

The Problem Of Sexual Abuse In Nigerian Socio-Religious Society

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Abstract

Sexual abuse covers all forceful acts against a person to participate in sexual activity which ordinarily without that impulse the person would not have engaged in it. An individual is also sexually abused when an unwelcomed sexual conduct creates a hostile environment or when the aggressor inappropriately makes use of strength against the victim. Also, upsurge in cases of sexual abuse in Nigeria have been aggravated by the silence exhibited by those sexually abused; the lackadaisical attitude shown by parents and the government in response to cases of the sexually abused; and exoneration of those involved in the act. Its effects includes, an increase in HIV/AIDS transmission, increase in cases of abortion, and a shoot up in number of maternal and infant mortality. The descriptive as well as the historical phenomenological methodology were adopted in this research work. The approach was necessary, to distance the researcher from any form of subjectivity, especially gender bias. It discovered that sexual abuse is on the increase in Nigeria in spite of the religious proliferation. Religious groups, parents and government were advised to step up measures to arrest the situation, such as religious NGOs stemming the tide in enlightening their members as well as the public on the dangers of involving oneself in sexual abuse.

Keywords: Sexual abuse, Socio-religious society, Violence, HIV/AIDS.

Introduction

Sexual abuse is an unwanted sexual activity, with the perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of the person or persons concerned, who are not able to give approval or consent. Akanle, (2010:1) asserts that sexual abuse is "the act of forcing or attempting to force another individual through violence, threat, verbal pressure, deception, cultural expectation and economic circumstances to engage in sexual activity against individual wish." Reflecting further, Eze and Ajayi (2009:115) observed that sexual abuse "occurs when individuals go beyond silent and respectful forms of sexual recognition of themselves to impose interactive sexual recognition and gratification on the other person." It includes rape, child sexual abuse, teenage prostitution and early marriage.

In the Nigerian socio-religious society, sexual abuse has been on the increase. Several factors have been advanced to that effect. These include, "low level of education,

skill training, and bargaining capacity" (Ibrahim and Shehu 2009:107). Meanwhile, females and children bear the grunt of those that are victims of sexual abuse. Nkwegu (2009:123) observed that the "nature of child exposure to modernity and pornographies and parents attitude towards sex" have led to increase in cases of sexual abuse.

Nnachi (2003:34) echoes that, "sexual abuse appeared to be one of the most serious offences committed by adolescents." "Adolescents" does not necessarily mean the youth. It ranges "between 13 and 18" years of age as explored by Hornby (2010:20). In the light of this, Adunola (2005:12) observed that "a hospital based research has shown that 80 percent of patients with abortion complications are adolescents. This assertion was based on the fact that over 16 percent of teenage females reports first sexual intercourse by the age of 15 years, while 8.3 percent of boys of age 15 years have also had their first intercourse." Finkelhor (1979:8) borrowed an insight from the thesis put forward by Adunola by stating that sexual abuse includes "fondling and all forms of oral genital, or anal contact with the victim(whether the victim is clothed or unclothed), as well as non-touching abuses such as exhibitionism, voyeurism, or involving the child or youth in pornography."

The Nigerian society is plagued by cases of sexual abuse in all sectors, from educational, political, economical and to socio-cultural vis-a-vis religious sectors. Furthermore, its effects have been unevenly felt by all and sundry. Udekwe (2013:2) quoting Oraegbunam noted that adolescents have been depreciated to the level of buying a heifer off a market store "even to be exported overseas in the manner of female trafficking. In Nigerian educational sector, the rate of abortion caused by sexual abuse continue to rise, which also tallies with the progression in HIV/AIDs." Also shocking is the fact that "10.5 million children are believed to be out of school in Nigeria in accordance with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) statistics " as reported by Amaechi (2013: 10). Consequently, the Nigerian government has contributed its own quota in the fight against the tide of sexual abuse in the country. Some of these measures by government have been in the wrong direction. A comprehensive or perhaps a close explanation was reported by Tunde (2013:11) in respect to the bill passed by the Senate. According to him, Dr Ayo Akinyelure representing Ondo Central Senatorial District voted in favour of early marriage on July 23rd. The Leadership Newspaper submits that some of the women groups which consist of former Ministers of Education, Mrs Obiageli Ezekwesili, Mrs Josephine Anenih and Justice Mariam Uwais visited Senate President David Mark to pledge their complete disappointment with the Senate for passing the bill on early marriage in July 2013(<http://leadership.ng/news/240713/underage-marriage-we-were-blackmailedmark#stha>). Generally, early marriage is seen as sexual abuse. Chukwujekwu (2010:464) re-echoed that "early marriage is another traditional practices facing girls/women in Nigeria, particularly in the North. It has become widespread practice that a huge number of girls are married off in their early ages; at the age of 11, 12 or 13." Early marriage has been advanced in the Senate on the grounds that Islamic religion permits it. So, what the Senate has done is religiously motivated.

