



Sexual assault as predictors of unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine sexual assault as predictors of unwanted pregnancy among female secondary schools students in Rivers State Nigeria. Senior female public school students were purposefully selected. The study was a simple correlational design with a population of 31,757 public female senior secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria. A sample size of 395 female students were used for the study. Taro Yamen's method of determining minimum sample size was used to arrive at this figure. The Sexual Assault Questionnaire (SAQ) and the Unwanted Pregnancy Indication Scale (UPIS) were used as outcome measures. Face and content validity of both instruments were established by test experts and experts in guidance and counselling. The test-re-test reliability method was used to establish the reliability of SAQ and it yielded a coefficient value of 'r' 0.82 while the reliability of the UPIS was determined through the internal consistency method using Cronbach Alpha statistics and it yielded an alpha value of $\alpha=0.71$. Results revealed that alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education in schools significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female students in Rivers State. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended among others that seminars on drug use and alcoholism should be regularly taught in schools to re-orientate students on the dangers involved in them. Orientations should be regularly organized in schools on the negative effect of peer influence. Secret agents should be detailed to all chemist, pharmaceutical and liquor stores to ensure that alcoholic drinks are not sold to teenagers, drugs not prescribed by medical personnel are not also sold behind the counter especially to children and teenagers to prevent the temptation of buying and using drugs that may be harmful to their existence.

Keywords: alcohol and drug use, peer group, sexuality education, sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy

Introduction

The incidence of sexual assault is not new under the sun and it is not just a one man's problem or a problem associated with a particular country, culture, colour or race, it is a problem with great magnitude in all countries around the world. It is increasingly being recognized as a significant public health concern as well as a profound violation of basic human rights (Namrata, 2014) ^[20]. In line with this assertion the World Health Organization (WHO) as cited in (Durosaro, Ibrahim & Ogungbade, 2015) ^[9] stated that at least one in every five of the world's female population has been physically or sexually abused at some time. A survey conducted by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in (CDPC, 2012) found that an average of 207, 754 Americans (12 years or older) are victims of sexual violence each year. The National Violence against Women Survey (NVAWS) reveals that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or complete rape.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in Population Reference Bureau, (2001) defines sexual assault as any unwanted sexual comments or advances directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim in any setting. It is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in an unwanted sexual activity.

In this study sexual assault was used interchangeable with sexual violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual coercion or rape, which in some cases, result in unwanted pregnancy. It is a common knowledge that some factors contribute to sexual violence, which in turn give rise to unwanted pregnancy. This includes drunkenness (alcoholism), indecent dressing, peer group pressure, poor parental upbringing, among others. Before launching out into a discussion of sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy, it is important to establish a working definition of sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy. We shall first establish that of sexual assault and as we progress, that of unwanted pregnancy will be established. Sexual assaults is an act in which one intentionally sexually touches another person without that person's consent, or coerces or physically forces a person to engage in a sexual act against his/her will. It is a form of sexual violence which includes child sexual abuse, groping, rape (forced vaginal, anal, or oral penetration or a drug facilitated sexual assault) or the torture of the person in a sexual manner (Peter, George, Anne-Maree, Anthony & Brown 2011) ^[26].

The researcher, in this study, maintained that sexual assault is represented by the combination of (a) intentional sexual touches against the will or consent of another (b) the person with the sexual intention coerces the person

whose consent was not sought in a sexual act against his/her will. In line with this definition Osarenren & Anyama (2015) ^[24] defines sexual abuse as any action that puts pressure or coerces someone to do something sexually he/she do not want to do and will not be willing to do. But the person finds herself doing it because of the older person pressurizing or coercing her to do so. Osarenren & Anyama (2015) ^[24] went further to say that significant others in positions of authority capitalize on their powerful positions to intimidate the powerless. Ogunyemi (2004) ^[22] simplified the definition as he tend to adopt a much narrower definition of sexual abuse by seeing it as the sexual misuse of a minor by an adult or violation perpetrated against someone below 18 years of age.

Sexual assault is a sensitive issue that usually remains undisclosed by victims due to anticipated stigma, shame, blame, and fear of additional violence or trauma. Most of this undisclosed sexual coercion may be part of the reasons why such unacceptable behaviours continue unabated (Olusegun, 2012) ^[23]. In a study carried out by Erukar (2006) on the experience of sexual coercion among female students in Kenya, it was found that under reporting of sexual coercion among female students appears to compound the occurrences of sexual coercion.

