

RATIONAL MOTIVES FOR SEXUALITY AMONG JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS AND IT'S IMPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL MANAGEMENT IN DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigates the rationale for sexuality among Junior secondary school students and its implications on school management in Delta State of Nigeria. A research instrument titled "rationale for sexuality among secondary school students questionnaire" (rfsajsssq) was developed and subjected to validity with a test retest reliability coefficient of 0.78. This instrument was used to solicit responses from a sample of 500 secondary school students. The sample size of five hundred (500) respondents was selected based on stratified random sampling technique. The data gotten from the field work were analyzed using simple percentage. Six research questions were raised for the study. These are; the effects of intoxicating substances like alcoholic beverages etc., Social network related factors, Peer pressure related factors, students related pitfalls (nonchalance, ignorance, and carelessness etc.), Family related factors, and School related factors on sexuality among Junior secondary school students. The findings revealed that the use of intoxicating substances like alcoholic beverages, smoking prohibiting drugs etc. was of great impact on sexuality among Junior secondary school students. A number of implications of sexuality among junior secondary school students on school management were identified, amongst others are;. In consistency in recordkeeping as a result of undulating students enrolment, difficulties in having a stable continuous assessments record, monitoring of students performance, valuable time spent in recuperating students that have been wounded by the act, problem of unruly behaviour and indiscipline among students as of spiritual/emotional imbalance, negative effect on the student's academic performance etc. Based on the identified implications, the school principal could use the recommended administrative mechanisms to handle sexual indiscipline in schools which include, adoption of aggressive sex education, being a source of discipline and being disciplined, giving award to the best morally behaved student at the end of the term etc. The adoption of all

the recommended mechanisms will go a long way to terminate or drastically reduce sexuality among students in Junior secondary schools.

Key Terms: *Rational, Sexuality, Students, Management, Implications, motives etc.*

Students in Junior secondary school are in a state of rapid physical and psychological change. They have curiosity and urge to experience new phenomena (Lewis, 2013). Nevertheless they are exposed to different circumstance like fears, worries and different desires, they feel shame to get advice and guidance from their parents and elders (World Health Organization, 2015). Students in this category need to know about their reproductive health so that they can make informed decisions about their reproductive health and sexuality (Baryamutuma and Baingana, 2011). One of the significant details in life that extremely need discreet and diligent decision by Junior secondary school students is, whether to get involve in sex since the action to be done is a major part of a person's life in the future. Some engaged in this act in a casual way and ponder on the consequences after they have committed the act. This may result to pregnancy. This period runs between childhood and adulthood, sometimes-called "the period of storm and stress", (UN-Inter Agency Working Group on Population and Development, 1998). Questions which have never bothered them before, start haunting them now as they struggle for independence from their parents. Human sexuality is the way people experience and express themselves sexually (Marshall, 2010); (Joan, 2014). This involves biological, erotic, physical, emotional, social, or spiritual feelings and behaviors (Greenberg, Jerrold, Bruess, Clint, Oswald and Sara, 2016). Because it is a broad term, which has varied with historical contexts over time, it lacks a precise definition (Bolin, Anne, Whelehan and Patricia, 2009). The biological and physical aspects of sexuality largely concern the human reproductive functions, including the human sexual response cycle (Greenberg, Jerrold, Bruess, Clint, Oswald and Sara, 2016).

Historically, sexuality was considered a moral issue which was a taboo in many cultures especially with reference to students in Junior secondary school and considered a sin by a number of religions, but since about the 1960s, it has become more widely accepted, especially in Western countries. A 2014 Pew study on global morality found that sexuality was considered particularly unacceptable in "predominantly Muslim nations", such as Malaysia, Indonesia , Jordan , Pakistan , and Egypt, each having over 90% disapproval, while people in Western European countries were the most accepting, such as Spain , Germany, and France expressing less than 10% disapproval, (Global Viewson Morality, 2014).

