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HOME ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AS PREDICTORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Abstract

Rape among adolescents has becoming reoccurring and a major public worries with associated health, psychological, and social consequences. The study examined home environmental factors as predictors of sexual abuse among selected post primary students in Ibadan. This paper utilized a descriptive survey research design. The total respondents comprise 300 students randomly selected from selected secondary schools. A questionnaire tagged "Home Environmental Factors as Predictions of Sexual Abuse among School Adolescents". The instrument was pre-tested in another school to ascertain the reliability of the instrument while the instrument was validated by experts from a related discipline. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient at 0.05 level of significance was utilised in data analysis. Results indicated that there was a significant links between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.544$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$), there was a significant connection between the environment and sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.466$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). Finally, there was significant negative effects of sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.505$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). This paper recommended that stakeholders should inculcate decent dressing for their wards while moral and religion education should be inculcated.

Key words: Adolescents; Home Environment; Sexual-Abuse; Predictors; School

INTRODUCTION

Rape is a critical social and public health worries that involves a forceful sexual intimacy, unprepared sexual contact, and sexual conversations by any individual regardless of their connection to the sufferer. Several cases of sexual abuse have been documented many times in most nations but the number of unrecorded incidences is far more which could be as a result of either the victims were afraid to inform anyone because of public stigma or the level of undue advantage to the victims on account of corruption (Basile & Saltzman, 2011). Rape can occur at the home of the victim by close family members, secondary caregivers and by strangers. In scenarios where sexual abuse occurs especially to the younger persons, they tend to come up with many unpleasant feelings, ideas and attitudes which could later adversely affect their lives in the long run (Basile & Saltzman, 2011). Sexual abuse continues unabated as our society acknowledges a wider range of roles violated by sexual offenders. The less prohibited form of sexual abuse is the non-contact sexual behaviour which includes

sexual advances, other definitions require some contacts, such as kissing or fondling, while the most prohibitive explanations consider only touching which can be oral, vaginal, and anal intercourse. Rape could also be any effort that influences someone to do something sexually which he or she may decline. It also means an attitude that influences individual's ability to control their sexual urge or the situation in which sexual urge happens, such as kissing the vaginal, forceful sex or prohibiting family planning programmes (Tkac, 2012).

Young adolescent is a transition stage from adolescent to adult stage usually a child from 10 and 19 years. A stage of transition from the period of entering into puberty stage to sexual and procreation stage. It is also the point of adulthood identity, brain development and movement from a complete socio-economic reliance to relative self-autonomy. Younger person is a special age bracket in the community, clearly distinct from youngster and the elderly. However, due to the growth of different organs of the body, young persons are vulnerable to sexual abuse and the trauma causes long duration of psychological and medical hazards, some of which put the younger persons more vulnerable for recidivism of sexual abuse (Modibbo, 2013). Adolescent stage is a transition period between young and adult phase, and, a stage to undergo a period of quick growth, learning the new skills and encountering fresh challenges that give chances to the attainment of and vulnerability of medical and well-being. Young females are the mothers of tomorrow and they are so far recognised as the risk cohort of people. They require data about anatomical situations and how to focus on wellness. Adolescents require being knowledgeable about family welfare, sexual life including women's monthly menstrual flow, keeping clean all the time during menstrual flow to equip the girl for adult life in order to guide against life time prolong health problems (United Nation International Children's Fund, 2010).

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP 2021) documented that the longer the sexual abuse, the more consequence its effects on a child's psychological, physical development, and growth. Young adolescent with the history of long periods of sexual harassment usually come out with poor confidence with attitude of hopelessness and an unusual perception of their gender. Young adolescent might decide to remain lonely and not having trust in anybody, may be depressed, intentionally injure themselves among others. Some young adolescents who are victims of sexual harassment must have demonstrated certain feelings or attitudes which are not proper for their level; such individual of their age category might become a commercial sex worker at a younger age. Adolescent sexual harassment has increased considerably with effect on the emotional, health, and educational achievement which has become worrisome to the future of the female adolescents and the country at large. In spite of the fact that adolescent sexual harassment is common and has been reported in most nations and at all layers of the community, available data relating to the incidence of sexual harassment around the globe and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular are very scanty (Agba, 2010).