Sexual assault is not a new phenomenon but its novelty according to Osarenren & Anyama (2015) ^[24] could be said to be in the person of the offender or the victim, in other words, it is being committed by new and different abusers against new victims. In agreement with this view Pereda, Guilera, Fornis & Gomez-Benito (2009) ^[25] in their analysis of studies conducted internationally observed that sexual abuse is much more a widespread problem than most people use to think and concluded that even the lowest prevalent rates includes a large number of victims. It is important to point out at this point that sexual abuse is not peculiar to a particular gender both boys and girls are sometimes sexually assaulted but the most vulnerable of victims remains young girls and women (Effa-Chukwuma & Osarenren, 2001) ^[10]. The main focus of this study is sexual assault against female secondary school students. Many perpetrators of sexual assault are in a position of trust or responsible for the child's care when it is a child, such as family member, teacher, coach, clergy member (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) 2021) ^[28, 29]. Supporting this view Durosaro, Ibrahim & Ogungbade (2015) ^[9] acknowledged that exposing a child to sexual situation or material is sexually abusive, whether or not touching is involved. While news, stories of sexual predators are scary, what is even more frightening is that sexual abuse usually occurs at the hands of someone the child knows and should be able to trust, most often close relatives. Contrary to the generally held view that sexual abuse occurs more within family, it is becoming quite evident in schools. Male teachers and male students are reported for making regular sexual advances to adolescent girls in schools.

Researchers in Nigeria believe in the increasing complexity in clearly conceptualizing sexual abuse or even some of the acts that could be concluded to mean sexual abuse due to the ways used in expressing friendship and affection in Nigerian culture. Some of the ways of expressing friendship and affection may actually be misconstrued to mean sexual abuse. However, whatever may be the contention, the fact remains that there are some acts that can never be called any other name except sexual abuse. Osarenren & Anyama (2015) ^[24] identifies some of these acts as follows:

- Fondling or touching a girl's breast or buttocks or vagina.
- The perpetrator rubbing his genital against the girl's body.
- Oral genital or oral breast contact.
- Kissing in sexual way or tongue kissing.
- Intercourse.
- The perpetrator exposing his intimate parts.
- Making sexual comments to a girl in person, writing or telephone.

The above acts constitutes sexual abuse without any controversy. People react differently to sexual assault no two individuals react similarly to sexual assault as no two individuals behave alike. There is no right or wrong way to feel, react or behave after a sexual assault. As the body and mind process the devastation of sexual assault several emotional, behavioural or physical responses might come to play. In agreement with this view Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN, 2021) ^[28, 29] notes that it is typical to have feelings of anxiety, stress, fear, making it difficult to adjust or cope for some time after a sexual assault. Sexual violence can have psychological, emotional, physical, social interpersonal and financial effects on a survivor. These effects are not always easy to deal with but with the right help and support they can be managed.

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Program (WCSAP, 2010) observed that while each survivor is unique in their experience, many survivors are impacted in the following ways:

- Shame – some survivors may think that they are bad, wrong, dirty or permanently flawed.
- Guilt – others feel that the abuse was their fault. It is difficult for this group of survivors to place the blame on the person who assaulted them.
- Denial – there are survivors who will say it wasn't bad. 'it only happened once' I am fine. I don't need anything.
- Minimizing – some survivors minimize the assault as a coping strategy. They may think that their abuse was not as bad as someone else's abuse.
- Boundaries – sexual assault violates boundaries. Many survivors develop and practice boundaries to forestall future occurrences.

- Trust – sexual assault is a betrayal of trust, most survivors find it difficult to trust other people as well as themselves and their own perceptions. On the other hand they may place an inappropriate level of trust in every one.
- Safety –sexual assault alters survivors’ sense of safety, they may assess unsafe situations as safe and perceive safe situations as dangerous.
- Isolation – many feel that they do not deserve support, that they are tainted and that other may not want to be their friends or lovers. A survivor culture and lack of community connections can cause feelings of isolation.
- Amnesia – a survivor may not remember what happened if the sexual assault happened before language is formed, he/she may not have memory that can be verbalized.
- Emotional – they may be very expressive emotionally such as anger, sadness, disoriented, disbelief, denial, calm, etc.
- Cognition – survivors may be unable to block out thoughts of assault, or alternatively, forget entire part of it. They may constantly think about things they should have done differently, nightmares are common.

Other related issues that may emerge are eating disorders, physical changes, changes in sexuality, substance abuse, self-harm, thoughts of suicide, and anger and mood disorders such as depression, flashbacks, panic attacks, sleep disorder, sexually transmitted disease and post-traumatic stress. (WCSAP, 2021) ^[33].