Sexual Commencement and Current State

Apart from bribery and corruption it appears that sexuality is the most dreadful of all forms of unacceptable act as a result of its devastating effect on the psyche of the nation and that of the individual especially if those involved are in their formative years. It is unsafe because, most teens have no enough awareness on how to prevent and how to get guidance services on reproductive anatomy, physiology, sexually transmitted infection (STI) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (Abdissa, Addisie and Seifu, 2017) ; (Habtamu, Direslgne and Hailu, 2015).

In addition, Scholar such as Brennen (2011) strongly believed that sexual activities by students in Junior secondary school poses a lot of health challenges to those who engage in it. They run the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STI) such as AIDs, HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Genital herpes, general Warts, Trichomoniasis, syphilis and so on. These diseases are life-threatening and can cause infertility. Although majority are aware of these challenges among students, it has not received enough attention from the appropriate quarters. Ignorantly, sex education and marital life is only taught at the tertiary level of education after most of the harm must have been done to our teens.

In 2008, according to a survey by NPC and ORC Macro, reported by Duru, Ubajaka, Nnebue, Ifeadike and Okoro (2010), 20% of women in Nigeria were sexually active by age 15, and the median age for first sex stood at 17.7 years, 18 for women and 20.6 years for men. In a study of 350 in-school students in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria, 34.4% (120) of the students have had sexual contact. Of these, 68.3% of them had their first sexual intercourse between the ages of 13 and 16 years. The same applies to a study of 516 in-school teens Delta State, Nigeria. Early sexual initiation is consistent with results from studies done in other states in the country. A study of 768 Students in Rivers State showed that 605 Students (78.8%) have been sexually exposed. In a Tanzanian study involving 2,749 Students, 32.2% (885) of them reported to have initiated sexual activity. This is however lower than the average Nigerian percentage. In the United States, approximately 7.1% of American teens report sexual debut prior to 13, with more male than female youth reporting early sexual debut. By age 16, approximately 30% of females and 34% males have had sexual intercourse.

Reasons given for this act include:

- Use of intoxicating substances like alcoholic beverages etc.
- Social network related factors.
- Peer pressure related factors.

- Adolescents related pitfalls (Nonchalant attitude, ignorance, and carelessness etc.)
- Family related factors,
- School related factors

Therefore, this study intent to draw the attention of the concerned authority to the issue of sexuality among students in Junior secondary schools in Delta State. In so doing, the rational motive behind the act will be explored, the implications will be established and the management mechanize for dealing with the situation will be advanced.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study therefore was to determine the rationale behind sexuality among Junior secondary school students and its implications on school management in Delta State, Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The study examined the rational motives behind sexuality among secondary school students and it's implications on school management. The following persons, bodies or organizations will stand to benefit from this research and what they stand to benefit will also be highlighted here:

Firstly, the research findings will reveal the obvious consequences of sexuality among Junior secondary school students, such as unwanted pregnancies, contraction of sexually transmitted disease (STD's) and also help students identify and avoid elements that could lure them into sexuality.

Secondly, parents will be enlightened on the causes.

Thirdly, this research will bring to the knowledge of school managers the importance of guidance and counseling services in schools for students that need help in one area or the other.

Finally, the society at large will benefit from these research findings. This is because the findings will enlighten the society to know when to intervene when problems are brewing in their children.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised for the study:

- What is the effect of Intoxicating substances on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?
- What is the effect of Social network related factors on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

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- What is the effect of teens related pitfalls (Nonchalant attitude, ignorance, and carelessness) on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?
- What is the effect of School-related factors on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?
- What is the effect of Peer - pressure related factors on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?
- What is the effect of Family - related factors on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?.

