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**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF  
 ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)**

Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/5361  
 DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/5361>



### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### INCEST VICTIMS: A CASE STUDY.

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#### Manuscript Info

##### Manuscript History

Received: 08 July 2017  
 Final Accepted: 10 August 2017  
 Published: September 2017

##### Key words:-

Incest, Rape, Molestation, Abuse, Sexual Intercourse, Incestuous, Polyincest, Assault

#### Abstract

Incest is considered as a sexual activity between two individuals who are closely related in blood like sister to brother, father to daughter, uncle to niece, cousin to cousin, son to mother, etc. Specifically, this means having a sexual intercourse with family members without permission or “doing sexual intercourse by force”.

In this present society, incest has become rampant but underreported due to fear of destroying the good image of the family; due to shame inasmuch as incest is known to be forbidden or taboo between two blood- related individuals; and due to guilt because of committing an offense, or a wrong doing that is against the law of man and God.

Many cases of incest (or familiar sexual abuse) involve children. Those categories of incest are molestation, rape, and assault, based upon the degree of harm to the child (Mayer 1983). In these categories, incest may include not only intercourse, but also the fondling and sexual petting of a child by an abuser. In a majority of these cases, the child does not suffer physical signs of abuse such as vaginal tears or a bleeding rectum; however, the abused child is still left with feelings of betrayal and emotional scars (McCabe 2003).

This research study focused on the victims of incest from Nueva Ecija Home for Girls in Palayan City. It aimed to get the victims’ descriptions in terms of age, sex, no. of siblings, and relationship to the perpetrators. Furthermore, this study was also designed to assess their insights with regard to their Environmental Security, Parental Role, Emotional State, and Mental State.

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#### Introduction:-

This research study was conducted in order to gain information from the victims of incest, their profile, and their own outlook concerning their environmental security, parental role, emotional state, and mental state.

This study used the qualitative descriptive research. The respondents of the study were five (5) incest victims from Home for Girls in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija using a purposive sampling in the selection of the participants, conducted last July 20, 2016.

#### Objectives of the Study:-

This study aimed to interview the incest victims from Nueva Ecija Home for Girls at Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

1. Describe the profile of the respondents in terms of:
  - 1.1 Age;
  - 1.2 No. of siblings;
  - 1.3 Order in the family siblings; and
  - 1.4 Relationship to the perpetrators.
2. Identify the victims' own viewpoint concerning their environmental security, parental role, emotional state, and mental state.

### **Discussion:-**

After gathering all the data needed, they were collected, analyzed, and interpreted. As to its findings, in terms of age, out of ninety-two (92) incest victims, majority belonged to age bracket of 3-17 years of age; when it comes to gender, the victims were all females and the perpetrators were all males; as to educational attainment of the perpetrator, the institution requested to disclose all the information of the perpetrators related to the ongoing cases; as to their ordinal in the family, two (2) victims were eldest in the family while the other two(2) were second to the eldest, and the other one (1) was the youngest; as to the number of siblings in the family, victim no.1 and victim no.2 were four (4) in the family; victim no.3 got six (6) in the family; victim no.4 got nine (9) in the family; and victim no.5 got seven (7) in the family; when it comes to relationship with the perpetrators, for victim numbers.1, 2, and 5, the father was the perpetrator; for victim numbers.3 and 4, the grandfather was the perpetrator; and in the case of victim no.5, the father, stepfather, and brother in-law were the perpetrators and considered as poly incest, the act of taboo.

As to environmental security, all of the victims lived in rural areas wherein neighbors were very seldom; all of the victims agreed that incestuous act should not happen in the family; they believed that they must be loved and morally guided by their parents; they had guilt, shame, anger, and depression; and lastly, mental state of victim number 1 was quite alarming due to the fact that they had post-traumatic experiences.

Based on the result of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: majority of the victims belonged to age bracket between 3 to 17 years old; all of them were advised to undergo further examinations; most of the victims were abused by their own family and thought that they were betrayed by the perpetrators and their own mothers; some of the victims were sisters abused by their father, grandfather, stepfather, and brother in-law; victims were suffering from depression and denial after the incident happened and some of the victims became prone to self-mutilation and suicidal ideation; left a stigma for the rest of their lives.

Based on the findings, it was highly recommended to strengthen the coordination among the different government agencies, private sectors, and NGO's in order to help and assist the victims; increase conviction rate for the victims to be determined to win the case.; implement the law on the part of the law enforcers; and on the part of the judiciary, they must see to it that no one is above the law.

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