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## DEFINITIONS

1. **Exhibitionism:** the recurrent urge or behavior to expose one's genitals to an unsuspecting person. (Can also be the recurrent urge or behavior to perform sexual acts in a public place or in view of unsuspecting persons).
2. **Fetishism:** the use of inanimate objects to gain sexual excitement. *Partialism* refers to fetishes specifically involving nonsexual parts of the body.
3. **Frotteurism:** the recurrent urges of behavior of touching or rubbing against a nonconsenting person.
4. **Pedophilia:** the sexual attraction to prepubescent or peripubescent children.
5. **Sexual Masochism:** the recurrent urge or behavior of wanting to be humiliated, beaten, bound, or otherwise made to suffer for sexual pleasure.
6. **Sexual Sadism:** the recurrent urge or behavior involving acts in which the pain or humiliation of a person is sexually exciting.
7. **Transvestic fetishism:** a sexual attraction towards the clothing of the opposite gender.
8. **Voyeurism:** the recurrent urge or behavior to observe an unsuspecting person who is naked, disrobing or engaging in sexual activities, or may not be sexual in nature at all.

## ABSTRACT

The aim of this research proposal is to sight the need for the necessary research that needs to be done in order to better understand the behaviours behind what constitutes a sex/offender. Particularly, this study is geared towards mental factors contributing to these behaviours. The study will look at one such specific mental disorder known as Paraphilia. Paraphilia is a condition involving sex fetishes where a person's sexual arousal and gratification depend on fantasizing about, and engaging in, sexual behaviour that is atypical and extreme (Sinclair Intimacy Institute, 2002). This disorder comprises of minor and less harmful fetishes such as being an exhibitionist to more serious fetishes that may result in rape-homicide, being a sexual sadist (Duff, 2005).

Within this research proposal, the disorder of Paraphilia will first be discussed, after which existing findings will be cited and evaluated. These findings support the hypothesis that Paraphilia does result in sex offender behaviours. Furthermore, the sample will be identified along with the data collection instrument will be discussed. Next, a discussion of the structure in which the data will be presented in the actual study is explained. This structure is seen best to clearly correlate Paraphilia as it is link to sex offenders. Lastly, a conclusion is given; summarizing what is known to be true thus far and recommendations of a more effective research study is given.

## INTRODUCTION

Over the years, sex crimes have been increasingly evident in our own Belizean society as with societies around the world. According to the Legislative Analysts Office (2006), sex offenses consist of various types, ranging from felonies to misdemeanors. Rape is considered felonies whereas misdemeanors are acts of distributing obscene sex material. Sex assaults are intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat or the abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent (Uniform Code of Military Justice, 2005). Although the average man is knowledgeable to the extent of knowing what constitutes a sex crime, he is still very ignorant as to the actual cause of these types of behaviours and mental rationing displayed in sex offenders.

Throughout the duration of time, scientists have extensively studied the mind of sex offenders in order to better understand and hopefully correct the abnormalities that causes such behaviours in the average man. Referencing the article *Understanding sex offenders* (2006), it was found that sex offenders are a unique group of law offenders in that they cannot be distinguished by age or economic status. In fact they are a member most similar to the ordinary man (Marshall, 2006). However, *Understanding sex offenders* (2006) have identified some traits that are considered prevalent in the broad array of sex offenders. Such characteristics include:

- ♣ Engaging in sexual contact with young children or adolescents;
- ♣ Having sexual contact with others against their will or without their consent;
- ♣ Inflicting pain or humiliation on others;
- ♣ Participating in or watching acts of physical aggression or violence;
- ♣ Exposing oneself in a public setting; and/or

- ♣ Secretly watching others who are undressing, unclothed, or engaging in sexual activities.