Pornography is another express channel of sexual abuse. According to Albert (2013:1), "among males, exposure to pornography is associated with addictive

behaviours traced to the release of chemicals in the brain, stimulating arousal and excitement. In the larger context, pornography is also associated with an exaggerated masculinity, negative attitudes toward women, and relational breakdowns due to unrealistic sexual expectations." It leads to a more demeaning type of sexual abuse known as rape. Giddens et al (2005) see rape as an act of violence rather than a purely sexual act. Rape is often carefully planned rather than performed on the spur of the moment to satisfy some uncontrollable sexual desire. Rape cases have been on the rise in the socio-religious fabric of the Nigerian society. Rape is a form of sexual pervasion.

Obi (2012:37) endorses that sexual pervasion is sexual behaviour that deviates from normal sexual intercourse. Deviation is a situation in which sexual excitement or orgasm is associated with acts that are regarded as nontraditional or unacceptable within a given cultural setting". Sexual Pervasion is also advertised indirectly in some of the daily newspapers in Nigeria. Kombol (2002:80) observed that:

Nigerian publications such as the Weekend Vanguard and ThisDay, carry pictures of seductively dressed women on their pages with odd words and such pictures usually bear no relevance to any of the articles in the content. These feminine images portrayed as sex objects, are properly positioned within an ideology that sees women as the property and objects of men pleasure.

In the Sunnews paper, there is a column for "Sungirl". Due to its seductive pictures, granting young girls the courage to expose their breast and other seductive parts, men are irresistibly attracted to this seduction. It leads to sexual violence. Unfortunately, victims of sexual violence and harassment who are believed to be able to report cases of abuse to appropriate authorities appear to be on the contrary. Corroborating this view, Eze and Omeiza (2009:118) noted "it was fear of stigmatization and victimization also hinder reporting of sexual harassment, and that lecturers who report sexual harassment might be ridiculed and labelled. As a result, some people prefer to handle the incident quietly."

It is against this background that the paper attempts to review the problems accompanying the lack of adequate attention to cases of sexual abuse; and to alert the public on the dangers of engaging in sexual abuse. The research adopted a descriptive and historical phenomenological methodology.

It has been noted that in many Northern part of Nigeria, girls under 10 are married off to rich Mallams and Alhajis. The girls are deflowered too early; many of them are in the hospital and are victims of a medical condition called vesico vagina festiulae (VVF). When this is criticized, "we are told that it is the culture of the North. Generally, young girls face other risks associated with adolescent sexuality - early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the truncation of their educational careers" (<http://www.onlinenigeria.com/adprint.asp?blurb=71>). Among the causes of VVF, early marriage is attributed to have the highest percentage.

Child's Sexual Abuse

According to Minahan (1987:255) "much abuse begins at an age when the child does not fully understand the nature of the act taking place and when the child lacks the

cognitive, emotional and physical power to say no to the behaviour." Most times child sexual abuse occurs just for the gratification of the sexual orgy of an adult or older adolescent. Furthermore, "child sexual abuse also occurs when an adult engages in indecent exposition (of the genitals, female nipples, etc.) to a child with the intent to gratify their own sexual desires or to intimidate or groom the child, asks or pressures a child to engage in sexual activities, displays pornography to a child, or uses a child to produce child pornography" (<http://www.uscb.org/nrb/johnjaystudy/litreview>).

