

SEXUAL PROMISCUITY AMONG IN-SECONDARY SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS AND QUALITY EDUCATION IN AKWA IBOM STATE

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Abstract

The study was designed to investigate the sexual promiscuity their impact on quality education and school administrators' strategies for combating such act among secondary school adolescents in Akwa Ibom state. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. Four research questions guided the study with 2 null hypotheses tested at .05 level of significance. A 30 – item researcher structured questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The study covered all the public secondary schools in the 3 local government areas in Akwa Ibom state. The population for the study was 63 principals and vice principals (administration). No sample was drawn out of 63 copies of questionnaire which were distributed and 60 were returned giving 98% rate of return. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and t – test was used to test the hypothesis at .05 level of significance. Some findings of the study revealed that different types of sexual promiscuity were exhibited by adolescents in Akwa Ibom state secondary schools. Some factors contribute to such misbehavior like urge for material gratification, watching of immoral films etc. This risky sexually behaviour affects quality education adversely. Finally, that the strategies adopted by school administrators were agreed upon. Based in the above findings some recommendations were made: which includes that sex Education should be included in the secondary school curriculum. Students should either in the assemble or moral instruction discouraged from watching pornography films etc.

Keywords: Risky Sexual Behavior, sexual promiscuity, Adolescents, Quality Education, secondary schools

Introduction

Adolescents otherwise known as young people are important segment of Nigerian society where it makes up over a third (31.6 percent) of Nigeria's large and growing population (National Population Commission, 2013). Adolescents are generally defined as meaningful, young persons under various laws, conventions and culture, who are within the ages of 10-19 and 10- 24 years

old according to World Health Organization (WHO, 2011). It is a period of life from puberty to attainment of full maturity (adulthood) or growth, a time of being young when one's appearance is full of freshness, vigour and young spirit. Adolescents also share certain characteristics that distinguish them from other generation. Such characteristic includes, desire for independence, zealousness, radicalism, rebellions, curiosity, sexual risk behaviours, etc. It is both a period of opportunity as well as a time of vulnerability- a time of experimentation with new ideas and options and marked with vulnerability to health risk and those related to unsafe reproductive health outcomes.

Until recently, adolescents in Nigeria were seen as a healthy segment of the population and received low priority for services. But biology and society bring on additional health challenges to them; those resulting from unprotected sex, violence and substance abuse. Ahonsi (2013) posited that adolescents in Nigeria have high burden of reproductive health problems. This assertion supported earlier surveys conducted on sexual behaviours of Nigerian Adolescents (National Demographic Health Survey, 2008; NationalHIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey 2007; Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey, 2010) which show that Nigerian adolescent (15- 19) almost half of the females (46.2%) and about a quarter of males (22.1%) have engaged in sexual intercourse.

Immoral behavior like sexual promiscuity among adolescent is rampant and has replaced some societal norms and values which had been the indices of Nigerian culture. The moral legacy of our forefathers has been eroded by the so-called civilization. James (2014) had lamented that it is pathetic and storming to note that the world is fast turning upside down. He noted also that acceptable behaviours like morality, respects among others are fading amongst the youth (adolescents) of secondary school age. Sexual behaviour refers to the manner in which human beings experience and express the sexuality people engaging in a variety of sexual acts which includes kissing, masturbation and penetrative intercourse etc. Sexual behavior according to Ellis (2011) includes conducts and activities which are intended to arouse the sexual interest of another.

On the other hand, risky sexual behavior is any sexual activity that can increase the risk of contracting HIV and AIDs or other STIs or becoming pregnant. It includes early sexual debut, unprotected sexual activities, inconsistency use of condoms, high risk partners (injection drug users) survival sex (sex in exchange for money, drugs, food or shelter) or sex with partner who have other partners or more than one partner at a time (Heffner, 2015), Robinson (2019) opined that risky sexual behavior can take several forms ranging from a large number of sexual partners or energy in risky sexual activities to sexual intercourse under the influence of substances such as alcohol or cocaine. These behaviours are considered in two broad categories namely: indiscriminate behaviours including having multiple sex partners, having risk, causal or unknown partners and failure to discuss risk topics prior to intercourse. Another is failure to take protective actions such as use of condoms and birth control.

Sexual promiscuity among adolescents in secondary school could affect adversely the quality of education they receive. For instance, in the study carried out by Odo (2010) on sexual promiscuity among adolescents, it was revealed that this act led to self – devaluation, promotion of drop – out of adolescents from secondary schools, depression and truancy among others. All the above vices could affect the quality of education because the learner who is the main recipient of education may not be mentally disposed to learn.

