



Prevalence Of Sexual Immorality Among Secondary School Students In Obio/Akpor Local Government Area Of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

Sexual immorality has become a global health issue in recent times. The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional design. The population of this study consisted of all secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. A sample size of 405 was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. A simple random sampling technique was used to select respondents for the study. Data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire and analyzed using simple frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation and ANOVA at 0.05 level of significance. The finding of the study revealed that 48(12.0%) had high prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students while 352(88.0%) had low prevalence of sexual immorality. The tested hypotheses showed a significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender [$F(1,398) = 11.678$; $p < 0.05$], peer influence [$F(3,396) = 8.845$; $p < 0.05$] and religion [$F(3,396) = 18.959$; $p < 0.05$]. It was concluded that less than a quarter of secondary school students had high prevalence of sexual immorality and that socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, peer pressure and religion influences sexual immorality. It was recommended amongst others that the Government should through its relevant agencies conduct more enlightenment campaigns through public talk, seminars, conferences and workshop to create more awareness on the need for adequate knowledge of sexuality and make and consider provision of a funded, coordinated implementation programme while ensuring monitoring and long-term sustainability.

Keywords: Prevalence, sexual immorality, secondary school students

INTRODUCTION

Sexual immoralities are major health problems affecting mostly young people, not only in developing, but also in developed countries. Sexual immorality is a worldwide phenomenon and one of the crucial steps towards mitigating this societal ill is to understand the reasons behind it. Sometimes, sex becomes uncontrollable pleasure to students, as such without self discipline it will lead to rape and sexual misconduct, for these days' boys and girls engage in pre-marital sex and a lot of sexual immoralities. The Holy books clearly states that we should not commit fornication, adultery or any other sexual immoral act. Even with all these warning, boys and girls of this jet age involve in all kinds of sexual immorality as simple as drinking water or eating food (Barker, 2014). This societal ill has wasted a lot of youths and matured men and women today. Most young men have had their dreams shattered denied and diverted as a result of sexual immorality.

Immorality among students is a major problem in the society today. It has been very disturbing that everybody is expressing a deep concern over it considering the speed of its occurrence and the associated danger it has brought to many of those addicted. The populations that fall victims to the act are students. Sexual immorality has become the order of the day; girls no longer cherish the dignity of womanhood (Crowe, 2005). While boys have lost control over their emotions; it is obvious that the youths today don't see pre-marital sex as immoral act but usual and normal life style.

According to Dabhoiwala (2012) the evil company of some students who are into cultism, pornography film, smokers, drunkards and sexual activities will propel and initiate the adolescents into sexual immorality. Hence we discover that a good number of students do not complete their secondary school education, while the educational pursuits of some are terminated by unwanted pregnancy, some others are forced into unprepared father and motherhood many are suffering from Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD) Human Immune Virus (HIV). Sexual immorality in secondary school students have also increase it way in raping the innocent girls in some schools (Abdullah, 2011). Sexual immorality exists everywhere in our home. It is very difficult to get a teenager who is a virgin. Our moral value has been decline badly, due to the influence of our cultural values in our society.

Sexual immorality has led to a lot of health problems. In Nigeria, Sexually transmitted diseases are among the top five disease for which child bearing age group and adult seek medical care. Perhaps this is why adolescents engage in risky sexual behaviours, high level of unintended pregnancy and STDs (HIV inclusive). Nigeria has the second largest HIV epidemic in the world (NACA, 2017). All these are linked to sexual immorality.

The Nigerian Association for the Promotion of Adolescent Health and Development, (NAPAHD) found that, a hospital based research study revealed that 80% of patients with abortion complications in hospitals are adolescents. Studies in Nigeria have also shown that most female adolescents by the age of 15 have already had their first sexual intercourse (Inyang, 2009). The same applies to male adolescents. In Nigeria, complicated abortion, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS are all linked to sexual immorality

Most adolescents do not receive correct sexual information while some are ignorant. Therefore, the intense outcome associated with adolescent sexual activity necessitates the search for a positive way out of reducing sexual immorality and thus, the main objective of this study.

Aim of the study

The aim of the study was to investigate the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Research Questions

1. What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?
2. What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender?
3. What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence?
4. What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State belief system?
5. What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type?