In Nigerian society, "various types of injuries as a result of physical force such as multiple bruises in uncommon sites, burns wound in different stages of healing, vaginal and anal tears, serious injury leading to child's death have been reported" (Ikechebelu et al 2008:111). Furthermore, Holmer et al (1998:280) reports that "The child is also exposed to sexually transmitted diseases and of course the psychological trauma of sexual abuse, which manifests as major stress and anxiety disorders, aggressive behavior, poor school performance and engagement in high risk behaviours such as prostitution and higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases." Bugaje, Ogunrinde, Faruk (2012:3) illustrating with Maiduguri, a state in Nigeria as sample, said that there is "very high proportion of repetitive child sexual abuse in contrast to other reports that documented single abuse in most of their cases." It is also important to visualize that the victims homes or environment were the most frequent places of assault.

Rape

According to Hornby, (2010:1214), rape means, "to force somebody to have sex with you when they do not want to by threatening them or using violence." Rape is forcing anyone into sexual intercourse against her will. It is a violent, terrifying and humiliating assault. Rape is a pervasive form of gender-based violence. It has long symbolized in a man's ability to have his way with a woman. In some societies, like India, the rape of a girl is thought to bring shame on her family. The family may consider marrying the girl to her rapist as the only way to recover her honour. In some cases, the girl is condemned to prostitution (<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/sheets/rs2/>). Rape not only violates a woman's integrity, but also her sense of safety and control over her life, too. Rapists do not care about the victim's well-being. Even if the victim is sick or pregnant, the rapist does not think rationally during the attack. He does not see the victim as a human being but just as an object to dominate (Jekayinfa, 2000).

Rape is equally difficult to prove in a court of law, the processes and requirements are humiliating for the affected woman. Uzuegbu (2011:231) admits that "rape is not limited to unmarried women, even married women often fall victim of marital rape by their husbands. This could occur when the woman did not consent to sexual intercourse with her husband". Also worrisome is the dimension rape cases have taken with the involvement of security personnel. In Nigeria, Dayo (2011:213) seriously perched his opinion by saying "recent conflicts have highlighted the use of rape as a tool of warfare." Uzuegbu (2011:232) organized his reflections thus:

Raping of women by soldiers during the invasion of Odi in Bayelsa State in 1999; the rape of two young undergraduate girls of Enugu state University of science and technology (ESUT) aged 17 and 18 years by

three police officers led by the police superintendent; the rape of women and young girls by the Joint Military Task Force known as "Operation restore Hope" at Odioma in Bayelsa state in February 2005; the rape of women at Ugborodo Delta state by security forces in 2002, to mention but a few.

Chukwujekwu (2010:466) noted that, "women and girl children are frequently victims of gang rape committed by soldiers from all sides of a conflict." Security agencies were presumed to maintain law and order, but it seems that the contrary is the case in contemporary Nigeria.

In academic institutions, there are also instances of rape cases. For example, Ikeji, (2011) reported that a female student was gang raped by five boys in Abia State University. This incident happened Tuesday August 16th, 2011. These boys raped this girl, recorded it, and passed it round their friends, who then passed it round ABSU campus." Sexual abuse aggressors most times care nothing about the health of their victims.

Teenage Prostitution

Nigeria has a large number of adolescents living and making a living on the streets. This has been attributed to economic factors and exposure to all forms of risks. The result is the proliferation of prostitution among the adolescents with its attendant problems. They include those in brothels, streetwalkers, call girls, and casual, part-time, or floating prostitutes, as well as the trafficking of adolescent girls across international borders. The causes of adolescent prostitution in Nigeria are largely economic, sociological, and socioeconomic factors (<http://ijo.sagepub.com/content/46/5/569.short>). According to Oyeoku, Nwosu and Oforka (2012:409) "many factors have been held accountable for prostitution tendency in University campuses. Such factors include broken homes, child rearing practices, male child preference, among others. Prostitution tendency is proneness or readiness to engage in or practice prostitution." In addition, at other times, the teachers deny the students their grades in exams. In schools especially where there are young male teachers, there is the tendency for the teachers to take advantage of the young, innocent, harmless and naïve school girls. Some teachers lure these students who sometimes transfer their parental affection to them, into having illicit affairs and relationship in demand for sexual gratification (http://www.google.com.ng/?gws_rd=cr#sclient=psy-ab&q).

