Bystander Intervention

Name

Institution Affiliated

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The theory of bystander intervention is a concept that refers to the ability that onlookers have to help people in specific circumstances by interceding, giving indirect or direct assistance to the victim. Many times, people find themselves in very precarious positions, where they are in an emergency, but they cannot do anything to assist themselves. For instance, in a situation where a bully is about to harm a child. The victim cannot do anything to assist his position, and in this scenario, the onlooking students are the ones who can offer their help and come to the aid of the victimized child. Sexual violence is a problem in society that is becoming prevalent by the day. Bystander intervention can make great strides toward addressing the issue of sexual violence.

According to Mabry and Turner (2016), about 30% of women have been victims of completed or attempted sexual assault by the time they complete their tertiary education. In the video, Eric exhibits sketchy behaviors from how he talks to the two girls, especially Talia. He has singled out Talia how he tells her to go to the party so that they could dance together. Sherry is the bystander in this exchange, and she should have recognized the intentions of Eric with Talia. She could have influenced the situation differently when she saw Eric directing Talia to his bedroom upstairs. Talia was under the influence of alcohol, and she could not make sound decisions as per the developing situation. Since they came together and they only just met Eric, Sherry should have insisted on taking Talia home herself since Eric had ulterior motives.

Reference

Mabry, A., & Turner, M. M. (2016). Do sexual assault bystander interventions change men's intentions? Applying the theory of normative social behavior to predicting bystander outcomes. Journal of Health Communication, 21(3), 276-292.