It is important to mention that sexual abuse does not usually result in lasting physical injury or even produce clear observable evidence. However, it can actually be associated with different psychological and behavioural problems arising from it. Sexual abuse, oftentimes subsist well into adulthood which makes it difficult for the victim to lead a healthy sexual life in adulthood. One obvious fact about sexual assault is that a survivor may have concerns about becoming pregnant from the attack. Several unwanted pregnancies has emerged from sexual assaults and decisions regarding abortion (Boyd, 2011) ^[6].

Unwanted pregnancy is a pregnancy that is mistimed, unplanned or unwanted at the time of conception. Sexual activity without the use of effective contraception through choice or coercion is the predominant cause of unwanted pregnancies (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013) ^[7]. Worldwide, the unintended pregnancy rate is approximately 45% of all pregnancies, but rates of unintended pregnancy vary in different geographic areas and among different socio-demographic groups (Bearak, Popinchalk, Alkema & sedgh, 2018) ^[5]. Unwanted pregnancy may be called unintended or mistimed pregnancies, it is the main reason for induced abortions, live births or miscarriages. Unintended pregnancy has been attributed to numerous poor maternal and child health outcomes, regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013) ^[7].

This study intends to examine the propelling factors of sexual assault and how they predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students. Studies linked teenage pregnancy to several factors. Gabriel (2007) ^[12] in his study revealed that as long as women continue to abuse opioids and other drugs, we will be faced with challenges in the management of pregnancies. One of the factors responsible for sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancy is having an absent or rejecting father and frequent use of alcohol (Sugarnan, Tiaden, Thoennes, Dutton, in Alika 2015) ^[3]. In the same vein Chukwudi and Gbakorum (2011) in their study revealed that indecent dressing has an influence on the sexual harassment of undergraduate female students. Ajayi & Ezegebe (2020) identified lack of family support, death of parents and lack of communication with parents about sex encounters are associated with sexual assault and unwanted pregnancies. Potard, Courtois & Rusch (2009) ^[27] in their study of influence of peer group and risky sexual behaviour during adolescence reveals that the perception of peers is associated with high frequency of sexual initiation and commitment, including oral sex, but also commitment to protected sex. Sexual permissiveness of peers is associated with higher frequency of sexual practices considered risky.

The Daily Star (2021) reported that the main reason why sexual assaults keep occurring in this country is due to moral decadence and impunity by offenders who often enjoy the protection of politicians. If sexual assault will be stamped out in our society moral instruction should be taught in schools and at home. In other words lack of moral instruction is the reason for the flourishing sexual assaults in our country.

Wikipedia (2021) identified the following as propelling factors instrumental to cause sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancy among teens:

Drug alcoholism: This is defined as the habitual taking of addictive substances. Drug includes alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogens and opioids (Gateway, 2022).

Selase & Mawuli (2013) simply defined indecent dressing as the deliberate exposure of one’s body to the public. This practice is contrary to the acceptable norms and values of the society. This is capable of predicting sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancy.

Drugs abuse and Alcoholism

During adolescence, teenagers may drink and experiment with drugs frequently with friends at social gatherings and parties. However, teens do not realize the impact drugs and alcohol have on the functioning of their brain, especially the effect of consuming large amounts of alcohol at one sitting. Drinking excessively as well as experimenting drugs may lead to unwanted and unintentional pregnancy. These substances greatly affects a teens

ability to think logically and carry out general thinking processes, thus increases the chances of engaging in sexual assault and unsafe and unprotected sexual activities.

Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is a major cause of sexual abuse, often females may be pressured or forced by an older partner to engage in sexual activities. These young females out of fear may feel forced to engage in unprotected sex without a choice. Some predators or even family members unfortunately sexually abuse some female students prior to entering puberty. These young females often are unable to inform a trusted adult about the situation due to fear of being harmed by their predator. This situation further affects the child as she grows into adolescence and increases the chances of unwanted pregnancy.

Lack of parental training has to do with parents lacking the moral courage to train their children in a morally upright manner. Parents with loving and supportive tendencies, breed better children than those who lack these tendencies. Lacking parental training has been found to predict sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancy. Moral instructions in schools refer to the assistance given to children to enable them acquire those values or habits that help them to individually live hood lives and at the same time become reproductive and contributing members of their communities.

Ahmed (2015) ^[1] discovered that lack of poor parental upbringing/lack of moral instructions in schools, peer pressure and feeling of wanting to be among is responsible for indecent dressing in our society. Ahmed commented that 'they don't remember that for every action, there is a reaction. This provocative act can lead to rape and as a result of what they wear they can be lured into prostitution by their peers. He advised parents to teach their children how to dress decently and also dress decently to serve as an example to their children in other to save them from sexual assaults.

