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RAPE AMONG PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ANAMBRA STATE: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated causes and consequences of rape among secondary school students in Anambra state. Two research questions guided the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was made of 32125 Senior Secondary School students in public secondary schools in Anambra State. A sample of 600 students -was involved in the study. The sample was composed using the simple random sampling method. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed by researchers. The questionnaire was duly validated; two experts in Sociology of Education and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, validated the questionnaire. The internal consistency of the questionnaire was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha. Mean was used to analyze the data collected. Findings showed that mode of dressing, negative peer interaction and influence, drug abuse, lack of self control, absence of strict law against rape, exposure to immoral films on social media among others leads to rape. Also, the second findings showed the of consequences rape such as low self esteem, low academic performance, physical injuries, isolated lifestyle, death as a result of traumatic experience, unwanted pregnancy among others. It was recommended among others that religious institutions should not shy off in discussing sexuality issues. This key role should be a joint venture between the government, religious organizations, schools and the entire society at large.

Keywords: Rape; Secondary School; Student; Society, and Development

Introduction

Education is the best legacy a nation can give to her citizens because it ensures all round development. The National Policy on Education (NPE) stipulated that Nigeria philosophy of education is based on the integration of an individual into a sound and effective citizen of Federal Republic of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN), 2013). Education therefore, is the skillful process of bringing out the innate potentialities in an individual (Offor, Agbaenyi & Adirika, 2019). It develops human endowments and aims at the development of the entire personality of an individual. Education equips an individual to participate in the socio-political processes and contributions to the development of his society. The philosophy is aimed at development of an individual into a sound and effective citizen, integration of the individual into the community and provision of equal access to educational opportunities for all citizens of the country at primary, secondary and tertiary levels (FGN, 2013). The importance of secondary school can never be overemphasized because of the role it plays in nation building. According to Nwankwo (2010), secondary school is that stage of education following primary school.

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However, due to abandonment, starvation and malnutrition associated with children; majority of such children in secondary schools are subjected to different kinds of abuses including: child labour, child trafficking, slavery, drug addiction, lack of health care system, rape among others. Rape everywhere is a crime, but the definition and legal principle vary between countries. Globally, rape is defined as a violation of bodily integrity and sexual autonomy. In Africa, rape is seen as all forms of sexual penetration without consent, irrespective of gender (Sexual Offences and Related Matters, 2016). Under the criminal code of Nigeria, rape is defined, as having unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threat or intimidation of any kind or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as the nature of the act, or, in case of a married woman, by personating her husband, is guilty of the offense called rape (Section 375 of the Criminal Code Cap "C38", Laws of the Federation, 2004). The above definitions show that rape is a global problem and a considerable number of researches regarding rape have been carried out (Adebayo, 2013).

Rape is a violent crime involving sexual acts forced on one person by another. Rape is defined as technically as forced penetration (with anybody part or object) including anal vaginal or oral intercourse. Rape is illegal and while the term rape specifies penetrations and other sexual acts not involving penetration, when forced on someone is also illegal. The forms of rape may be specified based on who is committing the rape who the rape victim is and the specific actions involved in the rape. Rapists have all sorts of excuses and justifications for their acts. The reasons quoted are so diverse that it is nearly herculean to generalize. Rapes are committed by religious leaders, teachers, and guardians, father, brother, relatives, neighbours, friends, acquaintances or even strangers. In this patriarchal and gendered world, rape is a stigmatized crime wherein aspersions are cast on the victim instead of the accused. This emboldens men folk who bank heavily on a woman's silence to preserve her honour. It is also very easy to put the blame on the woman for bringing out the beast in a man (Nelson, 2016). One important issue raised time and again is related to the size of a woman's dress. People rape their daughters, sisters and sometimes even mothers. What causes such extreme depravity could be an obsession for sex. Another reason is the desire to control. Rape is a power crime. Narcissistic tendencies are common in celebrities, especially among actors and sportspersons. Their popularity among females causes them to mistake themselves as demigods whom women are dying to please in bed. Men like to boast about their sexual encounters equating them with conquests. Sex requires a man to be aggressive, he feels superior and in control. It is all about the need to control and assert power. Rapes are committed with impunity during wars. Husbands rape their wives and seek to justify it as a means of punishment to her or to put her in her place or simply to vent out their frustrations. Spurned suitors, jilted lovers and all those who believe the woman to be theirs cannot take no for an answer and force sex to punish or avenge. People rape their girlfriends, live partners, friends and acquaintances (Okeke, 2019).