Upon viewing these common traits, it can be observed that almost all of them constitute the definition of one of the eight major categories of the disorder known as Paraphilia. By definition, Paraphilia is a family of persistent, intense fantasies, aberrant urges, or behaviors involving sexual arousal to nonhuman objects, pain or humiliation experienced by oneself or one's partner, children, or nonconsenting individuals or unsuitable partners (*Wikipedia*, 2007). Apart from having the broad definition, Paraphilia comprises of eight main or common types which includes, (1) Exhibitionism (2) Fetishism (3) Frotteurism (4) Pedophilia (5) Sexual Masochism (6) Sexual Sadism (7) Transvestic Fetishism (8) Voyeurism. Besides these eight, there are more rear Paraphilias, however, those are not relevant to the study. Definitions of these have already been given in the "Definition" section of the research proposal. Having the prevalent characteristics of sex offenders serve as descriptions of the eight major types of Paraphilias clearly indicates the correlation between this disorder and sex offenders. Thus, it cries the need for further research and understanding to be done on the disorder, Paraphilia. The literature review in the next chapter will bring into view and synthesize what is currently known about the link between Paraphilia and its contribution to the behaviours displayed in sex offenders.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Almost everyday in society we hear on the news about sex crimes being committed. We hear of the perpetrators sometimes being convicted or sometimes set free due to a lack of evidence. Recently, we also hear of recidivism of these sex crimes, sometimes of the same nature and other times the sex act is carried out in a different manner, that is, oral sex, anal sex

and the like. However, we do not hear of studies being done to understand these sex offenders. Experts in our society claims that it is due to a lack of interest in the legal system, a lack of the willingness to finance such projects domestically; according to Judge Hullett in an interview the researcher had with him. At current, we see sex offenders as ordinary human beings committing acts of opportunities (Hullett, 2008). We fail to view the probability that these individuals may have some mental defect or uncontrollable compulsive behaviour that with a little understanding and knowledge of the actual cause can be treated and eventually extinguished. We simply charge these offenders like any other criminal and release after serving their sentence, back into society, without any special therapy or evaluation (Hullett, 2008). This creates the problem of not being able to decrease sex crimes and heightening the possibility of re-offenses.

### **Purpose of the Study**

Realizing the dire need for the understanding of the behaviours of sex offenders, the researcher has decided to engage in studying the link between the disorder Paraphilia and sex offenders' behaviours. The study is aim to create an awareness and the commonness of the disorder. It is also aim to allow readers to see the more than visible correlation between the disorder and sex offenders. To help readers realize that sex offenders generally do not commit these crimes simply because the opportunity is there, but because they suffer disorder that are not readily controlled without medication and therapy.

### **Significance of the Study**

By being able to see the link between the disorder, Paraphilia and sex offending, it will open the door way for members in society to see the need for more extensive study of the reason

why persons commit such crimes. Through research and the development of the knowledge needed to really understand sex offenders, society can better protect those most fragile in our community, our children. Child molestation and incestuous relations have become very common in most sex related crimes in our society. Given this newly acquired knowledge society will be able to take proper precaution so as to better avoid the instances of first offenses due to the possibility of identifying and treating the abnormalities found in potential sex offenders. Lastly, those in the legal system will be able to impart proper and more effective penalties on sex offenders that will decrease the likelihood of re-offenses.

## HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis of this research study is as stated: Paraphilia is one of the most prevalent mental factors that can be directly linked to the behaviours found in sex offenders.

Conceptualization:-



## LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (2005), sexual assault is classified as intentional sexual contact by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Although the definition characterizing a sexual offense is generally 'clear cut', the causes of such crimes are still quite unclear. Many presumptions have been made, whether it stemmed from offenders being abused to whether it is the result of some mental disability (*Understanding Sex Offenders*, 2006). It is in this writer's opinion that the main cause for sex crimes does stem from mental factors; however, this writer will assess the viability of one such disorder, namely, Paraphilia. This particular disorder consist of many different classes of persons ranging from those who are mere peepers (Voyeurism) to those who become sexually aroused by either inflicting pain and humiliation on others (Sadism) or receiving pain and humiliation from someone (Masochism). Thus, it is hypothesized that Paraphilia is one of the most prevalent mental factors that can be directly linked to the behaviours found in sex offenders. The next paragraph allows the general awareness of the correlation between sex offending and mental disorders.

In an article written by Amy Norton, (2007) to *Reuters Health*, she commented that recent studies have found that men who have been convicted of sex crimes, including rape, have a higher rate of having been hospitalized due to a history of psychiatric illness and other serious mental illnesses. Sex offenders were six times more likely to be hospitalized (Fazel, 2007). He and his colleagues had a sample population of 8,945 sex offenders taken from a larger sample of 19,935 taken from the general population. It was concluded that sex offenders were five times more likely to be admitted and treated for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders. They were also three times more likely to have bipolar disorders. Lastly, it was found that sex offenders

were thirty times more likely to have been diagnosed with a personality disorder (Fazel, 2007). Although these findings are not directly linked to the hypothesized statement of this study, it does serve as a good indication of the prevalence of mental factors contributing to sex offenders' behaviours. A limitation with the study however, is that the sample population is seen to be relatively small for it to be generalizable. Therefore even though the figures showing the likeliness of mental factors contributing to sex offending, it is shaded by the limited size of the sample.