Peer influence is when you do something because you want to feel accepted, approved and valued by your friends. Peer influence can be positive or negative. Moving along with the right peer group gives a good balance in one's life. Coping well with peer influence is about getting the right balance between ones's self and fitting in with your group. (raisingchildren.net.au). When peer influence is negative, it can predict sexual assault resulting to teenage pregnancy.

Sex Education is the provision of information about bodily development, sex, sexuality and relationship along with skills-building to help young people communicate about and make informed decision regarding sex and their sexual health. (Advocates for youth 20). Lack of sex education is a good predictor of sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancy among female students.

The above mentioned variables are good predictors of unwanted pregnancy. These variables have been found to be instrumental in sexual assault resulting to unwanted pregnancies among female students in Rivers State. In all societies to a greater or lesser degree, girls are subjected to physical and sexual assault that cuts across income, class or culture, sexual assault is an infringement of the fundamental human rights of the female senior secondary school students which needs to be addressed. It is against this background that the study is conceived.

Statement of the Problem

The incidence of sexual assault among secondary school students has become a great concern to parents, school administrators, government, non-governmental organizations, well-meaning individuals, law enforcement agencies and the society at large. Unwanted pregnancy resulting from sexual assault is a global problem with substantial negative consequences for the female secondary school students, their families and the society at large. Sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students are indeed a cause for concern and is pervasive in all countries and at all levels of society. It is obvious that, it is gradually eating deep in our society. It has become like an epidemic spreading so fast and the earlier something is done about it the better for the future of our desperate and vulnerable youths. In affirmation with this assertion WHO (2011) estimated that about 150 million girls experienced sexual violence with physical contact yearly. Affirming this position UNICEF (2015) also reported that one out of four girls, and one in ten boys in Nigeria had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. Female sexual assault have continuously been on the increase with its attendant effects such as unwanted pregnancies, psychological problems, health implications and threat to educational attainment owing to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Female sexual assault is one of the most stressful life events. Most of the unwanted pregnancies experienced by secondary school students resulted from sexual assault and such female students drop out of school and educational attainment comes under threat, others engage in abortions which is not also a healthy option. Those who are re-opportune to go back to school after such pregnancies experience shame, shock, loss of self-esteem, flashbacks, depression, fear, anxiety, anger, post-traumatic stress disorder etc. especially when the pregnancy is caused by sexual assault.

Previous researchers like Babatunde *et al* (2019) dwelt on sexual behaviour and experience of sexual coercion. BOY (2011) ^[6], talked about the impact of sexual assault, others like Hilary *et al* (2014) and others researched each of the predictor variables independently. As important and distressing as this subject is, much attention have not been given to such a germane subject by previous researchers. This is a serious gap in knowledge. This study is therefore an attempt to fill this gap by attempting to investigate three predictor variables of unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State.

Most of the incidences of sexual assault are laid hidden in courts, with law enforcement agencies, social welfare and so on. Victims and family members are not willing to disclose such incidences in public glare due to shame and labelling. As important as this issue is very little research has been conducted to determine the predictors of sexual assault before the behaviour occurs. If the predictors of sexual assault are well known collective efforts and attention can be made by everyone in the country to fight against it, it is an issue that need to be stamped out to have a nation that is full of sane people. This study therefore, represents an attempt to find out the predictors of sexual assault among secondary school students in Rivers State and unwanted pregnancy. Understanding the link between sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy is critical towards developing a multifaceted intervention to reduce sexual assault and unwanted pregnancies among female secondary school students in Rivers State. The question is: what are the predictors of sexual assault and unwanted pregnancies among senior secondary school female students in Rivers State? Based on this premise it becomes incumbent on the researcher to investigate the topic "Sexual assault as Predictors of unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the predictors of sexual assault and unwanted Pregnancy among female secondary school students in public schools in Rivers State. Specifically, the study is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To determine the extent to which alcoholism and drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in public schools in Rivers State Nigeria.
2. To find out the extent to which peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in public schools in Rivers State Nigeria.
3. To find out the extent to which lack of sexuality education in schools predicts unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students 'in public schools in Rivers State Nigeria.
4. To determine the extent to which alcohol and drug use, peer group influence and lack of sexuality education in schools jointly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study;