Also adolescent boys have an urge to explore. According to Nwankwo (2018), a skewed sex ratio, lack of accessibility and negligible interaction with people of the opposite sex play havoc on impressionable minds fed with easy access to porn. There are some areas where the female is projected as no more than an object of desire. This causes them to be viewed as commodities, meant to be consumed and ravished. Sexually obsessed rapists don't consider women as human beings but as an object that can be violated with impunity (Ade, 2016). Sometimes rapists use kidnapping as a way of achieving their selfish aim. In fact during lock down in 2020, it recorded the peak of infant kidnap and rape. There were incessant cases of rape and kidnapping.

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Some types of rape are considered much more severe than others. Any type of rape resulting in someone's death is punishable by death in the United States. The type of rape known as diminished capacity rape is committed when one person forces sexual penetration on another person who cannot consent to the sex act. People with diminished capacity cant consent to sexual acts due to limited physical or intellectual ability. It also takes place when a person has no ability to consent to sexual acts due to intoxication and a person with intellectual disability. Another form of rape is age-related. This type of rape is often drown as statutory rape as specified both in federal and state law. In this case, sexual actions with a person below a minimum age is considered illegal in all cases. The age is 12 years. They are referred to minors. Another age is drown as the age of consent. Sexual acts with the person above the minimum age but below the age of consent may be considered rape depending on the penetrator. Partner rape also known as spousal rape or marital rape is a type of rape involving a person's partner or previous partner. Acquaintance rape is known as date rape as the two people involved may be in social relationship at the time. Some victims don't recognize acquaintance rape as rape but its important to remember that consent for sexual activity can be revoked at any time and a prior relationship does not mean that rape cannot occur. Two out of three sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows. Aggravated rape is a type of rape defined in law. Aggravated rape involves forced sex acts by the threat of death or serious bodily injury, forced sex acts involving an unconscious or drugged victim and sex acts with children under the age of 12. Various drugs are used by rapists to render their victims unconscious. Some also cause memory loss. Group rape also known as gang or pack rape occurs when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim. 10% to 20% involve more than one attacks. It is far more damaging to the victim and in some jurisdictions, is punished more severally types of rape are than rape by a single person. This kind of rape is prevalent amongst secondary school students. Also battery rape, force only rape and obsessive. Rape is a problem in Nigeria and students in secondary schools are mostly vulnerable. It is even more shocking that in nearly 95 per cent of the cases, rapes are committed by none other than the relatives and family members, or people known to the victims. Rapes are a universal occurrence; they are not restricted to any particular country, region, race, caste or class. They happen as much among the poor, rural, illiterates as among the rich, urban and the so-called elites.

Conversely, rape has severe health, social and psychological consequences on victims. The health problems associated with rape include sexual and reproductive health problems such as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; mental health problems and health risk physical injuries; and social ostracization (Anderson, 2010). Rape victims experience both short and long-term psychological effects. Okenwa (2014), posited that victims of rape often hate the opposite sex and may never want to engage in sexual activities and most especially sexual intercourse. The most common psychological consequences of rape include self-blame, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), feelings of severe anxiety and stress, depression, memories of rape, anger and feelings of personal powerlessness (World Health Organization, 2012). Onu (2011) also noted that rape may lead to school drop-out, and also leads to rushing into an unplanned marriage and marrying the wrong person (Finn and Finn, 2012). Students who are victims of rape in secondary schools isolate themselves from friends; feel shame and guilt, some even perform poorly in school and tend to commit suicide. More so, exposure to modernity is also one of the major determinants of rape among students in secondary schools in Nigeria (Akunna, 2011). It is said that students in secondary schools through their cell phones watch various types of pornographic movies, read sexually overloaded advertisement, sexually graphic music, movies, obscene

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literature directed to arouse their interest in sex (Garland, 2018). As a result of this exposure, the students in secondary schools are perpetually under pressure to experiment on sex even if it means raping (Ubong, 2015). In addition, peer pressure also encourages rape. In this respect, peer group is an important factor in the upsurge of rape cases among students especially in Nigeria's secondary schools. Most students in trying to remain relevant and to gain the continual approval of their friends try to experiment sex through raping.

