



Causes And Effects Of Sexual Immorality Among Secondary School Student In Afijio Local Government Area, Oyo State

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to assess the Causes and Effects of Sexual Immorality among Secondary School Students in Afijio Local Government Area and the effects of the problem among the youths. Descriptive survey was used to carry out the study which was guided by four research questions. The population of the study consists of the secondary schools in Afijio Local Government Area. The sample of the study consists of ten secondary schools. The subjects were sampled through cluster sampling techniques. A structured questionnaire designed by the researcher and validated. The data were collected and statistically analyzed using the mean and standard deviation. It was revealed from the findings of the study that sexual immorality is an immoral act, deviation from divine moral guide, caused by negative peer group influence and pornographic films and literatures which affect the individual negatively through sexually transmitted diseases, unsafe abortion and unattained education goals. Sexual immorality can be controlled through improved counseling, self discipline, proper dressing by students, and adequate/systematic moral education in schools. It was recommended that Students should by all means decide on individual's basis not to continue with sexual immorality, sex education should be a mandatory aspect of the school's academic activities. Churches and religious bodies should intensify their teaching against sexual immorality and guidance and counseling services should be equipped in all the school.

Keywords: Causes and effects, Sexual immorality, Secondary school students, Oyo State

INTRODUCTION

Sexual immorality is a world wide phenomenon and one of the crucial step towards mitigating this societal ill is to understand the reasons behind it. Findarticles (2012) sexual urge is predominant among the youths as compared to other age. Sometimes, sex becomes uncontrollable pleasure to students, as such without self discipline it will lead to rape and sexual misconduct, for these days boys and girls engage in pre-marital sex and a lot of sexual immoralities. The bible clearly states that we should not commit fornication adultery or any other sexual immoral act. Even with all these warning, boys and girls of this jet age involved in pre-marital sex as simple as drinking water or eating food (Barker, 2014). This societal ill has wasted a lot of youths and matured men and women today. Most young men have had their dreams shattered denied and diverted as a result of sexual immorality.

Immorality among students is a major problem in the society today. It has been very disturbing that everybody is expressing a deep concern over it considering the speed of its occurrence and the associated danger it has brought to many of those addicted. The populations that fall victims to the act are students. Sexual immorality has become the order of the day, girls no longer cherish the dignity of womanhood (Crowe, 2005). While boys have lost control over their emotions; it is obvious that the youths today don't see pre-marital sex as immoral act but usual and normal life style. Concerning the activities of the flesh, it is good for a man not to touch a women nevertheless, to avoid fornication let every man have his wife and every woman have her husband (1Corin 7:1), one of the typical function of a healthy human being is a normal sexual operation and drive, however when a young man or woman has come of age they are required to find a marriage partner, settle down and begin to perform one of the most basic task of raising a family; it is a standard practice for a young

man to be sexually attracted to a young woman, moreover when it deviate from positive standard to negative, is regarded as perversion.

Immorality is the violation of some moral laws, norms or standard. This study on sexual immorality, with some of the different assessment of this behavior and the effect on the people involved; will round off with some solutions to checkmate sexual immorality among secondary school students in Afijio Local Government Area. Let us examine the family; the living condition in the family due to poverty doesn't help matters. A situation where a couple live in a room with army of grown up children and the couple have sexual intercourse in the view of their children. It will increase their sexual urge, where they learnt some immoral behaviour from the family. Poor upbringing, moral decadence of the parents without inculcating the ethical value to the children will influence them negatively. According to Dabhoiwala (2012) the evil company of some students who are into cultism, pornography film, smokers, drunkards and sexual activities will propel and initiate the adolescent into sexual immorality. Hence we discover that a good number of students do not complete their secondary school education, while the educational pursuits of some are terminated by unwanted pregnancy, some others are forced into unprepared father and motherhood many are suffering from Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD) Human Immune Virus (HIV). Sexual immorality in secondary school students have also increase it way in raping the innocent girls in some schools (Abdullah, 2011). Sexual immorality exists everywhere in our home. It is very difficult to get a teenager who is a virgin. Our moral value has been decline badly, due to the influence of our cultural values in our society.