Hypotheses

- 1 There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender
- 2 There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence
- 3 There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State belief system
- 4 There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type

RESEARCH METHODS

The design for this study was a cross-sectional survey design. The population for the study consisted of all secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. A sample size of 405 was determined using Taro Yamane's formula for calculation of sample size. This sample was arrived at by using multistage sampling technique. The first stage involved dividing the Local Government into three clusters. Simple random sampling technique was used to select nine schools from the three clusters. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 45 students from each selected school. The simple random sampling was used to select the representatives from each school. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire designed by the researcher titled sexual immorality among secondary school students. The instrument was made of 2 sections. Section A provided the socio-demographic data of respondent while section B focussed on the prevalence of sexual immorality among students. Data collected from this study were coded and analyzed using simple percentage (%), mean and ANOVA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research question 1: *What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State?*

Table 4.2: Prevalence of sexual immorality

Variables	Frequency (n=400)	Percentages
Prevalence of sexual immorality		
High	48	12.0
Low	352	88.0

The table showed that 48(12.0%) had high prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students while 352(88.0%) had low prevalence of sexual immorality.

Research question 2: *What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender?*

Table 4.3: Prevalence of sexual immorality and gender

Gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Male	1.94	174	0.23
Female	1.83	226	0.37
Total	1.88	400	0.32

Criterion mean = 1.5. >1.5 is high prevalence of sexual immorality; <1.5 is low prevalence of sexual immorality

Table 4.3 shows the prevalence of sexual immorality. The result showed that the grand mean = 1.88 is greater than the criterion mean of 1.5 indicating high prevalence of sexual immorality based on gender. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found more among males with a mean value of 1.94±0.23.

Research question 3: *What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence?*

Table 4.4: Prevalence of sexual immorality and peer influence

I engage in sexual intercourse with my peers and friends in and outside the school	Mean	n	Std. Deviation
Always	2.00	2	0.00
Sometimes	1.94	174	0.23
Rarely	1.83	222	0.36
Never	1.00	2	0.00
Total	1.88	400	0.32

Criterion mean = 1.5. >1.5 is high prevalence of sexual immorality; <1.5 is low prevalence of sexual immorality

Table 4.4 shows the prevalence of sexual immorality. The result showed that the grand mean = 1.88 is greater than the criterion mean of 1.5 indicating high prevalence of sexual immorality based on peer influence. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found more among those who indicated that they always engage in sexual intercourse with my peers and friends in and outside the school with a mean value of 2.00±0.00.

Research question 4: *What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State belief system?*

Table 4.5: Prevalence of sexual immorality and religion

Religion	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Christians	1.84	232	0.36
Islam	2.00	46	0.00
Traditional	1.96	110	0.18
Others	1.33	12	0.49
Total	1.88	400	0.32

Criterion mean = 1.5. >1.5 is high prevalence of sexual immorality; <1.5 is low prevalence of sexual immorality

Table 4.5 shows the prevalence of sexual immorality. The result showed that the grand mean = 1.88 is greater than the criterion mean of 1.5 indicating high prevalence of sexual immorality based on religion. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found more among those who practiced Islam with a mean value of 2.00±0.00.

Research question 5: *What is the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type?*

Table 4.6: Prevalence of sexual immorality and family type

Family type	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Monogamy	1.87	318	0.33
Polygamy	1.90	82	0.29
Total	1.88	400	0.32

Criterion mean = 1.5. >1.5 is high prevalence of sexual immorality; <1.5 is low prevalence of sexual immorality

Table 4.6 shows the prevalence of sexual immorality. The result showed that the grand mean = 1.88 is greater than the criterion mean of 1.5 indicating high prevalence of sexual immorality based on family type. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found more among those from polygamy family type with a mean value of 1.99±0.29.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender

Table 4.7: ANOVA test showing significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender

Sources	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1.204	1	1.204	11.678	.001
Within Groups	41.036	398	.103		
Total	42.240	399			

Table 4.7 shows the One-Way ANOVA of significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender. The findings of this study shows that there is a significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender [F(1,398) = 11.678; p<0.05]. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender was rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence

Table 4.8: ANOVA test showing significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence

Sources	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2.653	3	.884	8.845	.000
Within Groups	39.587	396	.100		
Total	42.240	399			

Table 4.8 shows the One-Way ANOVA of significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence. The findings of this study shows that there is a significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence [F(3,396) = 8.845; p<0.05]. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on peer influence was rejected.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State religion

Table 4.9: ANOVA test showing significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on religion

Sources	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	5.305	3	1.768	18.959	.000
Within Groups	36.935	396	.093		
Total	42.240	399			

Table 4.9 shows the One-Way ANOVA of significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on religion. The findings of this study shows that there is a significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on religion [F(3,396) = 18.959; p<0.05]. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on religion was rejected.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type

Table 4.10: ANOVA test showing significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type

Sources	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.052	1	.052	.490	.484
Within Groups	42.188	398	.106		
Total	42.240	399			

Table 4.10 shows the One-Way ANOVA of significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type. The findings of this study shows that there is a no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type [$F(1,398) = .490; p > 0.05$]. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family type was accepted.