Rape is prevalent among students in many secondary schools in Anambra State; this has kept many students in secondary schools under psychological trauma to the extent that they now isolate themselves from friends, in order to avoid guilt. All these in turn affect their performances in school. This is because it makes them lack focus regarding their primary goal of being in secondary school. The situation seems more pathetic in some Local Government Area of Anambra State as a lot of students in secondary schools in those areas are being subjected to rape because of high rate of insecurity in the area

No matter how difficult it is to believe, the reality is that rape among students happens and the consequences can be long-lasting and absolutely devastating. Majority of students, after school hawk along the roads and markets in different communities in Awka South Local Government Area with the aim of making money for their care takers and this exposed them to different forms of rape. Some of these students were easily deceived and raped by unknown adults. Those students in secondary schools who are raped in most cases are denied of the opportunities of developing their full potentialities. Rape could lead to high rate of school dropout because it could lead to unwanted pregnancy. In schools, students who are found to be pregnant are usually under expulsion; such students may end up becoming roupges or prostitutes with the resultant effect that they may never go back to school as a result this incomplete education among the teenage mothers. It is therefore very pertinent to investigate causes and consequences of rape among secondary school students in Anambra State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the causes of rape among secondary school students in Anambra State?
2. What are the consequences of rape among secondary school students in Anambra State?

Research Method

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was made of 58788 Seniour Secondary School 2 students in public secondary schools in Anambra State (PPSSC, 2021). They were selected because they are not external examination class. The sample of the study was 600 students selected through simple random sampling technique. First, The researcher used simple random sampling to select two public secondary schools in each senatorial zone, one urban school and one rural school: Anambra south, Anambra central and Anambra North; making a total of six public secondary schools. From each of the six public secondary schools, 100 SS2 students were selected, through simple random sampling giving rise to a total of 600 students that constitute the sample of the study. A structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: A and B. Part A of the questionnaire specified information on personal characteristics of the respondents while part B contained information with regard to the research questions. The response option of the questionnaire was Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The validation of the instrument was ascertained by giving the questionnaire along side with the purpose of the study, and research questions.

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Two experts in Sociology of Education and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, validated the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was done using trial testing. 50 students from two secondary schools in Delta State were used to determine the reliability of instrument. Cronbach Alpha Analysis was used to obtain reliability coefficients of 0.81, 0.77 and 0.79 respectively. The instrument was deemed high enough and the instrument was taken as reliable. The researcher with the help of 20 research assistants distributed copies of the questionnaire to the teachers in Anambra State. In addition it took them three weeks to visit all the teachers in their various schools. All the questionnaires distributed were retrieved because of the on-the-spot method adopted for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using the statistical weighed mean. This was because of the four-point rating scale which was adopted in the study. A mean of 2.50 was used as the cutoff point for making decisions. The decision rule was that any item that scored a mean of 2.50 and above would be seen as having attracted positive responses, while items that scored less than 2.50 would be regarded as having attracted negative responses.

Presentation of Results

Research Question one: What are the causes of rape among students in secondary schools in Anambra State?

Table 1: Mean rating of respondents on the causes of rape among students in secondary schools in Anambra State

S/N	Items on Causes of Rape	$\bar{X}$	Remark
1.	Most students are attracted to adults because of their mode of dressing	2.85	Agreed
2.	Negative peer interaction leads to rape	2.80	Agreed
3.	Drug abuse leads to rape	2.96	Agreed
4.	lack of self control leads to rape	3.20	Agreed
5.	some adolescents are raped because of sexual attraction to men	2.59	Agreed
6.	kidnapping due to high rate of insecurity leads to rape	3.02	Agreed
7.	Absence of strict law against rape	3.62	Agreed
8.	Exposure to immoral films leads to rape	3.44	Agreed
9.	poor parental upbringing which affects the lifestyle leads to rape	2.98	Agreed
10.	some adults are involved in rape because they placed bet on who would be the first to have sex with a particular girl	3.01	Agreed
	Total	**29.16**	
	Cluster x	**2.92**	**Agreed**

In Table 1, all the items (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 8, 9 and 10) including the mean of means obtained mean rating above the criterion mean of 2.50 indicating agreed to the causes of rape among students in secondary schools in Anambra State

Research Question two: What are the consequences of rape among students in secondary schools in Anambra State?

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Table 2: Mean rating of respondents on the consequences of rape among students in secondary schools in Anambra State

S/N	Items on Consequences of Rape	$\bar{X}$	Remark
11.	It makes one have low self esteem	2.96	Agreed
12.	It leads to low academic performance	3.48	Agreed
13	It leads to physical torture	2.94	Agreed
14	it makes one to live isolated lifestyle	3.14	Agreed
15.	it can lead to death as a result of traumatic experience	2.52	Agreed
16	it brings about unwanted pregnancy	3.70	Agreed
17	Infections like STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)	3.56	Agreed
18	Teenage marriage	3.86	Agreed
19.	some of the raped victims dropout of school because of unwanted pregnancy.	3.64	Agreed
20	it leads to Lack of focus in school	3.21	Agreed
	total	**33.01**	
	Cluster	**3.30**	**Agreed**

