

Analysis of Indiscriminate Sexual Relationships among Undergraduate Female Students in the Tertiary Institutions in Ebonyi State

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Abstract: The study investigated analysis of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students in tertiary educational institutions in Ebonyi state. Three research questions guided the study. The sample size comprised 250 respondents. The data collected were analyzed using mean scores. Results of the study revealed the causes of indiscriminate sexual relationships as students' lifestyle, cohabitation of students, quest for materialism, poor parental upbringing, etc. Further revelation was on the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationships among undergraduate female students to include; poor academic performance, prostitution, unplanned pregnancy, unsafe abortion etc. The study suggested some remedies to include; introduction of sex education in tertiary educational institutions at 100 level, separation / divorce should be avoided at all costs among couples, financially poor parents should rather send their female children to learn trade instead of sending them to tertiary educational institutions and flamboyant lifestyle should be discarded by female students.

Key words: Indiscriminate • Sexual Relationship • Undergraduate • Female Students • Institution

INTRODUCTION

Sex naturally has a divine design with the intent of causing continuity of life and sustenance of human species. Without sex no human being could have been born into the world. It is through sex that a man and a woman as husband and wife reaffirm their love for each other's yearning for copulation for the sake of emotional balance. It is an expression of love, dedication, appreciation, commitment and communion. Sex is used interchangeably with lovemaking because it is supposed to involve a great deal of love between the participants in this activity Samuel [1]. However, sex has been abused and applied inordinately, even against biblical warning against inordinate affections. It has moved from a woman to a man to even same sex and worse still to animal, God forbid.

It is highly worrisome that sex has become a tool for negotiation, for survival and blackmail among those who indiscriminately engage in sex.

Indiscriminate sex can be described as the act of engaging in sex for the wrong reasons, at the time by the wrong persons. In as much as one hears of sexual abuse,

sex itself can be abused by the individuals who are meant to engage in sexual encounter with females with whom he has neither married nor emotionally attachments to merely for the physiological need to ejaculate, a thing self discipline could have handled. Sex is indiscriminately engaged when one does not have the fear of God, without the fear of repercussion, such as contracting of diseases or becoming pregnant.

It is very common to find youths engaging in sex and boasting of it, worse still girls who used to be taught the virtues of keeping their virginity now lose it as if it were a huge burden on their ego and social status [2].

Social media depiction of sex has made it stoop low from its lofty marital height to a lowly pedestrian level where everyone can engage in it without fear of reprimand or obvious consequences. Nowadays, sex has become all comers affair, too bad! The following according to Mohan [3] are the ways in which one can be said to engage in indiscriminate sex.

- Involving oneself in sexual relations with someone to whom one is not married to.
- Engaging in sex with another person's spouse.

- Raping of a non-consenting person to forcibly derive sexual pleasure.
- Sexual molestation and forcefully penetration of unwilling underage persons.
- Sex with multiple sexual partners.
- Disregard for protection during sex, not minding the spreading of diseases.
- Showing of inordinate or unnatural affection between persons of the same sex.
- Engaging in sexual pervasion such as sex with toys, animals (bestiality) and inanimate objects hoping to derive pleasure from it.
- Sex among relations (incest) not minding the socio-religious consequences.

The issues arising from undergraduate sexual relationships have generated great concern among individuals across the globe because young people all over the world are sexually active [4] The extent to which they involve in sexual relationship seem to be affected by socio-demographic factors such as education, religious belief and cultural practices among others. According to Wikipedia, sexual relationship will lead to sexual behavior. Sexual behavior refers to all actions and reactions related to pleasure seeking. Samuel [5] asserted that sexual behavior is an aspect of human sexuality that shows how one acts when seeking sexual activity with his or her sexual partner. Those individuals whose sexual attraction is to the members of the opposite sex are called heterosexuals. When heterosexuals involve in sexual relationship such act is termed heterosexual behavior.

Sauder [2] defined heterosexual behavior as sexual attraction to and activity with persons of opposite sex. There are heterosexual behaviors exhibited by undergraduates which include: kissing / pecking, petting, dating, flirtation, wooing, touching, fondling, coitus, oralism, analism, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, unprotected sex and cohabitation.