DISCUSSION

The finding of the study revealed that less than a quarter of the population had high prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students. This shows that there was the prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students. The finding of the study is in keeping with that of Fetene and Mekonne (2018), Watsi and Enowbeyang (2020) and Oliveira-Campos (2013). These studies reported that there was prevalence of sexual immorality among students and youths in general. The finding of the study also relates to that of Marhandu-Mudzusi et al (2016), Inyang et al (2011) and Igbudu (2011) whose studies revealed that sexual risky behaviour was high among adolescents. However, the similarities between these studies shows that globally, there is rise in sexual activities among youths that must have contributed to sexual immorality especially among those who could not stand the chance of having normal sexual relation with the opposite sex. However, peer pressure and other factors such as parental upbringing and societal permissiveness also play important roles in the prevalence of sexual immoralities among students.

The result revealed high prevalence of sexual immorality based on gender. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found among males. The finding of the study corroborates with that of Marhandu-Mudzusi et al (2016), Inyang et al (2011) and Igbudu (2011). These studies revealed that there was prevalence of sexual immorality among students and youths in general based on gender. The finding of the study also relates to that of Fetene and Mekonne (2018), Watsi and Enowbeyang (2020) whose studies revealed that there was relationship between gender and prevalence of sexual immorality. However, most studies revealed that sexual immorality was more among the males compared to the females. This might be so because males have high sexual urge compared to the females. Though, males have early exposure to sexual content compared to the females which may influence their sexual behaviour. However, among males, friends and peer pressure have high contributing factors to the prevalence of sexual immoralities.

The result showed a high prevalence of sexual immorality based on peer influence. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found among those who indicated that they always engage in sexual intercourse with my peers and friends in and outside the school. This indicates that peer influence can increase the prevalence of sexual immorality among students. The finding of the study is similar to that of De-Morais et al (2014), Kullima et al (2010) and Igudia and Obasuji (2011). These studies reported that peer influence contributes largely to sexual immorality among secondary school students. Though, most studies affirm to the fact that peer influence can contribute negatively to sexual behaviour among adolescents. This is so because there are all tendencies that friends can manipulate the behaviour of other friends in the society. Hence, when it comes to sexual behaviour there is likelihood for internal and external manipulation among youths. However, parental upbringings play important roles.

The result showed a high prevalence of sexual immorality based on religion. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found among Islam. This shows that religion can contribute to sexual immorality among students. The finding of the study is similar to that of Burbwa (2011) whose study revealed that belief system contributes to the prevalence of sexual immorality among adolescents. This is so because there are some religious settings that may likely increase the prevalence of sexual immorality. This is because these religion plays down on the existence and right of the girl child therefore sexual violence are usually committed against the female gender. However, other factors such as cultural belief and societal norms can play important roles.

The result showed a high prevalence of sexual immorality based on family type. However, high prevalence of sexual immorality was found more among those from polygamy family type. This is to

say family type can influence sexual immorality. The finding of the study corroborates with that of Fetene and Mekonnen (2018) and Igbudu (2011) whose studies reported that family type can play important role in sexual immorality. This might be so because adolescents copy a lot of things from their family lineage including sexual behaviour. Hence, there is the tendency that immorality or sexual pervasion can increase in families where sexual risky behaviour has been the order of the day.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that less than a quarter of the respondents had high prevalence of sexual immorality among secondary school students and that socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, peer pressure and religion influences sexual immorality among secondary school students in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

6. Targeted, staged based information, education and communication intervention should be implemented by NGOs such as FHI -360, SFH, PPFN etc to change the knowledge and attitude of secondary school students towards sexual immorality.
7. The government, ministries of health/education and other relevant agencies should embark on health education and awareness campaign on the dangers and consequences involved in sexual immorality
8. The Government should through its relevant agencies conduct more enlightenment campaigns through public talk, seminars, conferences and workshop to create more awareness on the need for adequate knowledge of sexuality and make and consider provision of a funded, coordinated implementation programme while ensuring monitoring and long-term sustainability.
9. Institutions such as schools, religious bodies (churches and mosques) etc should make improved good sexual behaviour compliance an institutional priority and provide appropriate leadership, administrative support, financial resources and support.
10. Households and family members should ensure they teach and develop in their child good sexual behaviour and prevent them from associating with bad peers in school and in the society.

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