

## **THE EFFECTS OF INCREASING RATE OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE**

**BY**

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### **Abstract**

*Violence among young people is an important public health issue and a universal problem. This study examined reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. The research adopted a descriptive survey of correlation type. Random sampling technique was used to select adults.. “Rising of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Questionnaire” were used to gather information from the respondents. Research questions were raised for the study and answered with descriptive statistics of mean scores and standard deviation. One main hypothesis was formulated and statistically tested using inferential statistics of Pearson product moment correlation statistic at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the findings revealed that poverty, illiteracy and gender discriminatory norms were the most causes of sexual and gender based violence; that “Victims may find it difficult to concentrate”, “Physical health may be affected through sustaining of injuries” and “Sexual violence could lead to unwanted pregnancy” were the most consequences of sexual and gender based violence; and finally, the result findings also show that there is a significant relationship between the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Programmes that explicitly address the norms, behaviours, and relations associated with ideals of manhood can be gender-transformative; there should be seminar giving to people in the community by the ministry of health on the effect of reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence*

**Keywords: Sexual, Gender-based, and Adolescents**

### **Introduction**

Violence among young people is an important public health issue and a universal problem. It contributes significantly to preventable morbidity and mortality for men and women across diverse cultures. Consequently, efforts to identify risk and protective factors have been intensified. A growing number of studies on adolescents suggest that violent behaviour or the intention to use violence is associated with a number of contextual, individual, and situational factors. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is rooted in historical and structural inequalities in power relations. It is intrinsically linked with gender stereotypes and discriminatory norms that underlie and perpetuate such violence. It is an extreme manifestation of patriarchal power inequalities, where some men resort to violence to exert control and power over the bodies of women, girls, boys and other men. SGBV can be understood as an expression of masculinity. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a gross violation of human rights that

affects women, men, boys and girls globally (Butchart and Mikton, 2014; Dahlberg and Krug, 2002). It is a major obstacle and affront to fundamental freedoms, equality and principles of non-discrimination (UNCSW 2013). It is also a serious health issue with negative consequences for women's health and wellbeing, and for that of children, households and communities (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002).

Consequently, SGBV has heavy social and economic costs for societies at large. Gendered violence restricts the autonomy and agency of those living with, and in fear of, violence and abuse to participate fully in the development of their societies (Butchart and Mikton, 2014; WDR, 2012). The pervasive nature of such violence has been recognised globally. SGBV can be influenced by – as well as reflect and be used to reinforce – deeply embedded discriminatory social norms that make gendered violence socially acceptable in men and women's lives (Heilman, Hebert and Paul-Gera, 2014). Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) appears to be very prevalent in Nigeria and may have affected many children, their families, as well as the communities to which they reside or belong. UNESCO and UN (2016) defined sexual and gender based violence as acts of threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence happening in or around schools. It is made up of verbal abuse, bullying and sexual abuse. Gender discriminatory practices against the families may have engendered this practice and have made girls vulnerable to all forms of violence from their peers as well as their teachers.

Changing economic, social and political contexts shape the experience of SGBV by men, women, girls and boys, as norms of patriarchal power are maintained, reaffirmed, resisted or sometimes renegotiated over time. Women's increased participation in formal and informal paid work has been enabled by multiple, interacting influences, including improved access to education, declining family size and contextual changes in global and local economies such as the decline in agricultural production and increased costs of living (Kabeer, 2007). Women's economic activity is often increasing in a context of stagnant and declining rates of male labour force participation. The example of Bangladesh shows how 30 years of rapid social change has increased women's participation in the labour force, their exposure to the process of urbanisation and their social and political visibility. This has increased their access to resources and opportunities for greater autonomy, but at the same time has also catalysed a repressive and coercive response where sexual violence, workplace and religious repression are used to reaffirm male control within a deeply patriarchal society (Khan, 2005). Women's access to education continues to improve globally, with more women and girls attending primary, secondary and tertiary education than ever before (WDR 2012). Education is a fundamental human right, integral to empowerment and a key development priority; however, the relationship between individual educational attainment and SGBV is complex.