Methodology

The researcher employed the survey research design which investigated rationale behind sexuality among Junior secondary school students. It is geared towards collecting data to answer the research questions or explain the relationship among variables. The target population for this study is Junior secondary school students in the three senatorial districts in Delta State. The sample size of five hundred (500) respondents was selected based on stratified random sampling technique. A research instrument titled, " rationale for sexuality among Junior secondary school students questionnaire" (rfsajsss q) was developed, validated and tested for test - retest reliability and use to collect data for the study. The reliability coefficient for sexuality was 0.78.

Results

The results obtained have been presented according to the research questions raised to guide the study.

Research Question 1

What is the effect of Intoxicating substances on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Intoxicating substances:	Smoking	Drinking alcoholic beverages	Gang activities
Frequency	480	460	350
Percentage (%)	96	92	70

Source: Field Work, 2019

The data from table 1 shows that of the three intoxicating substances that causes sexuality among Junior secondary students; 96% of the population agreed that smoking cigarettes/prohibited drugs results in sexuality more compared to drinking alcoholic beverages and involvement in gang activities with the score of 92% and 70% respectively.

Research Question 2

What is the effect of Social network related reasons for sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Social Network Related Factors:	Pornographic Films/Videos	Modern day technology-driven material (cellular phones)	Mass - Media
Frequency	400	362	295
Percentage (%)	80	72.4	59

Source: Field Work, 2019.

The data from table 2 shows that of the three social network related causes for sexuality among Junior secondary school students; 80% of the population agreed that watching pornographic films/videos results in sexuality more compared to the desire for modern technology-driven material and mass - media with the score of 72.4 % and 59% respectively.

Research Question 3

What is the effect of teens related pitfalls (Nonchalant attitude, ignorance, and carelessness etc.) on sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Teens related pitfalls (nonchalant attitude, ignorance etc)	Provocative dressing like short skirts, tight fitted dresses and handless blouses	Strong attachment between boys and girls	Lack of Sex Education	Previous sexual abuse experience
Frequency	388	312	300	290
Percentage (%)	77.6	62.4	60	58

Source: Field Work, 2019.

The data from table 3 shows that of the four teens related pitfalls (Nonchalant attitude, ignorance, and carelessness) that causes sexuality among Junior secondary students; 77.6% of the population agreed that provocative dressing like short skirts, tight fitted dresses and handless blouses results in sexuality more compared to strong attachment between boys and girls, lack of sex education, and previous sexual abuse experience with the score of 62.4 %, 60 %, and 58% respectively.

Research Question 4

What is the effect of School-related reasons for sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Social Related Factors:	Desire for Excellent Result	Dropping out of School
Frequency	350	330
Percentage (%)	70	66

Source: Field Work, 2019.

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The data from table 4 shows that of the two School-related that causes for sexuality among Junior secondary school students; 70% of the population agreed that the desire for excellent performance results in sexuality more compared to students that had dropped out of school with the score of 66 %.

Research Question 5

What is the effect Peer - pressure related reasons for sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Peer-pressure related factors	Lack of confidence to resist Peer-pressure or influence	Sensitivity that their friends had engaged in sex	Open-mindedness regardless premarital sex
Frequency	320	300	250
Percentage (%)	64	60	50

Source: Field Work, 2019.

The data from table 5 shows that of the three Peer - pressure related that causes sexuality among Junior secondary school students; 64 % of the population agreed that lack of confidence to resist peer pressure results in sexuality more compared to Sensitivity that their friends had engaged in sex and open -mindedness regarding sex with the score of 60% and 50% respectively.

Research Question 6

What is the effect of Family - related reasons for sexuality among Junior secondary school students?

Family related factors	Living in low-cost housing	Living with one parent as a result of divorce	Frequent family relocation
Frequency	280	252	225
Percentage (%)	56	50.4	45

Source: Field Work, 2019.

The data from table 6 shows that of the three Family-related that causes sexuality among Junior students; 56 % of the population agreed that living in low-cost housing results in sexuality more compared to living with one parent as a result of divorce and frequent family relocations with the score of 50% and 45% respectively.