Uzuegbu (2011:232) noted that "there is an emerging market for the trafficking of women and young girls from Nigeria to Europe, America and Some African countries for illicit purposes. The operations of this cartel are largely unknown, but their activities are widespread in most states of Nigeria like Crossriver, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Ebonyi, Katsina and Sokoto." These large number of teenagers are trafficked abroad for sex hawking and prostitution of all sorts. According Madike(2012), the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) officials recently raided a Lagos hotel located in the midst of residential houses and rescued six girls within its walls. Items like clothes, photographs, and used and unused condoms were found in most of the

rooms. Reports quoting former head of the Lagos Zone of NAPTIP, Godwin Morka, said that six out of 12 girls that were rescued from the hotel in January this year turned out to be HIV positive. Most of the girls rescued are between 11 and 16 years old. Two girls aged 12 and 14 were pregnant. They did not know who the fathers of their unborn babies are. The hike in teenage pregnancy is as a result of teenage prostitution. According to World Bank Indicators - Nigeria - Reproductive health, Teenage mothers (% of women ages 15-19 who have had children or are currently pregnant) in Nigeria was reported at 22.90 in 2008, according to the World Bank. Teenage mothers are the percentage of women ages 15-19 who already have children or are currently pregnant. This diagram includes a historical data chart, news and forecasts for Teenage mothers (% of women ages 15-19 who have had children or became pregnant) in Nigeria:

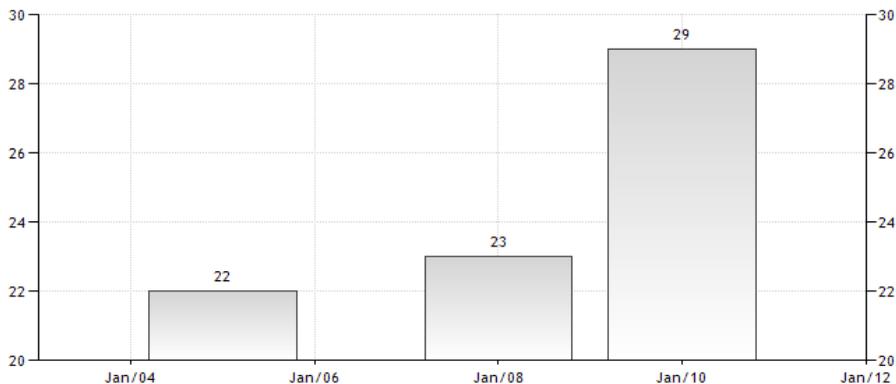
Table 1

SOURCE:

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/teenage-mothers-percent-of-women-ages-15-19-who-have-had-children-or-are-currently-pregnant-wb-data.html>

In Nigeria, the lifetime risk of maternal death in Nigeria was last reported at 29 in 2010, according to a World Bank report published in 2012. Lifetime risk of maternal death is the probability that a 15-year-old female will die eventually from a maternal cause assuming that current levels of fertility and mortality (including maternal mortality) do not change in the future, taking into account competing causes of death.

Table2



Source: <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/lifetime-risk-of-maternal-death-1-in-rate-varies-by-country-wb-data.html>

Women raping Men

It is generally observed that men are the ones that rape women. However, "in Gusau, three women, Hannatu Ibrahim, Wosila Hassan and Rukayya Hassan conspired among themselves and serially raped Abdulrahman until he lost consciousness. The prosecutors said they lured him into a corner of the Women's Centre, where they "forced" him to make love with them in turn until poor Abdulrahman fell unconscious". He was immediately taken to hospital, where he was eventually resuscitated (<http://news2.onlinenigeria.com/news/top-stories/190765-three-women-rape-20-year-old-man-in-zamfara-state.html>). In the same vein, Yannick (2012:1) reports that a wealthy Nigerian man by the name of Uroko Onoja of Ogbadibo a small region in the country's Mid-Eastern Benue state, was raped by his six wives until he died the next week. According to a report in Nigeria's Daily Post, Onoja was attacked by five of his wives with sticks and knives while he was engaged in intercourse with his youngest wife. The other wives then demanded that he should have sex with all of them at once. Onoja allegedly resisted the attack at first, but was soon overpowered by the six women who coerced him to have sex with each spouse in ascending order of age.