Purpose of the Study

1. identify risky sexual behavior exhibited among adolescents in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom state.
2. identify what contribute to sexual promiscuity among adolescent in the secondary schools.
3. find out how sexual promiscuity hinder quality education.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. What is the sexual promiscuity exhibited among secondary school adolescents?
2. What factors contribute to sexual promiscuity among adolescent in the secondary school?
3. How does sexual promiscuity hinder quality education?

Methods

A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study because opinions of the respondents were sought without manipulating the variables of the study. All the population of 30 principals and 30 were principals (Admin) i.e., 60 were used. So no sampling because it was done as the population is manageable. Akwa Ibom state comprises of some secondary schools in three local government areas, each from the three senatorial district of Akwa Ibom state. A questionnaire developed by the researcher was the instrument used for data collection. It has four clusters, A, B, C, D and had 30 items. Each cluster answered a research question. The instrument was face validated by three expert two from the Department of Educational Foundations and one from the Department of Physical and Health Education, University of Uyo. Two items were modified 3 discarded and introduced. These corrections were reflected in the final draft of the instrument which was used for data collection. A reliability coefficient index of .82, .85, .81 and .88

respectively were obtained for cluster 1 – D and 0.84 for the overall instrument was computed from the result of a pilot study conducted at Owerri metropolis secondary schools in Imo state using Cronbach Alpha correlation coefficient. This was good enough for data collection from respondents. All the items were responded to by using 4 – point scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The scale values were 4, 3, 2 and 1. The instrument was administered to all the principals and vice principals in Akwa Ibom state out of 62 copies of the questionnaire 60 was returned giving 98% rate of return. The research questions were analysed using mean and standard deviation. A criterion mean of 2.50 was used which means that any mean rating above 2.50 was positive or agreeable while below was considered negative or disagreed. T – test statistics was used to test the hypothesis at .05 level of significance. Here, where the calculated value is equal or more than the table value, the null hypotheses were rejected. In the same vein where the calculated value becomes less than the table value the null hypotheses will be accepted.

Results

What are the sexual promiscuities exhibited among secondary school Adolescents?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents Rating on the Risky Sexual Behavior Exhibited by Secondary School Adolescents

S/N	ITEMS (no of respondents 60)	X	SD	DECISION
1	Indulging in sexual act because others are doing it.	3.17	0.69	A
2	Having multiple sex partners	3.06	0.55	A
3	Engaging in indiscriminate sexual acts for survival (sex in exchange of money)	2.95	0.91	A
4	Taking part in sexual acts as erotic touching and kissing opposite sex partner.	2.68	0.85	A
5	Having unprotected sexual intercourse (i.e. without using condom)	3.41	0.49	A
6	Watching of pornography films and pictures	3.5	0.50	A
7	Reading literature that dwells on sexual acts	3.16	0.56	A
8	Using vibrator and masturbation or injection drug users	3.15	0.66	A
	GRAND MEAN	3.09	0.71	A

Table 1 showed that the 8 items in the table had a mean range of 2.68 – 3.5 which was above the minimum required mean of 2.50. This indicates that the school administrators agreed on all the items that sexual promiscuity are exhibited by secondary school adolescents in Akwa Ibom state.

What factors contribute to sexual promiscuity among adolescent in the secondary school?

Table 2: Mean Rating of Respondents on What Contribute to Sexual promiscuity among Adolescents in Akwa Ibom state Secondary Schools

S/N	ITEMS(30 principals and 30 Vice principals)	Principals (30)			Vice principals (30)		
		X	SD	D	X	SD	Disagree
9	Lack of discipline in school contributes towards adolescent risky behavior	2.90	0.74	A	2.50	0.97	Agree
10	Having friends that indulge in riskysexual behavior	3.40	0.67	A	3.20	0.66	A
11	Excessive intake of alcohol	2.70	0.80	A	2.70	0.96	A
12	Watching of immoral films	3.30	0.48	A	3.30	0.52	A
13	Lack of love in the home	2.70	1.01	A	2.50	0.97	A
14	Immoral act in the society	3.20	0.68	A	3.10	0.84	A
15	Parents inability to meet with their child's need.	3.16	0.65	A	3.40	0.49	A
16	Feeling timid to say 'no' when sexual advancement is made	2.60	0.89	A	3.00	0.61	A
17	Loose handling of children by parents	3.00	0.91	A	3.20	0.83	A
18	The urge for material gratification.	3.30	0.45	A	3.30	0.48	A
19	Failure of the school to teach sex education	2.97	0.72	A	2.70	0.91	A
	Grand mean	3.02	0.73	A	2.99	0.75	A

In table 2, grand means of 3.02and 2.99 for principals and vice principals Admin respectively agreed on the 11 items on what lead to sexual promiscuity among secondary school adolescents. The respondents agreed that all the factors contribute to sexual promiscuity.