Ayodele [6] Classified Those Behaviors into Three: Sexual exploratory behaviour which also referred as sexual networking among adolescents, which involves various attempts made by young individuals to initiate their age groups into sexual attempts. Activities involved in sexual exploratory behaviors include: adolescent friendship, teenage dating relationships and experimentation. Sexual attachment behaviour involves bonds that exist between a girl and a boy. This bond is a manifestation of physical changes in their body that results in sexual sophistication, social awareness, love and interest in sex. Sexual

Initiation/Experiment behaviors are behaviors exhibited with the intention of luring youngsters into sex. It progressively goes from wooing to hand shaking, hand holding, touching, kissing, pecking, hugging, romancing and caressing/petting and then copulation of sexual intercourse [6].

Heterosexual behaviors predispose young people to sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV and AIDS. HIV through sexual transmission seems to be growing factor, in spite of huge amount of money spent on anti-retroviral drugs and HIV/AIDS campaign programmes. Monique [7] reported that over ten million young people worldwide with the age range of 15-24 behaviors years diagnosed HIV positive by the year 2010. Specifically, various studies from different parts of the world have shown increased level of increased risky sexual behaviour including involvement in commercial sex, having more than one sexual partner, unprotected heterosexual networking intercourse among others. These kinds of are exhibited by undergraduates through different ways.

Hornby [8] defined undergraduate as student who is studying for his or her first degree. Undergraduates include those in other tertiary institutions such as colleges of education, polytechnics. These set of people are economically depending on their parents and relations and socially inexperienced. They have not learnt how to protect themselves from STI, yet they have less access to sexual health care services than the adults. Many female undergraduates commercialize their body especially those who come from poor parents, they go out with rich men for monetary gains and when this happens, they are likely not to be able to ask for the use of condom because of age difference.

Causes of Indiscriminate Sex: One thing that can cause indiscriminate sex among undergraduate female student is lifestyle on the campus as a result of total freedom on the part of the student. One of the dangerous lifestyle students engage in the campus is excess consumption of alcohol, drugs which students believe that it is an integral part of campus experience. This leads to sexual abuse.

Peer group influence also is among the social causes of premarital sex because most students would not want to be labeled cowards, uncivilized and crude.

Uzokwe [9] opined that dereliction on parental responsibilities contribute greatly to high rate of indiscriminate sex among undergraduate female students in Nigeria. The family is the primary unit of socialization, years ago; families put a lot of premium on morality, honor

and character. Then, parents took some time to bequeath some to their children during formation years. Then, there were injunctions and periodic denial of basic necessities for doing things that impinge on the family name. No family would like to be blacklisted or black mailed, so, parents paid serious attention to the moral and social welfare of their children and take corrective actions when bad behaviors are detected. The reverse seems to be the case nowadays. Parents are no longer keen on performing this all important assignment, but are now more interested in pursuit of fame and wealth.

Furthermore, the inability of the government to increase accommodation (hostels) in campuses has caused students to seek hostel accommodation outside the campus, thus encouraging cohabitation known as "campus marriage" amongst students. A situation where students of opposite sex are forced to live together and share things in common without any authorization portends danger to the sanctification of the institution of marriage and family. There are a lot of consequences to this way of life.

Poverty has been a core reason for most young female students to move into the commercial sex with their bodies to sustain themselves on the campus. Okonkwo (10) opined that lack of material things, very poor economic status of their families, lack of funds to pay school fees and other financial responsibilities in school lead to premarital sex. Thus, quest for materialism influences many young female students to engage in premarital sex.

Consequences of Indiscriminate Sexual Relationship: Premarital sex has contributed to the ongoing moral decadence in the entire society, tertiary institution inclusive. Studies have shown that students who engage in premarital sexual activities perform poorly in academics Gaba (11). This is because they are easily distracted by the pleasures that surround sex. Students who are pregnant tend to quit from their studies and stay at home until they deliver. This could bring about shame and will lead to withdrawal from school or even attempt suicide, child neglect and abandonment. Returning to school after giving birth becomes dicey because of financial problem and psychological trauma and the student will end up not completing her programme. Another consequence could be found in the loss of life when immature pregnancy is to be terminated through abortion, especially when carried out by quack. Thus, life could be wasted and the womb could be permanently damaged. Another consequence could be contracting of diseases such as HIV and AIDS with its attendant results.