1. What is the extent to which alcoholism and drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria?
2. What is the extent to which peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria?
3. What is the extent to which lack of sexuality education in schools predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria?
4. What is the extent to which alcohol and drug use, peer group influence and lack of sexuality education in schools jointly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were postulated for the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. Alcoholism and drug use does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria.
2. Peer group influence does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among SS2 public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria.
3. Lack of sexuality education in schools does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students' in Rivers State Nigeria.
4. When taken together alcohol and drug use, peer group influence and lack of sexuality education in schools do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Rivers State Nigeria. A correlational research design was employed to simultaneously measure interrelationship that exist among the variables. The population of the study was 31,757 female senior secondary school two students in 284 senior public secondary schools in the area of study. Taro Yamane's formula was used to determine suitable sample size of 395 female students through multi-stage sampling technique. Two researcher's structured instruments were employed to obtain data for the study. The first instrument titled Sexual Assault Questionnaire (SAQ) was used to determine the possible indicators of sexual assault among female secondary school students in Rivers State based on a four point scale of Completely Agree (CA= 4), Mostly Agree (MA=3), Disagree (D = 2), and Completely Disagree (CD =1) while the second instrument titled Unwanted Pregnancy Indication Scale (UPIS) was used to collect data on possible sources of unwanted pregnancy based on five point scale of Very High Extent (VHE =5), High Extent (HE =4), Moderate Extent (ME =3), Low Extent (LE =2) and Very Low Extent (VLE =1). Face and content validity of the

instruments were carried out by experts in the field of educational psychology and guidance and counselling. The reliability of the Sexual Assault Questionnaire (SAQ) was determined through the test –retest method for a measure of stability. The initial and re-test scores were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation test and it yielded a value of “r’ 0.82 while the reliability of Unwanted Pregnancy Indication Scale (UPIS) was determined through the internal consistency method using Cronbach Alpha and a coefficient value of $\alpha = 0.71$ was obtained. Data analysis was carried out using simple linear regression analysis for the research questions while hypotheses 1 – 3 were tested with simple linear regression related to ANOVA and hypotheses 4 was tested using multiple regression analysis at 0.05 level of significance.

Presentation of Results

Research Question 1: What is the extent to which alcoholism and drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female senior secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria?

Table 1: Simple regression analysis summary on the extent to which alcoholism and drug use predict unwanted pregnancy.

Model Summary ^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the Estimate
1	0.298	0.089	0.088	6.71106

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 1 shows the model summary indicating the coefficient of determination R as 0.298 and R² as .089 which showed the proportion of variance in unwanted pregnancy of female students that is explained by alcohol/drug use. This implies that 8.9% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students was accounted for or explained by alcohol/drug use. The answer to research question one therefore is: Alcohol/drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy to a low extent.

Research Question 3: what is the extent to which peer group influence predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria?

Table 2: Simple regression analysis summary on the extent to which of peer group influence predict unwanted pregnancy.

Model Summary ^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the Estimate
1	0.456	0.208	0.207	6.6236

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 2 reveals that R = 0.456, R² = 0.208, Adjusted R = 0.207, standard error of the estimate = 6.6236 from the R² value it is observed that peer group influence relates to about 20.8% with unwanted pregnancy among female students. This implies that 20.8% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students is accounted for or explained by peer group influence. The answer to research question three therefore is: Peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy to a large extent.

Research Question 3: What is the extent to which lack of sexuality education predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria?

Table 3: Simple regression analysis summary on the extent to which lack of sexuality education predict unwanted pregnancy among female students

Model Summary ^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the Estimate
1	0.336	0.113	0.112	6.07274

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 3 shows the model summary indicating the coefficient of determination R as 0.336 and R² as 0.113 which showed the proportion of variance in unwanted pregnancy of female students that is explained by lack of sexuality education. This implies that 11.3% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students was accounted for or explained by lack of sexuality education. The answer to research question five therefore is: lack of sexuality education in schools predicts unwanted pregnancy to a moderate extent.

Research Question 4: What is the extent to which alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education in school jointly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria?

Table 4: Extent to which alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education jointly predict unwanted pregnancy

Model Summary ^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the Estimate
1	.698	.487	.477	11.74523

Table 4. shows R of .698 which is known as multiple correlation coefficient and it best depicts the relationship that exists between the criterion variable (unwanted pregnancy) and the predictor variables when taken together. It is the correlation between the criterion variable and the best linear combination of the predictor variables simultaneously. The R² of .487 is the coefficient of multiply determination which is the percentage of total variance in the dependent variable that is simultaneously accounted for by all the independent variables. Alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education in schools synchronously account for 48.7% of the variance in unwanted pregnancy.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Alcoholism and drug use does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers state Nigeria.

Table 5: Simple regression analysis related to ANOVA on the extent to which alcoholism and drug use predict unwanted pregnancy among female students

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	12024.993	1	12024.993	266.994	.000
Residual	52289.543	393	45.038		
Total	64314.537	394			
a. Dependent Variable: Unwanted Pregnancy					
b. Predictors: (Constant), alcohol and drug use					

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 5: indicated F ratio of $F(1,393) = 266.994$ and $p < 0.05$ which implies that alcohol and drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students significantly. Based on this we reject the null hypothesis that alcohol and drug use do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State and we accept the alternate hypothesis that states that, alcohol and drug use predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 2: Peer group influence does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers state Nigeria.