The way in which students understand sexuality education play a vital role to equipped the individuals for future purpose, sexual education is that aspect of healthy education that enables the students to be cognizant of this development biologically, psychological, socially and morally for maturity as a man or a woman (Decrek, 2012). Sexual education enlighten the students to be conversant with the meaning of sexuality in persons as a form of behavior and mode of interpersonal relationship such as biological, social and cultural factors are part and parcel (Omeje & Okeke, 2009) it assist the student to acquire knowledge, attitude skill in order to practice a habit that is pleasant to a healthy life toward a particular available culture of the people. Culture sometimes take our social interest, normal sexual behavior is a behavior that conforms to a group, average of people most of us do not actually know how others behave sexually. Nigerians enjoy love sex. But the problem of some families is concern with the issues of not discussing about sex openly to the young teenager. A clear evidence is the Igbo culture where the young ones are not exposed to sex matters to avoid promiscuous among the young teenagers. Teachers in schools and parents at home feel shame to talk more about sex. This is a major problem affecting sex information to the secondary school students. The diversity of sexual behaviours across cultures are inherent natural or unnatural, normal or abnormal. Often these labels are value judgments and evaluations of what we feel is right or wrong Crowe (2005:198) to decide if a sexual behavior is natural or unnatural, we must have some standard of nature against which we compare the behavior. According to (Strong et al, 2005:81) if a behavior is labeled as natural or unnatural, we typically indicate whether the behavior conforms to our culture's sexual norms. Our sexual norms appear naturally because we have internalized them since birth. Hence the cultural rules have become a natural part of every individual in the western culture kissing is an expression of intimacy, and passion for young and old, but in Nigerians, it is viewed as immorality, especially among the Igbos where people prefer hugging for the purpose of showing intimacy.

Adolescence is the age of many secondary school students; a gigantic percentage of the students in secondary school are mostly adolescent's age. This stage in life, the adolescents experience numerous challenges as students (Morris, 2011). Adolescent is a period of time when the individual will not depend on his parents to take decisions henceforth; is the stage that the person is capable of rational, logically, makes abstract thinking, cognizant and ability to generalize facts, outstanding with independence decisions. It is also a period when adolescents will adjust to the conformity of societal norms value and conduct to learn the do and dos that is pre-requisite of him during adulthood to be functional and productive, beneficial in order to live a unique and happy life in the society (Mba, 2011). This learning take place in the family, church, school, peer groups and the medial; the prevailing socio-emotional environment has great influence on the adolescence.

Causes, Effects and Remedies of Sexual Immorality

This is a common identify causes Okafor-Udah (2006) and Soucy (2009) identified the following as causes of sexual immorality among the youths (secondary school student)

- Lack of relevant education for the youths
- Peer group influence
- Drug abuse among the youths especially the abuse of alcohol
- Phonographic films and literatures
- Parents neglect of their duties as models to their own children
- Influence from TV and videos
- Lack of privacy like where some share a single room with their matured youths.
- Permissiveness of our modern society
- Unemployment
- Increased advertisement on the use of condoms and contraceptives
- Lack of sound moral conduct among adults and youths
- Frustration
- Poor counseling services in homes and schools
- Poverty
- Increase in the sexual urge

A close look on these factors will understand that a good number of them are stable and cannot be change, the persons approach, to these factors determine the major role to play.

- a. The person
- b. The family
- c. The society

It therefore needs discipline home environments that can assist the person to develop good qualities in order to withstand the societal ill. On the other hand when our youths are enlighten and equipped with good home background, they can effectively overcome the challenges of immorality.

EFFECTS

For these perilous times; young teenagers are jam-packed with voluminous information about immorality, especially once it concerns sex related issues. The value and moral standards which were implemented for years past; norms and ethics are ignored by many. Teaching on sexual purity before and after marriage is no longer available for the youths as God ideal and goal to strive. Sexual freedom is widespread as norm among teenagers and adult, we anticipate and incentive for the young people to maintain their virginity and adhere to God law that govern sexuality.

The effects of sexual immorality are both on the individual and the society. Isangedighi (2004) and Okafor-Udah (2006) highlighted the following as some of the effects or outcome of sexual immorality. They include:

- Feeling of disappointment and regret over loss of virginity for first timers (depression)
- Unwanted/teenage pregnancy
- Abortion and childless
- Loosing fellowship with God
- Untimely death due to unsafe abortion
- Sexually transmitted infections/disease like Starphlecareus areas, Gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV/AIDS, etc.
- Illegitimate children (Bastards)
- Teen parenting
- Rape
- Early marriage/denial of a choice husband or wife
- Unattained educational goal (school dropouts)
- Unreliable birth control

Immorality causes bad influence on others, both Christian and infidel. There are also factors that affect the society relationally live untimely death, abortion, school dropout, depression and other heaviness come upon the person without considering his readiness and maturity to receive the consequences. The society where illegitimate children are rampant the rate of purity will be truncate.

The devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah in (Gen 19:1) happened as a result of sexual immorality. The atrocities and punishment were tremendous in the city and grief came to Lot and his daughters, to Reuben and Tamar, Samson and David. God judgment on the effects of sin and immorality may be immediate or procrastinate. Science has tried to abolish the consequence of sin but cannot cover the accountability before God.

