. Striking was more successful than pushing or wrestling. Physical resistance also appeared to be more effective when assault occurred outdoor[5].

Women who used knives or guns in self-defence were raped less than 1% of the time. Defensive use of edged or projectile weapons reduced the rate of injury to statistical insignificance[7].

While many of these strategies are very successful by themselves, combinations e.g, shouting and fighting or shouting, fighting and running further increase the chances of avoiding rape.

In one study, one third of the 365 women who encountered sexual assault did successfully avoid sexual contact by offering resistance[8].

We know about Lorena Bobbit who severed the penis of her husband by a 8 inches knife after a forceful sexual intercourse.

Conclusion:

Sexual assault is, of course, a complex phenomenon which has no simple solution. As adolescent girls constitute the largest group affected, self-defense training programs may be beneficial particularly at high-school and early part of college level. Rape prevention programs may be implemented which includes discussion and education about rape myths, prevalence of sexual assault, factors associated with sexual assault and sexual assault prevention. In addition, Legal reform, a general change in attitudes, uprooting of rape-supportive myths and much else will be required to permanently reduce the incidence of this crime.

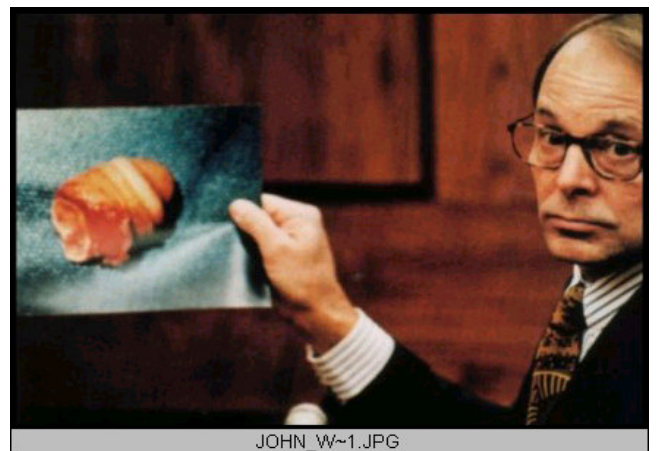
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The accused with portion of his tongue bitten off



Cut penis in Lorena Bobbit case being presented in Court