Data presented in Table 2 revealed that the respondents agreed to all the items (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18) which obtained mean rating above the cutoff point of 2.50 The mean of means score is 3.30 indicating agreed which implies that the above mention items are consequences of rape among students in secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State

Discussion of Findings

Findings showed that most students are attracted to adults because of their mode of dressing. Interestingly, Offor (2020) agreed that shabby dressing is one of the major causes of rape. Recently, females are found of wearing clothes that expose their sensitive parts of the body, which is not supposed to be seen. The kinds of body exposing dresses worn by females these days can never be overemphasized. It is worrisome and should be looked into by parents, the government and religious leaders most students were raped because of their mode of negative peer interaction and influence, drug abuse, lack of self control, sexual attraction to men, kidnapping due to high rate of insecurity. This result is in line with the report of Okeagu (2019), who reported that lack of self control and drug abuse among students is a major problem responsible for rape in secondary schools. Also, Uzochukwu (2015) reported that some students forcefully have sex with their girlfriend because of their friends influence. She stressed that some students learn this dangerous sexual behaviour from their friends who do same. This further entails that peer pressure influences rape among undergraduate students. It was also discovered that absence of strict law against rape, exposure to immoral films on social media, poor parental upbringing which affects their lifestyle lads to rape. To support this findings Nwankwo (2014), noted that exposure to modernity is a key factor that influences rape among adolescents, in this present day Nigeria because some of this adolescents often utilize their phone in watching pornographic movie online among other sexual related activities which motivate them to engage in different kind of sexually behaviours such as rape and some of them are more ignited to do so after listening to all this sexually graphic music. Also, the findings by Ugwu also (2016) supported that poor parenting and peer pressure influences rape among students. Nonetheless, lots of factors can

contribute to rape among students in secondary school.

The second findings showed the consequences of rape such as low self esteem, low academic performance, physical torture, unwanted pregnancy. These findings tallies with the reports of Ukandu and Ojoh (2016), who posited that low academic performance, physical injuries and unwanted pregnancies are the major consequences of rape among students in secondary schools in rural areas. In addition, Ozoemela (2010), supported that that low self-esteem, memory loss, death, poor academic performance among others are the effects of rape among secondary school students. The findings by Effiong (2013) agreed among others that memory loss, social isolations, pregnancy among others which creates room for low academic achievement are the effects of rape. Also it was revealed that Infections like STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases), teenage marriage, school dropout and lack of focus in school. To leverage this, findings, Ojo and Obasi (2013) reported that teenage pregnancy and poor academic performance/achievement are some of the key consequences of rape and hence the problem of rape requires urgent attention. Rape therefore has grave consequences among students who may fall victim to it in secondary schools.-

Conclusion

It is expedient to note that rape amongst secondary school students is on the rise because easy accessibility of the internet, post COVID experiences and mass media. It holds serious attention because some of the students have been raped to death and their potentials wasted. They did not live to see their dreams actualized in life. Also those raped were exposed to sex thereby leading them to prostitution and immoral life. The parents, school administrators and the government have major roles to play in protecting the life of the students from becoming rape victims. The students also should be on guard over their lives knowing that any sexual relationship with the male, the female suffers it.

Implications for societal development

This study has great implications to the society. The implication of the study is that rape is a crime and has led to physical and mental torture which eventually led to so many deaths. Some students have died in the hands of their rapists and buried in shallow graves and which resulted to missing persons in the society. Some contracted STDs and died. Also, students who are raped in most cases are denied of their opportunities of developing their full potentials thereby committing suicide. Some parents suffer from depression because of loss of their children that would take care of them in their old age. These will not lead to the growth and development of the society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. There is need for sustained public education on child sexual assault. Education campaigns by both the public and the private sector on child rape prevention need to be intensified. Children should be sensitized that rape is a crime. The government needs to put more tools in place to combat the rape crime.
2. Religious institutions should not shy off in discussing sexuality issues. This key role should be a joint venture between the government, religious organizations, schools and the entire society at large.
3. There is need to provide support within the social structure for abused children. The victims of child rape need not feel help is not available which discourages them from reporting. Stiffer punishments should be meted on child rapists.
4. Some cultural practices like those that encourage young initiates to have sexual intercourse as a rite of passage thus

putting children at a risk of rape need to be done away with. Social taboos against incest influence the reporting of such of Tenses. For example, the 'sanctity' of the family and social mores that hold that children are the property of their parents. This makes it difficult for outsiders to intervene on matters that are regarded private and confidential.

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