Discussion

The results of the study established that smoking of prohibited drugs, drinking of alcoholic beverages and watching of pornographic films/videos by Junior secondary school students contributed greatly on their eagerness to engage in sexuality. The results obtained from the study revealed that smoking of prohibited drugs scored 96%, followed by drinking of alcoholic beverages with the score of 94% and watching of pornographic films / videos scoring 80%. This was supported by Allen and Collins (2003) whose work revealed that sexual desire and alcohol use alongside with the use of prohibited drugs have been identified as reasons which may encourage unintended sexual activities. The study of Wong (2010) supported the findings of Allen and Collins (2003) as cited Naijanewsreel (2011) when they explain that their girls in respondents manifested that when they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs they engage in sexual activity. Students that are engaged in drinking of alcoholic beverages frequently and uses drugs are more likely to do sex before marriage (Gorne, Oct, 2006). Chun Yi, Ksobiech and Chiao (2012) expressed that among males the use of alcoholic beverages is significantly associated with sexuality but not for women. According to Milton (1998) Pornography is broadly defined as any sexually “explicit material primarily developed or produced to arouse sexual interest or provide erotic pleasure”. The study revealed that pornography is one of the major factors responsible for sexuality among Junior secondary school students. Students who watched pornography film were more likely practiced sexuality as compared to those who didn't. There is similar finding in Shendi Town (Bogale and Seme, 2014) and Northern Ethiopia (Habtamu, Direslgne and Hailu, 2015). This is supported by the study of Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel and Bishop (2012) whose research findings suggests that pornography is one of the strongest factor that tempt students to sexuality; hence, parents should have an open conversation with their young children to help them develop more-critical attitude toward pornography.

However, these findings is at variance with the finding of Anna Bocar, (2016), whose work revealed that open-mindedness of students was the most important reasons for sexuality among students. The reason could be the result of the recent exposure of students to all kinds of drugs like tramado, codine, cocaine etc and the provision of suffocated handsets by parents to teenagers in the name of love that gives them access to the net to browse and download all kinds of films/videos unchecked. The researcher was also able to establish that involvement in Gang activities is a reason for sexuality among Junior students. 70% respond positively to this assertion. This is supported by Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel and Bishop (2012), their findings revealed

that involvement in gang activities should be identified early, since this could be a reason for students to get involve in sexuality.

The other stated reason for engaging in sexuality by respondents was Provocative dressing. 77.6% of the respondents stated that provocative dressing contributes to sexuality among Junior secondary school students. Students' dressing recently attracted public attention. Judging from the recent public outcry against indecent dressings in the country, one can argue that it has implications for sexual activities, (Daily Trust Newspaper, April 16th, 2018). Some of the female students put on dresses that expose parts of their breast. In some cases they put on bra-less blouses or tops and pant less skirt. Obika (2008) in a special report on indecent dressing explained that the implication of our female students dressing is a signal to a person that she is 'cheap and wanted to be taken to bed' He further explains that it was for provocative dress that students put on that rapist are on the prowl. This was supported by a study carried out by Hurissa, Tebeje, and Megersa (2015), in which One second year male interviewee said that, due to technological advancement, girls tend to imitate other developed countries in wearing style, short skirts, thin dresses which shows parts of their sexual body which highly motivate young males to engage in sexuality. Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel, and Bishop (2012,) define history of sexual abuse as a sexual contact with a person that one of the parties did not want to. This occurs before the first voluntary sex. This could then be considered as the previous sexual abuse experience of the person. The young females who have history of sexual abuse are mostly likely the ones to engage in sexuality.

The study also revealed that the desire for high social status like the acquisition of modern day technology-driven material like cellular phones pushes many students into various anti-social acts, particularly sex. This is indicated by 72.4% respondents. The global system of mobile has been facilitating dating behavior and influencing sex activities. 'GSM boyfriends and 'scratch card boyfriends' are commonly heard among male and female students. Some of the female students have multiple handsets especially students in the higher classes, but do not have the money to buy cards and they are easily convinced to engage in sex with the person who can provide them with it.