Solutions: The problem of indiscriminate sexual relationship in tertiary institutions is worrisome. Thus, it has become the duty of everybody to take necessary steps to checkmate this social ill on tertiary educational institutions. Based on the foregoing, possible solutions can be proffered. A good family has been said to be the bedrock of any good society in view of moral decadence in the tertiary institutions. Thus, family ties should be strengthened to accommodate tolerance among couples to avoid divorce and broken homes.

Sex education should be introduced as a compulsory course in the first year in all tertiary institutions, as this will create a platform for the students to be taught by experts than be misinformed by their peers. Parents should be good examples to their children by living decent life. Parents should find time to teach good morals to their children at home.

The school management should discourage parties, beauty pageants which promote sex. The promotion on use of condoms should be discouraged, the sales of condom should be banned in the society as a way to discourage indiscriminate sexual relationship and thus create fear in premarital sex relationship.

Research Questions: Three research questions guided the study.

- What are the causes of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students in Ebonyi state?
- What are the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates in Ebonyi state?
- What are the solutions to indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female undergraduates in Ebonyi state?

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey design was adopted. The population of the study consisted of 250 female undergraduates drawn from 300 level of Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo and Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki. The target population was chosen because of experiences.

A structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The instrument has two parts, A and B. part A sought information required to answer on personal data, while part B sought information to answer the three research questions. Part B has three sections 1, 2, 3. Sections, 1, 2, 3 of part B sought information on causes, consequences and solutions to indiscriminate sexual relationship among female

undergraduates in Ebonyi state respectively. The four point Likert response mode of strongly agree (SA) = 4 points, Agree (A = 3 points) Disagree (D = 2 points) and strongly disagree (SD = 1 point) was adopted for the study. The instrument was face validated by three experts in Measurement and Evaluation in the department of Science Education, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki.

To establish the reliability of the instrument, the test-re-test method was used. The two tests were administered within two weeks interval on 60 female students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) and the two sets scores were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics which yielded 0.78.

The researcher administered the instrument on the respondents with the help of six research assistants during the first semester of 2017/2018 academic session. All copies of the questionnaire distributed were collected back because Direct Delivery method was used. Mean scores were used to analyze data collected. The decision rule was that mean scores of items 2.50 and above were regarded as positive and accepted.

RESULTS

Research Question one: What are the causes of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students in Ebonyi State?

Results in Table 1 show that all the respondents reacted positively to all the ten listed items with mean scores very well above 2.50. However, the grand mean of 4.10 shows that all the respondents agreed that the listed reasons are responsible for the causes of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students in Ebonyi state.

Research Question Two: What are the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students in Ebonyi state?

Results for research questions two are shown in Table II:

Results in Table II show that all respondents attracted positive responses with above 2.50 and a total mean of 3.77. This indicates that all the items are the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates in Ebonyi state.

Table 1: Causes of Indiscriminate Sexual Relationship.

S/N	Items	\bar{x}	Decision
1	Cohabitation of students	4.20	Agreed
2	Poor economic status of parents	3.81	Agreed
3	Peer group influence	4.11	Agreed
4	Indecent dressing	4.31	Agreed
5	Watching pornographies etc	3.97	Agreed
6	Quest for materialism	4.42	Agreed
7	Inability to control sexual urge	4.51	Agreed
8	Addiction to drug/alcohol	3.71	Agreed
9	Poor parental upbringing	4.37	Agreed
10	Poor students' lifestyle	4.62	Agreed
	Grand mean	4.12	

The following are the causes for indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates in Ebonyi state.

Table 2: Consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship.

S/N	Items	\bar{x}	Decision
11	Poor academic performance	4.01	agreed
12	Unwanted pregnancy	4.67	Agreed
13	Unsafe abortion	4.47	Agreed
14	Infertility	3.80	Agreed
15	School dropout	4.11	Agreed
16	Contraction of diseases	4.78	Agreed
17	Exposure of students to ritualists	2.91	Agreed
18	Abandonment of student by parents	2.81	Agreed
19	Drug addiction	2.84	Agreed
20	Prostitution	4.15	agreed
	Grand mean	3.82	

The following are the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates.