Now, a more direct association will be created showing sex offending being sourced from the particular mental disorder, Paraphilia. Paraphilia is one of the most extensively studied mental contributors to sex crimes. In order to be classified as a Paraphiliac, the following conditions must be met:

First, the individual must experience recurrent and intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviours over a period of no less than six months. These fantasies, urges, or behaviours generally involve children or non-consenting partners, non-human objects, or the humiliation or suffering of a partner or oneself. Secondly, the sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviours must cause the individual to experience significant distress or to impact upon the occupational, social, or other important areas of functioning (Duff, 2005).

Within this general category of Paraphilia, there exists many sub types that are used to describe more specific behaviours of fetishes. Some are more significant than others in regards to those Paraphiliacs prone to becoming sex offenders. Many sex offenders have been characterized as being Pedophiles, Exhibitionist and Voyeurs which are all subs of the disorder,

Paraphilia (Duff, 2005). In the paragraphs that follow, it will be shown the different types of Paraphilia that has already been studied and seen to be linked to sex offenders' behaviours.

One study found that Paedophiles had significantly less of a substance called "white matter", responsible for wiring the different parts of the brain together (Cantor, 2007). According to Dr. James Cantor (2007), Paedophiles have a significant lack of white matter which connects six areas of the brain which is partially responsible for sexual arousal. As a consequence of this, he stated that these subjects may lack the logical reasoning of distinguishing appropriate sex objects. This was made evident through the findings. A sample of 127 men was taken with the number of Paedophiles being almost equal to the number of non offenders (Cantor, 2007). The subjects were shown sexually arousing adult material. It was concluded that the part of the brain that should show heighten activity due to the exposure of the sex material, was not as active in the Paedophiles as was seen in the non offenders. It resulted in the researchers concluding that other factors other than childhood trauma cause Paedophile behaviours. Such other factors included low IQ and being left-handed; which would be a result of abnormal brain wiring (Cantor, 2007).

A Paedophile comes under the umbrella of Paraphilia, thus this study illustrates the link between mental factors such as abnormal brain wiring, being a cause in becoming a sex offender. However, the sample population of this study is significantly small and therefore cannot be generalized to the general population of sex offenders and potential sex offenders.

In essence, an exhibitionist is an individual who experiences the recurrent urge or behavior to expose one's genitals to an unsuspecting person. (Can also be the recurrent urge or behavior to perform sexual acts in a public place, or in view of unsuspecting persons.)

(Wikipedia, 2007). The article entitled *Sexual Dysfunction's, Paraphilias & Gender Identity Disorders*, states that more than 10% of child molesters and 8% of rapists were once exhibitionist (Wright, 2006). Also, Exhibitionism sometimes stem from other mental diseases, including, schizophrenia, epilepsy, senile brain deterioration and mental retardation.

Yet another study has been found that show evidence of Paraphilia as contributing to sex offenses. In this study, researchers compared the likelihood of those with Schizophrenia to those with other mental disorders, in particular, Paraphilia, of becoming sex offenders. Both disorders produce sex offenders (Drake & Pathé, (2004). Within the findings that were being compared, Lee, et al., (2002) found that it was conclusive that Paraphilics had some sort of emotional and sexual abuse when they were children. A sample of 224 childhood sexual abuse victims were subject to study and it was discovered that a significant number of those who experienced childhood abuse had committed sexual offending behaviour by the early age of 22 years. This was found to be true generally in those with other mental disorders, including Paraphilia, but not in Schizophrenics (Lee, et al., (2002). This study help to explain what might cause Paraphilia in humans; however, it adds a greater purpose. This purpose is again proving that those with Paraphilia are prone to becoming sex offenders, which supports the hypothesis. One limitation of this study is that it did not provide a figure as to what is referred to as the significant portion of child sexual abuse victims were Paraphiliacs.