Table 6: Simple regression analysis related to ANOVA on the extent to which peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	14412.561	1	14412.561	304.919	.000
Residual	64373.221	393	48.66		
Total	78785.782	394			
a. Dependent Variable: Unwanted Pregnancy					
b. Predictors: (Constant), Peer Group Influence					

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 6, showed that F ratio of $F(1,393) = 304.919$ and $p < 0.05$ level of significance, this implies that Peer group Influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers State significantly. Based on this, the null hypothesis of peer group influence do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female students is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted, which means Peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students.

Hypothesis 3: Lack of sexuality education in schools does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students in Rivers state Nigeria.

Table 7: Simple regression analysis related to ANOVA on the extent to which lack of Sexuality education predicts unwanted pregnancy

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	12013.375	1	12012.421	166.511	.000
Residual	52268.653	393	45.066		
Total	64282.028	394			
a. Dependent Variable: Unwanted Pregnancy					
b. Predictors: (Constant), Lack of sexuality education					

Result significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 7, showed that F ratio of $F(1,393) = 166.511$ and $p < 0.05$ level of significance, this implies that lack of sexuality education predicts unwanted pregnancy of public female secondary school students in Rivers State significantly. Based on this, the null hypothesis of lack of sexuality education does not predict unwanted pregnancy significantly is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted which means lack of sexuality education predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students significantly.

Hypothesis 4: When taken together alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education in schools do not jointly and significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria.

Table 8: Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis on the extent to which all the three predictor variables predict unwanted pregnancy

Coefficients ^a					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	32.379	6.634		5.392	.000
Alcohol and Drug	.094	.072	.070	1.086	.002
Peer Influence	-.242	.083	-.158	-3.330	.001
Sexuality education.	.168	.106	.142	1.582	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Unwanted Pregnancy					

Constant is used for testing the omnibus multiple regression model, it has a standardized coefficient Beta $\{\beta\}$ of .698 (as indicated for multiple regression R), t of 5.392 and sig. of .000 (read as less than .0005). Since the sig (.000) is less than the .05 alpha $\{\alpha\}$, the null hypothesis that 'when taken together, alcohol and drug use, peer group influence, lack of sexuality education in schools do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students is rejected, which means all the independent variables collectively predict unwanted pregnancy among senior secondary two(ss2) female secondary school students in Rivers State significantly $\{\beta = .698, t(388) = 5.392, p < .05, R^2 = .487\}$.

Discussion of Findings

The main objective of this study was to investigate the predictors of sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria. The study utilized three variables to determine the variables that predict sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria.

The first finding which answers research question one and tested hypothesis one reveals that alcohol/drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students in Rivers State Nigeria. Table 1 shows the model summary indicating the coefficient of determination R as 0.232 and R^2 as .089 which shows the proportion of variance in unwanted pregnancy of female students that is explained by alcohol/drug use. This implies that 8.9% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students was accounted for or explained by alcohol/drug use while 91.1% was accounted for by other variables.

Furthermore, simple regression analysis related to ANOVA testing hypothesis one shown on Table 5 indicates F ratio of $F(1,393) = 266.994$ and $p < 0.05$ which implies that alcohol/drug use predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students significantly. On the basis of this result we reject the null hypothesis that alcohol and drug use does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female students and accept the alternate hypothesis that alcohol and drug use significantly predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students. This result is not surprising but expected because alcohol/drug use among secondary school students has direct and indirect effects on students leading to many adverse health and safety risks for the child, family and the community at large. Alcohol and drug use in the adolescent population carries a higher risk for school underachievement, delinquency, teenage pregnancy and depression among others.

The results of this study is in line with that of Mensch and Kandel (1992) who investigated the relationship between adolescent drug use and premarital teen pregnancy and abortion as a pregnancy outcome among

sexually active women in a sample of white women from the national longitudinal survey of youth. Event history analysis was used to explore whether prior drug use has a unique effect on premarital teen pregnancy, with controls for personality, lifestyle, and biological factors. Logistic regression was used to estimate whether drug use affects the decision to terminate a premarital teen pregnancy. The result indicates that the risk of premarital teen pregnancy is nearly four times as high for those who have used illicit drugs other than marijuana as for those with no history use of any prior substance involvement. Furthermore, illicit drug use increases the likelihood of an abortion by a factor of 5, concludes the study.