Table 3: Solutions to Indiscriminate Sexual Relationship.

S/N	Items	\bar{x}	Decision
21	Introduction of sex education at the 100 level in tertiary educational institutions.	4.70	Agreed
22	Couples to avoid separation/divorce and broken homes.	4.61	Agreed
23	Avoid communication gap between parents and children.	4.63	Agree
24	Encouragement of abstinence among students.	4.51	Agreed
25	Adoption of decent dressing code in the school.	4.41	Agreed
26	Periodic organization of seminars /workshops on the dangers of promiscuity	4.33	Agreed
27	Extension of the fight against HIV/AIDS to tertiary schools by the government	4.41	Agreed
28	Encouragement of security patrol in potential areas of sexual activities.	4.43	Agreed
29	Ban on student cohabitation	4.51	Agreed
30	Encouragement of students by the school management to frequently organize debates and symposia on the evils of premarital sex.	4.36	Agreed
	Total mean	4.40	

The following are the solutions to indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students.

Research Question Three: What are the solutions to indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates in Ebonyi state?

Data in Table III showed that the entire respondent reacted positively to all the items with mean scores well above 2.50. All the respondents indicated strong agreement with the listed solutions indiscriminate sexual relationship among female undergraduates in Ebonyi state.

DISCUSSION

The results as presented in Table I showed that the respondents agreed to all the following as the causes of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students, - cohabitation of students; poor socio-economic status of parents; peer group influence; indecent dressing; watching pornographic pictures and movies; quest for materialism; inability to control sexual urge; Addiction to drugs and alcohol; Poor parental upbringing and student lifestyle. Some of the above findings are in line with the findings of Okonkwo [10] that poor socio-economic status of parents, peer group influence, quest for materialism and poor parental upbringing. Some other findings of the study also confirmed uzokwe [9] observation that cohabitation of students, indecent dressing, student lifestyle and inability to control sexual urge and also Gaba [11] observations that addiction to drugs and alcohol and also watching pornographic pictures cum movies.

In relation to consequences as presented in Table 2 showed that the respondents agreed to all the following as the consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship among undergraduate female students – poor academic performance; unplanned pregnancy; unsafe abortion; infertility; school dropout. transmission of sexually

transmitted diseases; exposure of students to ritualists; abandonment of students by parents; drug addiction and prostitution. The findings agree with Morley and Lussier [12] that students who engage in premarital sexual activities perform poorly in academics, school dropout; and abandonment of students by parents. Also, some other findings of the study confirmed Ayodele [6] observations that unsafe abortion, infertility, unplanned pregnancy and prostitution are consequences of indiscriminate sexual relationship. This also agrees with Sauder [2] that drug addiction and sexually transmitted diseases are effects of indiscriminate sexual relationship.

As regards solution to indiscriminate sexual relationship, the respondents agreed that sex education should be taught at various homes and as a general course for all the 100 level students in tertiary educational institutions. Couples should avoid divorce, separation or broken marriage, communication gap between parents and children should be bridged; encouragement of abstinence from sex should be encouraged and adoption of decent dressing code by various institutions etc.

CONCLUSION

The primary agent of socialization is the family. If a child is not properly trained and directed at the family level and he or she develops bad manners, such bad manners will be reflected in his or her dealings with people outside the family. Therefore, parents should arise to their responsibility of rearing their children, inculcating the good norms and values in them and deemphasize the pursuit of wealth and fame, having learnt good morals at from home, they can face challenges outside the home and will be good students who will function within dictates of the code of conduct.

Recommendations: Based on the findings above, the following recommendations are made.

- Female students should not be allowed to cohabit with male students in their hostels/lodges.
- Female students should shun flamboyant lifestyle.
- Both male female students should desist from drugs and alcohol which arouses sexual urge.
- The importance of decent dressing should be emphasized right from the home.
- Abstinence from sexual activities should be emphasized.
- Ability to control sexual urge should be developed.
- Parents should try as much as possible to provide their children in school the basic needs.
- Parents should always visit their children without pre-informing them of their visit.
- Parents who are not wealthy enough to sponsor their female children in the tertiary educational institutions should alternatively send them to learn one trade or the other to save them from engaging in campus prostitution.

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