Many have lived with the misconception that rapist partake in these abnormal acts simply for gaining sexual gratification. However, according to Nelson (2008), the main objectives of these sex offenders are to exert power over the victim or transfer anger from past painful experiences whether sexual or not towards them. One of the four categories in which he groups

rapists is entitled Anger Excitation which can also be termed Sadistic. This offender is considered the most harmful since his main objective is to inflict pain upon his victim in order to gain sexual excitement. If the victim does not respond to the pain being inflicted, he may increase the pain in order to fulfill his own sexual fantasies (Nelson, 2008). Thus, Sadistic rape may sometimes be a result of rape-homicide.

In Belize, most if not all of those convicted of sex crimes have received a mere penalty of imprisonment for a period of eight to twelve years pending the nature of the sex act conducted (Rhys, 2008). With the help of Ms. Rhys at the Queen Street Police Station, CIB Dept. in charge of sexual offenses, the writer has become aware of the severe lack of effective treatment of sex crimes in Belize. In a short interview over the phone, she explained to the writer that she had never heard of a case to her knowledge whereby the judge had recommended an offender to receive therapy (Rhys, 2008).

Another interview done with Judge Hullett on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 confirmed what Ms. Rhys had stated. Firstly, indecent touching, homosexual perverts, carnal knowledge, child molestation and rape are the dominant sex crimes committed in Belize (Hullett, 2008). He stated that the only time a sex offender would undergo psychological evaluation in Belize is if they start acting crazy in court. Even so, these offenders would not be required to do any follow up interview so as to ensure they are not re-offending or in danger of recidivism (Hullett, 2008).

In the writer's opinion, this lack of awareness that majority of sex offenses stem from some mental disorder, can be the cause of our sex offenders re-offending since it is not yet available in Belize for them to acquire the type of treatment that they need. As in the current case with Robert Valdez, whereby this convicted rapist has re-offended on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, this

time partaking in anal sex with his victim, according to the Staff Reporter of *The Reporter*, Albert J. Ciego (2008). Cases of re-offenses such as these can be greatly minimized if the legal system governing sexual offenses would consider the mental element that causes such behaviours in humans.

In conclusion, from the studies discussed in this literature review, it is seen that mental factors are a significant contributor to the behaviours of sex offenders (Cantor, 2007; Drake, et al., 2002; Fazel, 2007; Lee, et al., 2002; Nelson, 2008; Norton, 2007; Wright, 2006). Specifically, Paraphilia is a great contributor to sex offenders and their behavioural patterns. More studies need to be conducted involving greater populations. Also, it would be greatly effective if the studies consisted more of comparing different mental disorders and their existence in sex offenders. By doing so, researchers will be better able to decipher the more dominant and prevalent mental factors and thus can focus on the treatment of those that are relevant. This would enable more efficient and effective analysis and treatment of the disorders seen generally in offenders, which in turn would decrease the level of offenses and re-offenses committed.

## METHODOLOGY

This study will consist of the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data in order to better understand the mental factor, Paraphilia, and its contribution to behaviours in sex offenders. The researcher will utilize the following data collection instruments: *intensive interviewing and available data*.

### **Intensive Interviewing**

Intensive interviewing is sometimes referred to as *in-depth interviewing* and it consist of a combination of both open-ended and closed ended questions. Open ended questions speak of questions that do not allow a yes or no response but instead a response that calls for explanation and elaboration. Intensive interviewing is relatively unstructured questioning in which the interviewer seeks in-depth information on the interviewee's feelings, experiences and perceptions (Schloss, Smith, 1999). It allows for a conversation type interview that creates deeper understanding for the researcher on the lives and perceptions of those being interviewed and also a better understanding of the phenomena.

### **Sample**

- I. The sample to be studied will consist of both juvenile and adult convicted sex offenders.

It will comprise exclusively of male offenders and will be gathered from the Hattievile prison and the youth hostel here in the Belize district. A sample of 15 convicted sex offenders will be studied. This sample will comprise of seven adult offenders from the Hattievile prison and five youth offenders from the youth hostel in the Belize District. This will total to 12 such subjects, with the remaining three subjects being selected



accordingly. The first will be the oldest male sex offender at the Hattieville prison. The second will be the youngest male sex offender at the youth hostel. Lastly, the third will be the mean average male sex offender found using the known ages of the oldest and youngest male offender. The rest of the sample population will be randomly selected by the researcher using their last names.