Furthermore, the vanguard newspaper reported of how two young ladies stopped a commercial motorcycle operator popularly referred to as Okada and asked to be taken to a destination. Midway into the journey, at a lonely place, they stopped the motorcyclist at gun point and ordered him to pull his trouser and lay on the ground. The two ladies took turn to have sexual intercourse with him at gun point. When they were done, they told him that they were HIV positive and intended to spread it because they were also infected by men (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/04/can-a-female-commit-rape-its-difficult-for-a-man-to-be-raped-prof-itse-ash.kj08mECl.dpuf>). In the Nigeria criminal jurisdictions, the offense of rape is similarly created and defined by both the Criminal Code Laws and the Penal Code. Since the cardinal and operative language and expression in the law creating and defining the offense of rape talks about having unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, and not of a man, there is clearly no offense when the person whose carnal knowledge is a man. Also there is the belief that males commit the majority of sex offenses but females commit some, particularly against children.

Factors that aids Sexual Abuse

Some of the factors that cause sexual abuse or harassment in Nigeria include the following:

1. Lack of Public Enlightenment/Sex Education

Enlightenment means to give someone more knowledge about something. Uzuegbu (2011:236) narrated that, "general public enlightenment about the ills of such abuses is necessary". Organizations such as Schools, churches, mosques, mass media, town unions, age-grade, social clubs, meeting, among others, fail to provide good avenues for such enlightenment.

Bledsoe and Cohen(1993) remarked that "it is of utmost importance to have appropriate education on sexual life and contraception since not providing information on reproductive health potentially exposes adolescents to considerable risk in societies where rates of sexual activity among young people are increasing. Furthermore, Ewuzie

(1993) lamented that adolescents learn about sex from peers, romantic novels, magazines and love stories and they also watch various categories of emotional films and much of the information so obtained is inadequate and inaccurate. Umezulike (2013:133) said that, "many parents shy away from discussing issues of sex education with their children simply because of their own ignorance on sex education." Sex and sexuality have for long met with conservative attitude, secrecy, melancholy and taboo. D'Oyen's (1996:3) lamented, "with few exceptions, sex education in schools has become a series of lessons on how to use condoms, get abortions, and avoid diseases; the prevailing attitude seems to be young people are going to have sex anyway, so we should just help them do it in a safe way; and a moral perspective is hardly ever given." Without a balance approach to sexual education, sexual abuse will continue because young ones know how to safeguard themselves. Ose (2009:3) highlighted that "the traditional ways of dealing with sex education have been replaced by the school system which at present has no clear plans for sex education." Traditional methods that provide sanctions, like excommunication and ridicule by age grade, for anyone caught engaging in sexual abuse have been mellowed down by civilization.

2. Bad Parenting

Violent punishments such as corporal punishment and other approach have been found to lead to delinquency in adolescent and subsequently violent crimes. Violent punishments from parents are a threat to adolescent's well-being. Dobson (1984) observed that, adolescent may become socialized in violent behaviour. He or she becomes confused and angry. Furthermore, this anger may become directed towards parents or other children. This makes them become troublesome at home and at school and even in the church. They may also become withdrawn, isolating themselves from others and may underachieve academically and otherwise. "With this mindset they engage in sexual abuse and their victims suffer lasting disabilities such as broken bones, internal bleeding and head trauma", among others (Dobson, 1984). Unfortunately, in Nigeria, "with this belief, the boy-child grows up to regard himself as a Lord and master and it is worse if such a boy is brought up where he sees domestic violence everyday" (Chukwujekwu 2010:460). Bad parenting makes the child to see everyone as hostile, including outsiders, and with that hatred he exhibits it on anyone that comes his or her way.

