Experiences of Sexual Abuse by School Adolescent Girls in Ile-Ife, Nigeria

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Introduction

• Sexual abuse of adolescent girls is a global epidemics and a public health issue (Krug at.al, 2002; Chibber and Krishnan, 2012)

• Incidence is increasing at an alarming rate worldwide (Saewyc et al, 2003)

• In Africa, it is difficult to determine the prevalent rate as a result of culture silence (Ekabua et al, 2006).

• In Nigeria, school adolescent girls have always fallen victims of Sexual Abuse within and outside the school environment (Olaleye et al, 2007)
Introduction (ctd..)

• Sexual abuse of adolescent girls had long been linked to physical injuries, long and short term reproductive health problems, and psychological problems (Banyard et al, 2001)

• It is pertinent to identify the perpetrators and settings for adolescent girls’ sexual abuse, and the reaction of the survivors to sexual abuse in order to assist these adolescents to recognize imminent sexual abuse acts and react appropriately to the acts.
Objectives of the study

Study was designed to:

• assess experiences of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape among school adolescent girls in Nigeria,

• identify the perpetrators of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape of school adolescent girls,

• identify the settings for the abuse, and

• determine the reactions of the survivors to sexual abuse.
Methods

Design: Descriptive, cross-sectional

Setting: Ilesa-East and Ife Central Local Government Areas of Osun State, using two Mixed-sex Public Senior Secondary Schools

• Sample: 200 school adolescent girls (99,109)
• Sampling: Cluster sampling technique
• Instrument: Semi-structured questionnaire of Cronbach Alpha of 0.7
• Ethics: Institutional review board approval received
RESULTS

• 87% were middle-age adolescents (14-17 years)
• 70% of their mothers were petty traders (70%) and had secondary education certificate (50%)
• Fathers were petty traders (40%) and had tertiary education certificate (43%)
• 56% of the adolescents usually go to school with lunch money of between N1 and N50 ($1)
• 7% had between 2 and 4 sexual partners
Figure 1: Frequency of sexual intercourse with the opposite sex
### Table.1: School Adolescent girls’ experiences of childhood sexual abuse (N = 200)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual abuse acts</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A man touched her sexual parts against her wish when she was in primary school</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A man kissed her against her wish when she was in primary school</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A man fondled her breast against her wish when she was in primary school</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A man had sex with her against her wish when she was in primary school</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Experience = 0.22 ±0.57
Figure 2: Female School Adolescents’ experiences of sexual abuse

Mean experience = 0.57 ± 1.13
Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of perpetrators of Sexual Abuse of School Adolescent girls
### Table 2: Settings for Sexual Abuse of School Adolescent girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>SH</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator’s house</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road side</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Reaction of School Adolescent girls to Sexual Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reaction</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>SH</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did nothing</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fought him</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported the incident</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cried</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hypotheses testing

- Sexual abuse in adolescent stage / childhood sexual abuse ($r = 0.433; P = 0.0001$),
- Sexual abuse in adolescent stage / number of sexual partners ($r = -0.225; P = 0.001$).
Discussion

• Sexual Abuse perpetrators in Nigeria were majorly sexual partners (28%) followed by friends (25.8%), strangers (25.1%) and others (12.4%), family (8.7%). (Yahaya et al. 2012). (Survey of 2008)

• Abuse most often occurred at the perpetrator's residence (29.2%). A familiar person was the perpetrator (62.5%) (Ige & Fawole, 2012).
Discussion (ctd..)

• In Seria Leone (Mansaray and Johnson, 2012) perpetrators were:
  • age mates (50.0%),
  • teachers (24.9 %)
  • other adults in the community (19.9%)
  • % were members of the girls’ households (5.1%)
Conclusion

The study concluded that sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape is prevalent among school adolescent girls, and there is need for school nurses to create awareness among them to recognise potential perpetrators and report experiences of sexual abuse.
Recommendations

• Intervention programme should be mounted for children to prevent them from being sexually abused.

• Adolescents who have experienced childhood sexual abuse should be identified and counselled to prevent future occurrences.

• Sexual abuse Prevention programmes for adolescent girls should be carried out.
References


References (ctd...)