- II. All interviews will be conducted by the researcher but assisted by a psychiatrist. Dr. Cayetano will be the psychiatrist who will assist the researcher in the interview segments; the purpose of their presence is to provide expertise as to the identification of possible mental disorders, particularly, any of the eight types of Paraphilia. The interviews will be semi structured as the researcher will prepare basic questions she wishes to use as guidance of the conversation. The interviews are to range between two to three hours per session and no more than three sessions will be entertained. The researcher will take notes but will also use the assistance of a tape recorder so to better analyze the tones of the subjects. The intensive interviewing instrument will serve the researcher well as she will be able to better understand the views and perspectives of these sex offenders. Also, it will be able to provide the researcher with access to the data needed to determine if the subject is indeed suffering from a mental disorder such as any of the major types of Paraphilia, whether they are aware of such existence or not.
- III. Each subject will be allowed private one on one interview with the researcher assisted by Dr. Cayetano. During the interviews, the subjects will be encouraged to speak openly about their lifestyle prior to being convicted, their personal reasons as to why they acted in such manner as committing the sex crimes and their childhood. This will be the target



of the conversation but any other information that the subject wishes to share will serve as to better understand their lifestyle, mental state and perspectives on life.

### Using Available Data

Available data will be a source for creating better insights as to the signals of identifying the underlying characteristics of Paraphilics. This available data will be sourced from profiles of the convicted sex offenders, the phenomenon in general and the expertise of the psychiatrist and other experts.

- I. The news media will serve as a trend and frequency detector which will indicate the types of committed sex crimes and the penalties actually being imposed. This news source will be derived from the television, web and the newspapers.
- II. Interviews with the experts will be ~~done~~ in order to gain in-depth knowledge about the mental disorder, Paraphilia, and its existence here in Belize. These interviews will also serve as indicators of where the Belizean society is in regard to understanding and effectively treating the occurrence of sex crimes.
- III. The Crimes Investigation Branch (CIB) department at the Queen Street Police Station is responsible for the investigation of sex related crimes. They are responsible for recording statements and preparing the cases for trial by the judge. Thus the researcher will use this department to become knowledgeable of the treatment and procedures that are carried out in Belize when a sex related crime is committed.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected from the research will be categorized as follows.

- I. A categorical background overview will be formulated of the interviewed sex offenders. This will serve the purpose of allowing a general understanding of the general lifestyles and perspectives these offenders have. The information will be detailed yet concise, thus sorting the relevant data that will be needed to identify the true factors causing such behaviours in the offenders. The purpose of the background information and the perspective of the sex offenders will be important to the research in determining what factors contribute to them committing sex crimes and whether they also display traits of the Paraphilia disorder.
- II. Next the information will be structured to show the relation between specific general factors of the causes of becoming sex offenders. The factors will be ranked according to generalizability among the sample population, thus indicating the true prevalent factor of being a contributor to sex offences. Here the existence of Paraphilia in the sex offenders will be greatly detailed consisting of the various factors that could be the possibility of the offenders becoming a Paraphiliac, the type of Paraphilia most pre-dominant, and the awareness and acceptance of the existence of such disorder through the eyes of the offender.
- III. This last section will involve the experts' opinions on the treatment of sex offenders regarding the penalties received by them and the way they are viewed in the legal system. It will conclude with the recommendations of the experts that

they think the society, including the government, needs to do in order to decrease the level of sex crimes and the likelihood of re-offenses.

## CONCLUSION

Upon the completion of the study, the Belizean society will be able to benefit greatly from such a study. Although many studies have been conducted in the broad area of Paraphilia, including, the eight types of the disorder, no known research has been so conducted in Belize. Doing this study opens the doorway for our Belizean society to create a more effective method of punishing those that fall subject to the jurisdiction of the legal system. Not always do the most abnormal or misunderstood offenses call for the harshest punishment. In order to be effective one must provide the treatment that is truly needed, whether it is therapy and medications or simply imprisonment.

Being able to understand what causes behaviours of sex offenders, the society and the legal system can better prevent the stripping away of the innocence of little children by Paedophiles and the heinous sex-homicides by Sexual Sadists. The Belizean society needs for the understanding of such criminal offenders because it has been proven through the re-offenses, that the penalties imposed thus far are ineffective.

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