The second finding which answers research question two on table 2 reveals that $R = 0.456$, $R^2 = 0.208$, Adjusted $R = 0.207$, standard error of the estimate = 6.6236 from the R^2 value it is observed that peer group influence predicts about 20.8% to unwanted pregnancy among female students. This implies that 20.8% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students is accounted for or explained by peer group influence while 79.2 was accounted for by other factors.

Furthermore, the result on table 6 that tested hypothesis three showed that F ratio of $F(1,393) = 304.919$ and $p < 0.05$ level of significance, this implies that Peer group Influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among public female senior secondary school students in Rivers State significantly. Based on this result, the null hypothesis of 'peer group influence does not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted which means 'peer group influence predicts unwanted pregnancy among female students'

This result is also not surprising but expected because research has shown that peer groups influences their members by the way they dress and act, things they are involved in and the attitudes they show. People are influenced by peers because they want to fit in, be like their peers they admire, do what others are doing or have what others have. Peer pressure could influence the typical teenagers' perception about sexuality so much that they conform to the norms about sexual behaviour which are deemed acceptable to the peer group to which he/she belongs. Ultimately, peer pressure has been found to significantly influence teenage pregnancy in this study.

The results of this study is also supported by that of Potard *et al* (2009) who investigated the influence of peers on risky sexual behaviour during adolescence. The study used an exploratory design with the aim of determining to what degree the predominance of risky sexual behaviour during adolescence is the result of social influence with particular reference to peer group according to the perception of their attitudes and sexual behaviour. Data were collected through structured and confidential individual interviews with 100 adolescents selected randomly from among 1467 students attending one French high school. Result shows that the perception of peers is associated with a higher frequency of sexual initiation and commitment, including oral sex, but also commitment to protected sex. Sexual permissiveness of peers is associated with higher frequency of sexual practices considered risky resulting to unwanted pregnancies. The study concludes that sexual norms of peers influence youths' individual attitudes and behaviours.

In the same vein the study of Namrata (2014) [20] agrees with the findings of this study, Namrati investigated the influence of sexual violence perpetration among middle school youths. Specifically, peer contextual and socialization effects, and the influence of traditional masculinity ideology and dismissive attitudes toward sexual violence on perpetration of sexual violence over a six-month period using a survey design. The survey was administered twice, one in the spring of 2008 and the other in fall of 2008. Participants included 191 6th grade ($n=61$) 7th grade ($n=55$) and 8th grade students ($n=75$) from one Midwestern middle school with 66% white, 16.2% blacks and 15.2% others. Additionally, 52% of the sample constitute female ($n=100$) and 47.6% male ($n=91$). IRB approval to use a waiver of active consent was obtained from the University of Illinois and the centre for disease control granted a certificate of confidentiality for the data.. The American Association of University Women Sexual Harassment Survey (AAUW, 2001) was the outcome measure. Results indicated that peer groups play a predominant role in predicting sexual violence perpetration in early adolescents and this accounts for the high rate of unwanted pregnancies among female students. Furthermore, the study revealed that peer group level endorsement of dismissive attitudes towards sexual violence was significantly predictive of individual level sexual violence perpetration. It was recommended that sexual violence prevention programmes must address peer influence.

The third finding which answers research question three presented on table 3 shows the model summary indicating the coefficient of determination R as 0.214 and R^2 as .0113 which showed the proportion of variance in unwanted pregnancy of female students that is explained by lack of sexuality education. This implies that 11.3% of the variation in unwanted pregnancy of female students was accounted for or explained by lack of sexuality education while 88.7% was accounted for by other factors.

Furthermore, table 7 which tested hypothesis five shows that F ratio of $F(1,393) = 166.511$ and $p < 0.05$ level of significance, this implies that lack of sexuality education predicts unwanted pregnancy among ss2 public female secondary school students in Rivers State significantly. Based on this, the null hypothesis of lack of sexuality education do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted which means lack of sexuality education predicts unwanted pregnancy among female student.

This finding no doubts is not surprising but expected because teaching children sex education is very important, it equips them with powerful knowledge that keeps them safe in this cruel world. Due to the sensitive nature of sex education it is hardly thought in schools. Although there is paucity of empirical evidence on this subject, the following studies seem to support the findings of this study.

The 3rd finding of this study is supported by that of Science Daily (2008) who reported some research evidence on sex education among researchers, which suggest that sex education might lead to less teen pregnancies and sexual assault, and there is no indication that it boost the levels of sexual intercourse or sexually transmitted diseases. It is not harmful to teach teens about birth control in addition to abstinence, said the study's lead author. This suggests that lack of sexuality education might lead to high rates of teen pregnancies which could be labelled unwanted.