Parents who live immoral lives are bound to pass it down to their children. Dom and Uche, (2010:224) said that, "children learns by modelling adult behaviour. If for example parents are well socialized, law abiding and respectful of constituted authority, their children will be also." Eddy and Reid(2001) put it that" the correlation between parent criminality and the violent or serious delinquency of their offspring are seemingly small (i.e., $r = .16$ to $.23$), they do indicate a meaningful increase in the odds, or likelihood, that a youth with an antisocial parent (defined as the top 25% most "antisocial" parents in the population) will himself display antisocial behavior". Antisocial behavior is one of many problematic behaviors that the adolescent children of incarcerated parents are more likely to display.

The table below shows the percentage of children of incarcerated mothers displaying problem behavior since the incarceration began;

Problem	Preschool (n = 41)	Age 6 to 11 (n = 40)	Age 12 to 18 (n = 34)
Child depression	24%	38%	41%
Trouble with guardian	0	18	27
Bad grades	--	28	24
Dropped out of school	--	0	21
Problems with alcohol	0	5	15
Running away	0	8	12
Problems with drugs	0	3	9
Child became pregnant or got somebody pregnant	--	0	9
Child arrested	0	0	6

Source: Sharp and Marcus-Mendoza (2001:38)

3. Pornography/ Bad Dressing

There are numerous sources of pornographic materials available in Nigeria, and they range from magazines, to videos and television. Pornography is the 'explicit representation of sexual activity in print or on film to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings. (<http://www.care.org.uk/resources/internet-misuse/what-is-ornography#sthash.Prz5r5rJ.dpuf>). Chubuko (2008:31) puts it that "watching pornography films can push or arouse people to even go extra mile in committing evil more than he or she thought. It is capable of making someone to be sexually abusing people anyhow". The content of most Nigerian television programmes has become highly sexualized in recent times.

On the effects of bad dressing, Martins (2003:8) remarks that it "is sheer cruelty in such a way for women to dress to lustfully arouse men and cause such men to be ensnared; there is immediate automatic charge set off in the body of a man, which stimulates sinful thought and action whenever he sees a woman's nudity." It affects public morality and health, it encourages crime such as rape and violation of women dignity and it equally increases the case of teenage pregnancies, abortion and other social vices.

There are other causes of sexual abuse in Nigerian society, which includes illiteracy on reproductive health, unawareness, peer group influence, and social networks like facebook, 2go and twitter. With emphasis on facebook, it took the life of one Cythia Osokogu. Cythia visited the friends she met on facebook and she was sexually abuse before being killed. Osewale (2012) said that the accused persons who paid for Cynthia's flight ticket and her hotel accommodation as well were believed to have picked her up from the airport and drove her to a hotel in FESTAC. At the hotel, they tied her up, robbed her of all the money she brought to shop for her business and strangled her to death. They then left the hotel and quickly deleted her from their facebook friend list to remove any trace of their connection. A reporter said that, Cynthia Osokogu, the young student was killed in July 2012 by some of her facebook social media friends. She was

asphyxiated, that is: suffocated to death through blockage of air into her lungs"(<http://saharareporters.com/news-page/facebook-murder-victim-cynthia-osokogu-died-%e2%80%9casphyxia%e2%80%9d-says-lagos-pathologist>).

Effects of Sexual Abuse on the Nigerian Society

The impact of sexual abuse cannot be overemphasized. They include:

1. Psychological Trauma

It is "any injury, wound, or shock, most frequently physical or structural , but also mental, in the form of an emotional shock , procuring a disturbance , more or less enduring, or mental functions" (Ramalingam, 2006:277). In Nigeria, "violence absolutely affects children. A child who has undergone or witnessed violence may become withdrawn, anxious or depressed on one hand; on the other hand, the child may become aggressive and exert control over younger siblings"(Bitangaro,1999:9). For the girls, they are traumatized when sexually abuse. They experience intense pain, bleeding, painful abdominal menstruation, infection or trauma among others.