Students in family who seeks to have good future but belongs to a poor family engage in relationship with older men to pay their schools fees and provide other needs, such as cellular phones, (Luke, 2001; as cited in Naijanewsreel, 2011).

The search for academic excellence is another reason for engaging in sexuality. The findings indicated that students can occasionally engage in sex for academic advantage. 70% of the respondents stated that academic excellent contributes to sexuality among Junior secondary school students, more especially the academically

weak ones. Among the students, females sleep with male students as payment for writing examinations, assignments, copying of notes etc, for them. Some of the poor but intelligent students are always willing to come to the aid of such dull but rich students. They sometimes engage in sex with them and also collect money.

Another factor for engaging in sexuality by students is when a student have dropped out of school or no - longer in school for one reason or the other. 66% respondents testified to this. Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel, and Bishop (2012) defined a school dropout as one having dropped out before completing secondary school.

The study also revealed that 64% respondents agreed that students engage in one form of sexuality or the other as a result of the influence of their roommates, classmates, club associates and other members of one's social group members. As observed from the study peer pressure is another factor that influences student's sexual behavior. As students begin to socialize with their peers, they tend to shift values they learnt from home socialization to reliance on their peers. This is supported by Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel, and Bishop (2012), who advance that among male students one of the significant factors that is associated with sexuality is lack of confidence to resist peer pressure to engage in sex, and also the perception that one half or more of their friends have already engage in the act.

However, in addition to the rationale for sexuality among Junior secondary school students discussed above, living in low-cost housing (56%) was another reason why students engaged in the act. This is supported by the study of Wong, Kum-Wah, Chan, Koh, Tan, Lim, Emmanuel, and Bishop (2012), whose work clearly illustrated that living condition of the respondents in low-cost or poor housing is a significant reason that lures male students into sexuality. In addition, living with one parent as a result of divorce was another factor identified for sexuality among Junior secondary school students. Living with single parents in some cases resulted to distorted family relationships and a "family dysfunction". The values in the family that the children observed are carried by them. Students living in single-parent or stepparent households are found to engage in sexuality than those living with their biological parents (Upchurch, Aneshensel, Sucoff and Lev-Storms, 1999). It's important to note that frequent family relocations listed as one of the rationale for sexuality among students in Junior secondary schools recorded 45% respondents. This is below average indicating a minute significance.

Implications of Sexuality On School Management

Students in Junior secondary schools are not quite knowledgeable about sex and its complications at this stage of their lives. Not much information is available to them from school curriculum, from school teachers or parents or even church leaders. Most of the available information on sex for them is from their peers who are not well informed. However, studies have revealed various implications of sexuality on students that adversely affect school management. Some of the implications are:

- The boys are exposed to early fatherhood, which could imply end of academic career or vocational training, poverty and being encumbered with the burden of providing for the mother and the unplanned child.
- The female students can experience unplanned, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion that can lead to infertility or even death in extreme cases. According to Debretabor district health office report sexually transmitted diseases, abortion and unwanted pregnancy are high in the study area among students (Office; Dte, 2017).
- Sexuality leads to the production of children without strong homes. God intends this relationship to create a family with a foundation of commitment and lifetime love.
- It presents huge physical risk. Diseases and illness are rampant among those who engage in this lifestyle. They can easily contact sexually transmitted infections (STIs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections. (Office; Dte, 2017).
- The danger of dropping out of school cannot be ruled out. Illegal abortions, risk of HIV infections and school dropout are the bad consequences of pre-marital sex in sub-Saharan Africa (Gage and Meekers, 1994).
- Sexuality creates a spiritual/emotional bond without commitment. This only breeds resentment, frustration, bitterness, and the feeling of being used. Sexual intercourse was designed to happen within a committed marriage of selfless love. Outside of that, fornication just breaks the heart and wounds the soul.
- Sexuality puts the flesh and hormones in control of your life. Thinking with your hormones allows them to become an unruly taskmaster. You are more than a chemical reaction that seeks gratification. Don't allow your life to be directed by physical desires.