UNICEF (2010) documented that nearly 150 million female adolescents witnessed female sexual harassment with physical contact in 2002, and most of their

perpetrators are men and are close family member of the victim. It was also documented that in 2015, one in four young ladies and one in ten young males in Nigeria had witnessed sexual harassment prior age eighteen. Positive Action for Treatment Access (PATA) also updated a research document conducted in 2009 that more than 31.4 percent of young adolescents said that their first sexual experience had been without the partner's consent. Several studies have though been carried out on sexual abuse from many perspectives. However, this study examined the home environmental factors as determinants (indecent dressing, monetary inducement) of sexual abuse among young children of post-primary school age in Ibadan North Local Government.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the home and sexual abuse among young persons in Ibadan North Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the environment and sexual abuse among young persons in Ibadan North Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria.

H₀₃: There is no significant effect of sexual abuse among young persons in Ibadan North Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria.

METHODS

The survey descriptive research design was adopted. The descriptive design is considered appropriate as a means of achieving the purpose of the study. Number of respondents made up of adolescents from the entire post primary school students in the North Local Government Area, Ibadan. The accessible respondents consist of post primary academic pupils in Ibadan North Local Government. Simple random sampling technique was utilized in the study making a total population of three hundred (300) pupils with the use of stratified sampling method from the classes of the secondary school students. The students comprised of males and females respectively from age of 10 and above. A self- designed instrument was used for the study. The instrument comprises of four sections with 36 items. Section A, item 1-6 sought information on respondent's bio-data, section B, item 7-16 measured home factors, section C, item 17-26 measured environment factors, and finally, section D, item 27-36 measured the negative effects of sexual abuse. The responses to the items would be within the range of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD), and Disagreed (D). To ensure the reliability of the instrument, a pilot study was carried out in another secondary school in Ibadan South West Local Government where questionnaires were administered on fifteen students. The data obtained from the respondents were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Statistical tool for test retest reliability. The coefficient index of 0.75 was found. This value was adjudged high and therefore, the instrument was considered reliable and appropriate for this research. The statistical test used for the study is the descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

For the descriptive statistics, the frequency counts and simple percentages were adopted for demographic variables and research hypotheses while Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistical method was used for testing the null hypotheses. The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used for the analysis.

Table 1: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient showing the relationship between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents

Variables	Mean	S.D	N	R	P	Remarks
Sexual abuse	23.44	4.09				
The home factor	12.44	3.36	300	0.544	0.000	Sig.

1. Sig at 0.05 level

The table revealed that there was a significant link between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.544$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). The result rejects the null hypothesis and accepted an alternate hypothesis which indicates that there is a significant link between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between the environment and sexual abuse among school adolescents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used for the analysis.

Table 2: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the relationship between the environment and sexual abuse among school adolescents

Variables	Mean	S.D	N	R	P	Remarks
Sexual Abuse	23.44	4.09				
The environment	12.38	3.87	300	0.466	0.000	Sig.

2. Sig at 0.05 level

The result shows that there was a significant connection between the environment and sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.466$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). The result rejects the null hypothesis and accepted alternate hypothesis which indicates that there is significant connection between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant effect of sexual abuse among school adolescents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used for the analysis.

Table 3: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the negative effects of sexual abuse among school adolescents

Variables	Mean	S.D	N	R	P	Remarks
Sexual Abuse	23.44	4.09				
Negative Effects	14.25	3.48	300	0.505	0.000	Sig.

3. Sig at 0.05 level

The result indicated table that there was a significant negative effects of sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.505$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). The result rejects the null hypothesis and accepted an alternate hypothesis which states that there are significant negative effects of sexual abuse among school adolescents.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result documented that there was a significant link between the home and sexual abuse among school adolescents ($r = 0.544$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This finding is in line with Jahan (2011), which explains that like 80% of sexual abuse victims have a close contact relation with the perpetrators most especially the family members such as fathers, step-parents, boyfriends, siblings and acquaintances such as close relatives, neighbours, the clergy, friends, tutors and others. This is supported by Shara Kaszovitz (2021) on the vulnerability of rape incidences in the home during a global epidemic, which found that nearly all incidences of rape are committed by a close person to the victim, such as close friends, parents, or close family relatives, some of them stay under the same roof. With the worldwide spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restriction orders to stop the spreading as a temporary measure to curtail it, the risk of rape cases within a home has further been accelerated.