Kohler (2008) ^[18] and colleagues examined the results of 2002 national survey and focused on heterosexual teens ages 15-19. The findings based on responses from 1,719 teens which appeared in the journal of Adolescent health. After reviewing the results, which the researchers weighted to reflect the US population better, the researchers found that one in four teens received abstinence –only education. Nine percent, particularly the poor and those in rural areas received no sex education at all. The other two thirds received comprehensive instruction with discussion of birth control. Teens who received comprehensive sex education were 60% less likely to report becoming pregnant or impregnating someone than those who received no sex education. The likelihood of pregnancy was 30% lower among those who had abstinence-only education but the researchers deemed that number statistically insignificant because few teens fit into the categories that the researchers analysed.

While they also did not find statistical significance, other survey results suggest that comprehensive sex education but not abstinence based sex education slightly reduced the likelihood of teens having engaged in virginal intercourse. Neither approach seemed to reduce the likelihood of reported cases of sexually transmitted diseases, but again the results were not statistically significant. The results support comprehensive sex education, Kohler in Gannon *et al* (2012) said there was no evidence that abstinence –only education decreased the likelihood of ever having sex or getting pregnant.

Don Operario, PhD, a professor at Oxford University in England in Kohler (2008) ^[18] said the study provides further compelling evidence about the value of comprehensive sex education and the ineffectiveness of abstinence-only approach. Still the study did not show educators should implement comprehensive sex education in the classroom said Operario, who studied sex education. We need a better understanding of the most effective ways of delivering this type of education in order to maximize audience comprehension and community acceptability. The concern should be how to explore the most acceptable way to teach sexuality education in schools. Sexuality education no doubt can be an antidote to teenage pregnancy resulting from sexual assault.

Table 4 shows R of .698 which is known as multiple correlation coefficient and it best depicts the relationship that exists between the criterion variable (unwanted pregnancy) and the predictor variables when taken together. It is the correlation between the criterion variable and the best linear combination of the predictor variables simultaneously. The R² of .487 is the coefficient of multiply determination which is the percentage of total variance in the dependent variable that is simultaneously accounted for by all the independent variables. Alcohol and drug use, peer group influence and lack of sexuality education in schools synchronously account for 48.7% of the variance in unwanted pregnancy.

Furthermore, table 8 shows the constant which is used for testing the omnibus multiple regression model, it has a standardized coefficient Beta (β) of .698 (as indicated for multiple regression R), t of 5.392 and sig. of .000 (read as less than .0005). Since the sig (.000) is less than the .05 alpha, the null hypothesis that 'when taken together, alcohol and drug use, peer group influence and lack of sexuality education in schools do not significantly predict unwanted pregnancy among female secondary school students is rejected, which means all the independent variables collectively predict unwanted pregnancy among ss2 female secondary school students in Rivers State significantly $\{\beta = .698, t(388) = 5.392, p < .05, R^2 = .487\}$.

This result is also not surprising but expected because when all these variables were taken independently they were all found to predicted unwanted pregnancy among public female secondary school students independently, no single study was found utilizing all the variables in question jointly for discussion and comparison of result.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the issue of sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy is very germane as this has destroyed the destinies of many students. Several researchers studied the predictor variables used in the study in isolation but attention has been given to three variables in this study. Since some of the predictor variables are well known, a collective effort and attention should be given to this subject matter by all in order to stamp it out and make our society safe for our female students to actualize their potentials.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made;

- Seminars and orientations should be regularly organized in schools to re-orientate students from indulging in the use of drugs and alcohol. Their adverse effects and consequences should be made known to them to dis-abuse their minds from them.
- Programs should be developed in schools to address peer influence. The school authority through the counselling unit should organize seminars to discourage students from every negative peer influence. Tips on how to make good quality friends should be given to students.
- Sex education should be taught in all our secondary schools, teaching children sex education is very important, it equips students with powerful knowledge that keeps them safe in this cruel world. Due to the

sensitive nature of sex education it is hardly thought in schools, it should be taught as an independent subject not sub-summed under any subject.

Implication of the Findings

The findings of the study have significant implication for counselling. Counselling is one of the education support services recommended by the national policy on education and, education is supposed to benefit all children in the school. Prevalence of sexual assault among female students will in no way help these students to benefit from education. Counselling is needed to contribute positively towards behaviour change of female students, Teachers/Counsellors in schools should also be orientated by professional counselling organizations on how children can be protected against sexual assault in school and at home. These teachers and counsellors will in turn educate parents in their different schools on how well to equip their children ahead with the right information to cope with the challenges of sexual assault when the challenge comes this will greatly reduce the incidences of sexual assault in our society.

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