2. Sexually Transmitted Diseases(STD)

It includes gonorrhoea, syphilis, herpes genitalis, chancoid, HIV/AIDS, monilia, among others. Ndukwe (2011:54-55) noted that sexually transmitted diseases" reduces and banish their victims to the status of present absent human beings. Characterized by stigmatization and discrimination, they also reduce these abused human beings to objects of pity thereby pigeonholing them into the status of unhealthy consumers in a consumerist society." Also, stigmatize person cannot contribute fully his or her quota to societal development. Nevertheless, Chioma et al (2012:2) said that "Nigeria recorded 300,000 new cases in 2012, even as the country was ranked as number eight among 12 countries in the world that have recorded a decline in the new Human Immuno-deficiency Virus, HIV, infection rate." However, vanguard newspaper reports that Benue state still leads other states in the federation in HIV prevalence with a prevalence rate of 10.7 percent, while Kebbi state, with 1.0% recorded the least prevalence rate in the country. Akwa Ibom closely follows Benue State with 10 percent, Bayelsa State; 9.1 percent and Anambra, 8.1 percent. There are no decline in HIV related death rates both in Nigeria and Africa. According to the statistics, in 2008, "the annual death rate in Nigeria was 192,000 but has risen to 217,148 deaths which may not be unconnected to lack of access to treatment. Out of 1.5 million Nigerians confirmed to be HIV positive, only 500,000 have access to antiretroviral drugs, which is key to managing the disease" (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/11/world-aids-day-nigeria-records-decline-in-new-hiv-infections/#sthash.cbslURyR.dpuf>).

4. Maternal and infant mortality and morbidity(MMR)

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or motivated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes). "The MMR includes deaths during pregnancy, childbirth, or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, for a specified

year"(<http://www.indexmundi.com/g/g.aspx?c=ni&v=2223>). Furthermore, the United Nation International Children emergency Fund(UNICEF) noted that every single day, "Nigeria loses about 2,300 under-five year olds and 145 women of childbearing age. This makes the country the second largest contributor to the under-five and maternal mortality rate in the world"(http://www.unicef.org/nigeria/children_1926.html). Also, according to Oyedele (2012:1) "fifty-two thousand, nine hundred women and girls die every year from pregnancy-related causes." For every woman that dies, it was observed that at least 20 others suffer morbidities such as obstetric fistula, infections and disabilities. Oyedele also said that twenty-three percent of women between 15 and 19 are already mothers or are pregnant with their first child, 20 per 1000 children die before the age of one month while 35 per 1000 die their first birthday.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, all stakeholders including the church, communities, government must be involved in the process of arresting this menace. The following suggestions were made.

1. The church should provide sound Christian education. It is the only answer of totally liberating Nigeria from various ills and to keep the Nigerian nation sane. By so doing, the church should organize seminars and other outreach programs, where they teach their members on the dangers of engaging in sexual abuse. During this meeting, professional counselors should be invited to teach and enlighten the people on sex education and dangers of engaging in sexual abuse.
2. Parents should talk with their children about reproductive health and sexual education because they are the primary sexuality educators of their children.
3. Government at all levels should mount more intensive enlightenment campaigns through public talks, seminars, conferences and workshops to create more awareness on the need for sexuality education in our schools to help check sex-related problems of the adolescents. Young adults should have access to sexual and reproductive health information in government institutions.
4. The women page in some of the newspapers like Dailysun, the Vanguard, should cover progressive approaches about women rather than posing women as sex objects.
5. The law against sexual abuse should be enforced effectively; such as life imprisonment for anybody involved in sexual abuse. In Lagos state, for example, their house of assembly in its criminal law of 2011, in section 258, attaches life imprisonment for rapist. This would discourage most people from engaging in the act.
6. Non-governmental organizations should finance programs geared at educating the masses on the dangers of engage in sexual both on the victim and on the aggressor.

Conclusion

Every here and now, men, women, girls and boys are sexually abused in schools, work places, market place and even in the church. Adolescents mostly commit sexual abuse. Diara, (2011:77) noted that, "it is important to note that when adolescents strive to

achieve independence and emancipation from their parents, they are gradually but drastically reversing a pattern of behaviour they showed in their infancy". Sexual abuse has led to increase rate of abortion, as well as, rise in maternal and child mortality. Through proper sexual education, by churches and non-governmental organization, the ignorant would be enlightened on the effects sexual abuse has, both on the victim and the aggressor. It is a deprivation of the sexual rights as granted by the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria.

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