Abramsky *et al.* (2011) find that a low level of education is the most consistent factor associated with both perpetrating and experiencing SGBV. Analysis by Marcus (2014) shows that, overall, men, women and adolescent girls and boys who have attended secondary education are much more likely to reject practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM-C) and to oppose norms that legitimise SGBV. However, the World Report on Violence and Health (Krug *et al.* 2002) cites South African and Zimbabwean studies that show a correlation between higher levels of education for women and increased vulnerability to sexual violence.

Sanusi (2015) opined that SGBV is referred to as violence inflicted on females in and around, or on their way to or from school due to roles attributed to or expected of them, on the basis of their sex or gendered identity. Sanusi stressed that SGBV include individual action as well as society's harmful practices that negatively impact females' right to education. Continuing, he stated that, if the perpetration of this action is allowed to stay, it could lead to an unsafe and unwelcome learning environment, capable of adversely affecting girls' educational attainment. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (2012) has pointed out that many studies have indicated that SGBV is perpetrated on female students by their male peers, teachers or community members. Other negative effects of SGBV on pupils could manifest in form of low self – concept, withdrawal, aggression, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, contacting of infectious diseases (such as gonorrhoea and syphilis) and phobia for school.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Today, the issue of Sexual, Gender Based Violence (SGBV) seems to be on the increase in institutions of learning, from primary school to the university. There is hardly any day that passes by without one, reading through newspapers; headlines about cases of rape, sexual harassment, abortion, kidnapping or forced marriages. The electronic media is also replete with stories of school gender based violence, which range from bullying to gang raping of female students. Efforts by school authorities and the Government appear not to have yielded the desired result and some of the victims may have dropped out of school because of the humiliation experienced. To this end, there is a need to look into reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study is to investigate the effect of Increasing Rate of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Among Adolescents In Ilorin Kwara State. The study will find out the following:

1. to identify the causes of sexual and gender based violence.
2. to investigate the consequences of sexual and gender based violence.

### **Research Questions**

These research questions were raised to achieved the objectives of the study

1. What are the causes of sexual and gender based violence?
2. What are the consequences of sexual and gender based violence?

### **Research Hypothesis**

There is no significant relationship between the increasing rate of sexual and gender based violence.

### **Methodology**

The study is a descriptive research study. The study design seeks descriptive information on the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence using Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State . This type of descriptive research employed in this study is the survey research design. The study covered Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state, the population of this study consist of all adults in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state. Random sampling technique was adopted and used to select adults for

the study. The main instrument used for the study was questionnaire, which was prepared in two parts. Part one contained questions on personal data about each respondent while part two contained other set of items on reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. The questionnaire was scaled on the 4-point scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D). The respondents were asked to indicate the extent of their agreement with the given items. The split-half method of testing reliability was used to ensure the reliability of the instrument. The scores gotten were correlated using Person Product moment correlation co-efficient and a co-efficient reliability of 0.69 was arrived at. The data collected from the subjects will be analysed using Percentage based on the 4-points scale. To analyse the responses from the subjects, Simple Percentage method will be used.

## Result

**Research Question 1:** What are the causes of sexual and gender based violence?

**Table 1:** Mean and Rank order analysis of the items on the causes of sexual and gender based violence

Item No.	Items	Mean score	Rank
Causes of sexual and gender based violence			
1	Poverty	3.04	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Illiteracy	2.90	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Gender Discriminatory Norms	2.87	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Parents' Non – Challant Attitude	2.86	4 <sup>th</sup>
5	Influx of Foreign Culture	2.82	5 <sup>th</sup>

Findings in table revealed that poverty with mean score of 3.04, illiteracy and gender discriminatory norms with mean score of 2.90 and 2.87 where ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively which are higher than the benchmark of 2.50 and these were the most causes of sexual and gender based violence.

