

# How Can Rap Music Adversely Affect Society Today?

Posted on September 16, 2018

Rap music has been associated with both good and bad influences on society for many years. A lot of controversies have existed on the manner in which the music has been affecting the lives of the listeners. Rap music has been influencing listeners to do many bad things compared to the good things they can learn from the music. Though it enables the youths to talk about the things that affect them, it also has a lot of negative effects on society, especially the youths. A lot of people also believe that Rap has led to many negative aspects in society, and this is why they continue to oppose it.

The music genre that gained fame in the 1980s and 1990s is believed to have been used to propagate certain agendas in society. This is why Rap is regarded as a form of music that causes more harm than good. The following are the main negative effects that the music genre has caused on society (Cross, 1993).

## Rap And Violence

This type of music is always associated with violence. One will always find an element of violence when one looks at the lyrics used in this music genre. They do not criticize the war. In fact, most of the rappers encourage the use of guns. It is the reason why most youths who listen to this type of music are always violent. The type of music that one listens to can greatly affect the type of behavior they have. A violent society is one that cannot develop in any way because people are always fighting. A person who is addicted to Rap music cannot engage in any good argument. They do not have the best argument skills that can make them be heard. They end up causing fights in every argument they have. People who listen to this type of music mainly feel that violence is the best to solve the problems they have. Apart from the lyrics they get from the rappers, they also emulate the kind of lifestyle that the rappers have. Many rappers have died as a result of violence (Fernando, 1994). Most of the rappers have a lifestyle full of violence, and since their fans always want to emulate them, the fans end up having a lifestyle that is violent in nature. The main people who are affected by this kind of music are the youth. They end up following the lifestyle of the rappers, and this makes them violent.

## Rap Music And Drugs

Rap music is also known to be a major factor that leads to the use of drugs. The first way in which this genre contributes to the use of drugs is the lyrics they use. In most cases, rappers will praise certain drugs, and this makes youths interested in knowing about the drugs. Most of the drug addicts start by

following what is said in the music they listen to. Drugs have a lot of negative effects on the development of any society. In most of the cases, it reduces the workforce in a society. A society that does not have enough workforces is always not able to produce any goods they can use locally or export to other countries. Another way that Rap music has been affecting the lives of people in society through drugs is through the rappers. Most of the rappers are known to use drugs. Youths view the rappers as idols, and this makes them emulate every behavior they have. Unlike the message in the music, the rappers have a greater influence on the type of behavior that people can have. For example, a rapper who praises a given drug in his or her song might not affect society to the same extent as a rapper who uses drugs. Youths learn about drugs through the people they emulate in society. Most of the people who use the drugs learned about them through the icons in the society. Youths believe that what rappers do is the right thing and that they should always emulate them. Many drugs that are prohibited in many countries have been praised by different rappers in their songs, making the listeners curious. Curiosity makes them try using the drugs, and in turn, they end up getting addicted (Hager, 1984).

## Rap Music And Crime

Rap music is also associated with the various criminal activities that people engage in. Most of the rappers talk about criminal activities or even praise criminals who exist in society. This makes their audience feel that crime is part of society and that there is nothing wrong with carrying out criminal activities. The emergence of criminal gangs has always been associated with rap music. Some of the rappers also engage in crime to make money. From the beginning, the most famous rappers have been talking about 'gangster life,' which has greatly influenced the audience. Most listeners feel that whatever the rappers say is always right and that they should go ahead and practice it. Most parents report that their children show such traits once they listen to such music. This is also the reason why most parents are against their children listening to such music. Crime is one of the things that different countries have been fighting for a long duration. The fact that most youths love rap music makes it very difficult to completely stop people from engaging in criminal activities. The only way that one can remove the vice from society is by ensuring that the rappers do not sing about crimes and other related activities (Jones, 1994).

## Rap Music And Sexism

Rap has also been used by sexists to drive their agenda. Most of the rappers do not respect women, and this is why they are frequently involved in assault cases. The rappers are always trending for the wrong reasons. The female rappers are also not treated the same way the society treats the male rappers. The words used by rappers to describe women are what society views as vulgar words. Sexism is also evident in the teams that the rappers hire. Most of them do not hire women, and this practice is not good for society at the moment. In short, Rap fails to acknowledge the place of women in society (Nelson, 1991).

Rap music has been associated with a lot of negative aspects of the society. The only way governments can stop this practice is by ensuring that the rappers only produce what is good for the audience. The youths mainly view the rappers as icons, and the kind of music they produce has a great influence on the behavior of the youth. Rappers should be encouraged to be good examples to the youth so that we can have a society that does not suffer from bad influences from rappers. Music can be used as a great instrument to improve the behavior of people in society. Music should be used as a tool for change and not a way in which undesirable behavior is taught to the youths (Small, 1992).

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