The above implications affects school management in the following areas:

- Inconsistency in record keeping as a result of undulating student's enrolment.
- Difficulties in having a stable continuous assessments and monitoring of students performance.

- Much time is spent helping students that were once dropped out as a result of pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), Human Immune efficiency Virus (HIV) infections etc, (Orubuloye, Caldwell and Caldwell, 1993) to recuperate.
- Problem of unruly behaviour and indiscipline among students. Sexuality creates a spiritual/emotional imbalance that breeds resentment, frustration, bitterness, and the feeling of being used.
- Reduction on the general performance of students in the school.

The Way Forward

The practice of sexuality by Junior secondary school students constitutes serious health and social problem to them, the school, the community and the Nation at large. The secondary school age is the ages between ten and eighteen, this period is universally acknowledged as riotous and critical period in the lives of children. It is a period when the students becomes aware of the enormous physiological, endocrinal and psychosocial changes that are taking place in their organs and seeks various ways to get answers to their sexual urges. They now view themselves as independent adults who should be trusted with taking care of themselves, including the use and even misuse of their newly found independence. But there is no doubts that an intervention is required at this time just as such are given in the areas of intellectual, educational and career development of the teens. The need for accurate and adequate information to guide the development of values, attitudes and concepts in sex and family life cannot be overemphasized. The only effective way to ensure positive development and the use of teens sexuality is to assist them to acquire necessary knowledge that will lead to responsible decision making in such issues. The major cause of sexuality is invariably ignorance. There is therefore the need to equip them with the needed information in order to enable them develop positive attitude toward sex and sexuality. Since the home, the church and even the school have all defaulted in their responsibility to educate the teens sexually, the following administrative mechanisms have been recommended to the school managers for ease of administration.

- School administrators should organize sex education programmes in their schools for the students using resources persons. Attendance to these meetings must be made compulsory for both students and teachers. Comprehensive sex education aims to encourage students to take charge of their own sexuality and know how to have safe, healthy, and pleasurable sex if and when they choose to do so. (Panchaud and Christine, 2016)

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- School Principals shall not stop at that, they should go ahead to organize the same meeting with the parents, and inform them of their duties as far as sexuality is concerned.
- The principals should further organize special orientation for their teachers on the dangers of having sex with the students. Here, teachers should be adequately informed of the consequences of such act.
- The principal should see that adequate utilization of the school counselors is made to the advantage of students on the sex – related issues. Thus, students should be encouraged to visit the school counselors for advice and information regularly.
- The principal must be a role model, a father, a disciplinarian, a teacher and an exemplary person for him to be able to carry out this fight against sexuality in his school.
- The best identified morally behaved student should be openly rewarded, praised and encouraged and vice-versa by the school authority.
- The school authority should create recreation halls where students can go and watch films that are morally educative and immorally discouraged.
- The school authority should also adopt strict monitoring team of overt student’s behaviors and discouraging boy-girl friendships in school, and report cases of immorality to the school authority immediately for adequate punishment.
- The school authority should encourage the communities to create recreation centers where students could go to and relax and watch highly moral films and listen to educative stories from the elderly ones.
- The school authority should ensure that adequate religious and moral instruction is given to students to enable them be morally equipped in life, (Nwakpa, May 30th, 2015).
- Teachers should see themselves as guardians to students and inculcate moral values into them in addition to their primary responsibilities.
- Teachers and parents alike must wake up to their responsibilities of playing monitoring and supervisory roles on their students and children respectively. This is very important to reduce negative peer influences that can predispose young people to relationships in school and neighborhood.
- Educational and therapeutic measures should be provided to help students with *Academic Self-efficacy* as well as those with low self-efficacy.

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