**Research Question Two:** What are the consequences of sexual and gender based violence?

**Table 2:** Mean score and standard deviation analysis on consequences of sexual and gender based violence

S/N	consequences of sexual and gender based violence	Mean score	Rank
1	Victims may find it difficult to concentrate	2.98	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Physical health may be affected through sustaining of injuries	2.90	2 <sup>nd</sup>

3	Sexual violence could lead to unwanted pregnancy	2.85	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Victims of sexual violence (rape) may contract HIV/ AIDS	2.80	4 <sup>th</sup>
5	Victims may be unusually sad	2.77	5 <sup>th</sup>
6	Victims may become aggressive	2.70	6 <sup>th</sup>
7	Victims may isolate themselves from other member in the society.	2.65	7 <sup>th</sup>

Findings in table revealed that Victims may find it difficult to concentrate with mean score of 2.98, “Physical health may be affected through sustaining of injuries” and “Sexual violence could lead to unwanted pregnancy” with mean score of 2.90 and 2.85 where ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively which are higher than the benchmark of 2.50. and these were the most consequences of sexual and gender based violence

**Hypothesis 1:** *There is no significant relationship between the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence.*

Table 3: Pearson ‘r’ showing relationship between reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Df	Calc. r-value	Critical r-value	Decision
Sexual	200	13.7800	2.47	198	0.410*	0.116	Rejected
Gender Violence	200	13.5350	1.74				

Table 2 shows the Relationship between reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. Based on the analysis of the results, it indicated that the calculated r of 0.410 is greater than the critical r of 0.116 at 0.05 level of significant. Thus the hypothesis is hereby rejected. Meaning that, there is a significant relationship between the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence.

### Discussion

The study was designed to find about reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. The researcher has three research questions and questionnaires were administered to the adults in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara state. Findings in table revealed that poverty with mean score of 3.04, illiteracy and gender discriminatory norms with mean score of 2.90 and 2.87 where ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively which are higher than the benchmark of 2.50 and these were the most causes of sexual and gender based violence. Consequently, SGBV has heavy social and economic costs for societies at large. Gendered violence restricts the autonomy and agency of those living with, and in fear of, violence and abuse to participate fully in the development of their societies (Butchart and Mikton, 2014; WDR, 2012).

Findings in table revealed that Victims may find it difficult to concentrate with mean score of 2.98, “Physical health may be affected through sustaining of injuries” and “Sexual violence could lead to unwanted pregnancy” with mean score of 2.90 and 2.85 where ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively which are higher than the benchmark of 2.50. and these were the most consequences of sexual and gender based violence. The pervasive nature of such violence has been recognised globally. SGBV can be influenced by – as well as reflect and be used to reinforce – deeply embedded discriminatory social norms that make gendered violence socially acceptable in men and women’s lives (Heilman, Hebert and Paul-Gera, 2014). Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) appears to be very prevalent in Nigeria and may have affected many children, their families, as well as the communities to which they reside or belong. UNESCO and UN (2016) defined sexual and gender based violence as acts of threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence happening in or around schools. It is made up of verbal abuse, bullying and sexual abuse. Gender discriminatory practices against the families may have engendered this practice and have made girls vulnerable to all forms of violence from their peers as well as their teachers.

Relationship between reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. Based on the analysis of the results, it indicated that the calculated  $r$  of 0.410 is greater than the critical  $r$  of 0.116 at 0.05 level of significant. Thus the hypothesis is hereby rejected. Meaning that, there is a significant relationship between the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence. Changing economic, social and political contexts shape the experience of SGBV by men, women, girls and boys, as norms of patriarchal power are maintained, reaffirmed, resisted or sometimes renegotiated over time. Women’s increased participation in formal and informal paid work has been enabled by multiple, interacting influences, including improved access to education, declining family size and contextual changes in global and local economies such as the decline in agricultural production and increased costs of living (Kabeer, 2007). Women’s economic activity is often increasing in a context of stagnant and declining rates of male labour force participation.

### **Conclusion**

The result of data analysed can be summarized thus: that poverty, illiteracy and gender discriminatory norms were the most causes of sexual and gender based violence. That “Victims may find it difficult to concentrate”, “Physical health may be affected through sustaining of injuries” and “Sexual violence could lead to unwanted pregnancy” were the most consequences of sexual and gender based violence. Finally, the result findings also show that there is a significant relationship between the reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings and conclusion reached, the following recommendations are made by the researchers:

1. Programmes that explicitly address the norms, behaviours, and relations associated with ideals of manhood can be gender-transformative.
2. There should be seminar giving to people in the community by the ministry of health on the effect of reflection on the rising of sexual and gender based violence

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