

Parental Education, Religious Background and the Sexual Behaviour of Female Students in Universities in South West Nigeria

E.O. Osakinle

Faculty of Education Department of Guidance and Counselling,
University of Ado, Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Abstract: The study investigated parental education, religious background and the sexual behaviour of female students in universities south west Nigeria. The study was a descriptive design of the survey type. A questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to collect data from a sample of 1000 female students that were selected using multi-stage sampling technique as well as simple random sampling of universities in south west Nigeria. Two null hypotheses were postulated and test at 0.05 level of significance using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis. The finding revealed that parental education and religious background of female students had no significant relationship with their sexual behaviour. Based on the findings, it was recommended that parents whether educated or not were to train their children the proper way in all they would be doing.

Key words: Hypotheses, postulated, questionnair

INTRODUCTION

Training up of children is the duty of parents whether educated formally or not, particularly moral upbringing is very important in any home. This could be the probable reason why Rosenberg^[1], admitted that parents are supposed to have sat down their children as early as age nine and told them about sex and morality. It is assumed that educated parents would give both formal and informal education to their children and even take them to educational heights as high as the universities, but uneducated parents will probably not see any reason for formal education particularly in the past when children were sent to cocoa plantation to work for their parents. According to Mensh, Bruke *et al.*^[2] it was said that parents foster their females out to live with another family. The rationale for this was that apart from this being a cultural practice, it is that it may improve their children's status. For examples, moving to an urban household may bring a girl more amenities and opportunities to learn an urban language, meet wealthy suitors and attend school. The educated parents would try to have limited numbers of children that they would be able to take care of within the limits of their resources. They would endeavour to send the children to school and not foster them out to other families in urban cities where they (the children) would be used as paid servants and even ready to marry wealthier suitors and learn the language of the cities^[2].

Although some adolescents feel that religion plays a big role in helping them deal with sex related issues, religion did not stop them from practicing sexual intercourse Toroitich-Ruto^[3]. Also, different reasons have

been shown to be related to the high sexual activity. One of such reason is the breakdown of social control by parents and teachers over adolescents^[4]. The other is the changing society where girls are lured into sexual activity for material gain^[5]. According to Toroitich-Ruto^[3] and Osakinle^[6] they said that knowledge of STD/HIV infection was high among the adolescents as well as their sexual activities were sporadic and usually not protected thereby leading them to infections and wanted pregnancies. Owuamanam^[7] said religious instructions have been removed from the school curriculum but to the contrary the researcher discover that up till now, teachers still teach religious knowledge in schools in Junior Secondary School classes 1 to 3; whereas in the Senior classes, religious knowledge is an optional subject and this could lead to students not having enough moral instructions in their senior classes. Also, in the Islam religion, it appears that they train their children to run away from fornication and adultery. However, when students get to campus, they tend to be influenced by a couple of factors such as peers and the environment.

Purpose of the study: The purpose of the study was to find out parental education, religious background and sexual behaviour of female students in universities south west, Nigeria.

Research hypothesis:

- Parental education of female students will have no significant relationship with their sexual behaviour.

- Religion of female students will have no significant relationship with their sexual behaviour.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design: A descriptive design of the survey type was used for this study.

Sample: The sample consisted of 1000 female students drawn from the five universities using the simple random sampling of the total number of universities in south west Nigeria. Two hundred female students from each of the five universities made up the 1000 sample needed.

Research instrument: A questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to collect data for the study. Its validity was 0.65 while its reliability was 0.87.

Data analysis: The data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis and the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Result: The result of the study were presented in line with the research hypotheses as follow.

From Table 1, it could be seen that 500 (50 %) of the respondents' parents are totally illiterate, 200 (20 %) are partially literate while 300 (30 %) are completely literate.

From Table 2, it could be seen that Christians have a frequency of 750 (75 %), while Moslem have 250 (25 %). Other religions was 0 (0 %).

Hypothesis 1: Parental education of female students will have no significant relationship with their sexual behaviour.