How does sexual promiscuity hinder quality education?

Table 3: Mean Rating on How Risky Sexual Behavior Can Hinder QualityEducation

S/N	ITEMS	X	SD	DECISION
20	Adolescent who participates in risky sexual behavior are at risk for contacting sexually transmitted diseases like Gonorrhea and this will not allow him to have quality education.	3.20	0.69	Agree
21	Contraction of HIV or Black Hispand through participating in risky sexual behavior affects quality education adversely.	3.25	0.44	A
22	Teenage pregnancy which are prevalence as a result of risky sexual behavior affects quality education because it leads to redundant and unenlightened society.	3.02	0.70	A
23	Involvement in risky sexual behavior	3.40	0.58	A

	leads to drop out of adolescents from schools and as such affects quality education.			
24	It leads to development of low self-esteem in the adolescents and lack of interest in education	2.52	0.89	A
25	Increase abortion and death rate as a result of risky sexual behavior, hinders education of the adolescent.	3.50	0.50	A
	GRAND MEAN	3.10	0.63	A

A careful look at table 3 reveals that all the 6 items were agreed by the respondents with means 2.52 – 3.5 including the grand mean, 3.1 that risky sexual behavior hinder quality education of the adolescent in question. This is because risky behaviour leads to drop out, development of low esteem etc.

Discussion

The findings in research question one revealed that all the items were types of sexual promiscuity exhibited among adolescents in Akwa Ibom state. This was in line with what Robinson (1999) outlined as sexual behaviours exhibit by adolescents. The above has inclination with what Aral (1994) and Haffner (1995) stated that sexual promiscuity can take several forms ranging from a large number of sexual partners, inconsistent use of condoms, survival sex, high risk partners etc.

Also it was found in Research question 2 that some factors lead to sexual promiscuity which includes watching of immoral films, rampant immoral acts in the society, excessive intake of alcohol etc. the above findings was in line with findings of Abiodun (2014) that adolescent student get more information about sex through their interaction with peers and media. Also the findings of this work in this regard was supported by Stele and Joseph's (1985) theory which stated that sexual arousal is a powerful internal cue that alcohol intoxication attracts to enhance attitudes and intentions towards sexual promiscuity.

In the same vein the findings in research question 3 revealed the consequences of sexually transmitted infections, HIV, teenage unwanted pregnancy all have adverse effect on quality of education. This was in consonance with the opinion of Akinyemi (2001) that the prevalence of teenage pregnancy in any given society leads to a redundant and unenlightened society. It was equally discovered in this study that sexual promiscuity lead to students dropping out from schools and even death. Sexual promiscuity can seriously affect adolescent ability to concentrates in the presence of academic work.

Conclusion

Owing to the fact that most of the sexual promiscuity are exhibited by adolescents in Akwa Ibom state and that the problems associated with such behaviour among adolescents affect the quality

of education they receive, this means that school administrators have a lot of roles to play, so as to enhance desirable behaviour among adolescents in schools. For instance, the watching of pornographic and immoral films should be discouraged. Avoidance of sexual promiscuity could also be enhanced through symbolic modeling, whereby the sexual promiscuity are exposed using pictures and words in print form.

Recommendations

1. School administrators should adopt discussions to educate students on the sexual promiscuity especially on the area of HIV and AIDs pandemic.
2. Who should be made to understand and avoid what leads to sexual promiscuity.
3. The school administrators should set up a disciplinary committee that will be watching the actions of students especially in the area of sexual habit.
4. School counselors should organize group guidance for the students on the adverse effect of sexual promiscuity on their academic pursuit.
5. A well-articulated curriculum for secondary education should be emphasized in the school especially in the area of sexual feelings, sexual terms, sexual deviations, sexually transmitted diseases and their damaging effect.
6. Workshop/seminars should be organized in the school on the use of photographs and films that has negative impact on students. This will discourage sexual promiscuity among the adolescents.

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