Hypothesis two found out that there was a significant connection between the environment and sexual harassment among school adolescents ($r = 0.466$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This finding is in line with a report given by Nwankwo et al. (2013) that the location or community where young person reside predicts their sexual risk. Financial status of parents that live in more populated area are usually very low, and characterized with poor economic standing, polygamous family, poor living condition, literacy level and illiteracy among many others, as compared with those that live in a small population area especially GRA or estate area, were assumed to affect sexual conducts of young person by having early onset of sex, lack of family planning for their young children. It has also been reported by Tharp et al, (2013) that life in the community and the society at large are the two variables that contributed to the risk of

becoming a rapist. Variables such as poverty, unemployment, overall level of tolerance of rape incidences within the community, and lack of government assistance from criminal justice system due to the weak law and policies that connected with rape and gender equity.

Hypothesis three found out that there was a significant negative effects of sexual abuse among school adolescents. ($r = 0.505$, $N = 300$, $P < 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This finding is in line with the research of Foster et al. (2014) who found out that rape incidence among the younger person can have long lasting and serious implications. Those who suffer from rape and survivors of these effects endure throughout their entire life. Sufferers of rape and survivors can also be two to four times more likely to become victims of forceful sexual relation, physical or psychological abuse again in their lifetime. Velasquez et al. (2012) added that there are prolong consequences of younger person with rape experience which, include, several illnesses and disabilities, such as hypertension, chronic fatigue, poor-feeding, mobility, reproductive problems and childbirth. In addition, a research conducted by American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) in 2021, reported that sexual harassment has profound negative consequences on adolescents' emotional, mental health, physical, and growth. Adolescent who is a sufferer of rape usually come up with low emotional spirit, a feeling of hopelessness and negative perception about sex. The child might engage in self-isolation and not having trust in adults, depressed, intentionally harm themselves, and display abnormal sexual behaviour such as prostitute at a tender age.

CONCLUSION

Rape is a common and serious public health issues confronting millions of people yearly throughout the globe. It is facilitated by many variables operating in the context of social, cultural, and economic spheres. Many children slow down or never report rape cases among the younger person. Witnessing someone with rape case is a bad childhood experience (ACE) that can directly or indirectly have negative impacts on person's thoughts, acts, and attitudes throughout period of existence, resulting in short-and prolong physical and emotional health adverse effects. Adolescents who have been a victim of rape are prone to develop another sexual abuse experience or other sexual harassment than those friends who never witnessed it in their life, because the adverse consequences of rape in younger age may affect their abilities to judge relationships or risky conditions.

In some countries, information on many cases of rape are lacking, and there is a serious desire all over for study on all aspects of sexual abuse. Of equal significance are interventions. There are of various types of interventions but the essential ones concern the primary prevention of rape, focusing on both women and men, interventions targeting at the victims of rape, measures to control it more likely that the rapist will be caught and sanctioned, and plans for changing social rules and increasing the status of women. It is crucial to come up with interventions for low economic countries and rigorously to examine courses in both advanced and

underdeveloped nations. Hospital workers have enormous role to play in assisting the rape victim health wisely, emotionally and by gathering evidence to assist in litigation process. Hospital services is seen as more effective in nations where there are procedures and template for managing cases and gathering data, where hospital workers are well equipped and where there they work together with the judicial system. Ultimately, the strong desire and engagement of governments, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, in conjunction with a joined response across different sectors are needed to stop forceful sexual behaviour.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made for this research.

1. Family and secondary caregivers should watch and ensure proper dressing and not the kind of provocative dressing which can prone someone to sexual assault or indiscriminate sexual act.
2. The Ministry of Education should collaborate with the Ministry of Health to develop a curriculum on sex education for primary and secondary schools' students. This will encourage students to know the dangers linked with rape cases and its health implications, and prepare them on how to avoid sexual abuse.
3. NGOs, family, tutors, political leaders, and the media should come up with literacy sensitisation to create community enlightenment bringing the issue of rape into the general knowledge.
4. School social workers, *counselors, psychologists, and tutors should recognize students that have been sexually exposed and talk to them and their families should also be advised on the social requirements of their wards so that their studies will not suffer at long run.*

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