Table 3 showed that R calculated of 0.0292 was less than table value of 0.195. This shows that there was no

Table 1: Frequency of parental education and percentages

Type	Frequency	%
Totally illiterate	500	50
Partially literate	200	20
Completely literate	300	30
Total	1000	100

Table 2: Frequency of religious background and percentages

Type	Frequency	%
Christians	750	75
Moslems	250	25
Others	0	0
Total	1000	100

Table 3: Correlation analysis showing parental education and female students' sexual behaviour.

No. of case	CAL. R	Table value
998	0.0292	0.195

p>0.05

Table 4: Correlation analysis showing religion and female students sexual behaviour.

No. of case	CAL. R	Table value
998	0.104	0.195

p>0.05

significant relationship in the sexual behaviour of female students and parental education. The hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Hypothesis 2: Religion of female students will have no significant relationship with their sexual behaviour.

Table 4 showed that the R calculated of 0.104 was less than table value of 0.195. This shows that there was no significant relationship in the sexual behaviour of female students and their religion. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

DISCUSSION

The findings from the study show that there was no significant relationship between parental education and female students sexual behaviour. Whether parents are educated or not, they are supposed to give their children informal education at home. The knowledge the children have already acquired at home is supposed to go a long way in influencing their behaviour outside the home. Parents are encouraged in the book of Proverb 22:6, that they should train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Rosenbor^[1] said parents are supposed to sit their children down as early as nine to tell them details of sex and morality.

Finding also showed that there is no significant relationship between female students sexual behaviour and religious background. This is however not expected in that religion or moral instruction is supposed to have been given at home, in the secondary schools and even in the church or mosque. It would appear as if the fear of God is only in them when they are at home but not when they are on their campuses. Also, influence from peers and the environment could probably have caused this. This is supported by Toroitch-Ruto^[3]. The bible in Exodus 20:14 condemn the issue of adultery and the Bible in Hebrew 13:4 says that "marriage is honourable in all and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." This is to say that God is against premarital and extra-marital sexual relationships. Both the Bible and Koran are against this. Both premarital and extra-marital sex can lead individuals to multiple sexual partnership that could easily lead to STD/HIV and unwanted pregnancies and the attending consequences^[8].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It could be concluded from the study that female students need be morally upright so as to stay safe from STD/HIV and also from unwanted pregnancies while in the universities, whether parents are educated or not.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that religious knowledge should be taught and made compulsory at all levels of secondary schools so as to compliment those they hear from their churches and mosques.

REFERENCES

1. Rosenberg, L., 1992. Sex Education: Who Gives It? Awake. Published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Brooklyn, N.Y., pp: 11201.
2. Mesnch, B.S., J. Bruce and M.E. Greene, 1999. The Uncharted Passage: Girls Adolescence in the Developing World. Population Council One Dag Hammarisk, Old Plaza, New York, USA.
3. Toroitich-Ruto, C., 1997. The Determinants of Teenage Sexuality and their Understanding of STDS/HIV/AIDS in Kenya. African Population Policy Research Centre. A Programme of the Population Council, Nairobi, Kenya.
4. Bledsoe, C.H. and B. Cohen, 1993. Social Dynamics of Adolescent Fertility in Sub-Sahara. Africa Population Dynamics of Sub Saharan National Academics Press: Washington, D.C.
5. Youri. P., 1993. Female Adolescent Health and Sexuality study in Kenyan Secondary Schools. An Interim Report Amref. Kenya.
6. Osakinle, E.O., 2003. The Dynamics of Sexual Behaviour of Female Students in the South Western Part of Nigerian Universities. An Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of education, University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.
7. Owuamanam, D.O., 1982. Sexual Activities of School-Going Adolescents in Nigeria. Adolescence, pp: 81-87.
8. Heise, L., K. Moore and Toubian, 1995. Sexual Coercion and Women's Reproductive Health: A Focus on Research; New York Population Council.