REMEDIES

The devastating nature of sexual immorality is enormous and cannot be over emphasize especially when one scrutinizes the effect the pandemic as it affects to the person, family and society. The solutions of sexual immorality, Okafor-Udah (2006) suggest the following

1. Self discipline by individuals
2. Ability to say "No" to evil
3. Proper dressing code to be enforced
4. Disassociation of the use of alcohol
5. Barn on pornographic films and related materials
6. Avoid close contact with sex opposite
7. Exclusive avoidance of occasions that may lead to sexual acts
8. Contentment
9. Improve counseling services
10. Sound moral standard
11. Bible reading, prayers and fellowship with other Christian

The possibility of bringing decorum to our society as it concerns with sexual immorality can be achievable the students are anticipated to mimic or imbibe the virtues of conduct, the counselor is to make effort and effrontery as a role model in teaching and counseling of the students, while the government is to develop good conducive environment through the media and reduce the advertisement on the use of contraceptive.

Statement of the Problem

Sexual Immorality among students in Afijio Local Government Area has dramatically deteriorated which incline the people to become the centre of sexual immorality in the society, even the church as a ground of truth has not refrain from the sin of immorality of the culture, sexual immorality has also affected most of the youths and the nation drastically, the morals who identify themselves as youth reflect and dispense the standard of immorality of the world system. Those who engage into sexual immorality are guilty of blasphemy to God, they faced pains of abortion, childless and danger of death, sexual immorality has become impediment to some secondary school students from not attaining the educational goal, immorality contributed so much on some students not to make an excellent results because of the lackadaisical attitude towards teaching and learning which causes problems and retard their progress in the future.

Research Questions

For valid conclusions to be drawn in this study the following research questions have been formulated to serve as guide in the conduct of the assessment are:

1. What are the causes of sexual immorality among students in Afijio Local Government Area?
2. What are the effects of sexual immorality on secondary school students in Afijio Local Government Area?
3. What are the remedies of sexual immorality among secondary school student in Afijio Local Government Area?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used for this study was descriptive because the strategy of investigation does not involved experimentation nor correlation methods rather it involved describing and reporting. The population size is made up of 10 secondary schools existing in Afijio Local Government Area of Rivers State. The sample will be drawn from ten (10) Government Secondary School in Afijio Local Government Area forty (40) sample was randomly selected, making a total of 400 respondent for the study. The instrument for the study was questionnaire. It was designed to obtain accurate information based on the objectives and research questions.

The questions were structured type as it restricts the response of the respondents. The students were meant to respond to the statement in the questionnaire by ticking one of the alternatives; Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), as each applied to the individual respondent.

The structured questionnaire was carefully prepared to cover the objectives of the study by the researcher and was given to two experts for correction and face validation, before administering to the respondents. The researcher administered the questionnaire to the respondents in their various schools. This is to ensure that copies of the questionnaire are randomly distributed to meet the required number of students in each of the selected schools. The data collected was statistically analyzed. The research questions were answered using the “mean” and “standard deviation” method. A “Mean” of 2.5 and above will be adopted and accepted while those less than 2.5 are rejected and considered insignificant.

RESULTS

Research Question One: *What are the causes of sexual immorality among students in Afijio Local Government Area?*

Table 1. Causes of sexuality immorality among students in Afijio Local Government Area

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	F	X	SD	Results
1.	Sexual immorality caused by poverty.	88	169	72	71	400	2.68	10.53	Agree
2.	Negative peer group influence leads to sexual immorality.	323	37	24	16	400	3.66	16.10	Agree
3.	Pornographic films and literature promote sexual immorality.	279	97	16	8	400	3.61	14.55	Strongly Agree
4.	Excessive use of alcohol and other drugs leads to sexual immorality.	162	182	40	16	400	3.22	12.11	Agree
5.	Too much exposure causes immorality	163	165	48	24	400	3.16	11.64	Agree

From the analysis in table one (1), the causes of sexual immorality among students in Afijio Local Government Area were addressed with a mean and standard deviation as follows. As clearly indicated by the table, the items numbers 10, 9, 11, 12 and 8 have the mean scores of 3.61, 3.66, 3.22, 3.16 and 2.68 with standard deviations of 14.55, 16.10, 12.11, 11.64 and 10.53 respectively. This is an indication that sexual immorality is caused by poverty, negative influence, pornographic film, literatures, excessive use of alcohol and too much exposure.

Research Question Two: *What are the effects of sexual immorality on secondary school students in Afijio Local Government Area?*

Table 2: Effects of sexual immorality on secondary school students in Afijio Local Government Area

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	F	X	SD	Results
6.	Sexual immorality brings about low and unattained educational goals.	296	80	24	-	400	3.68	14.66	Strongly Agree
7.	Sexual immorality brings about unwanted pregnancy.	312	41	23	24	400	3.60	15.60	Strongly Agree
8.	Sexual immorality promotes sexuality transmitted (STDs)	304	96	-	-	400	3.76	15.70	Strongly Agree
9.	Sexual immorality accounts for untimely death due to unsafe abortion.	302	42	41	15	400	3.75	15.17	Strongly Agree
10.	Sexual immorality promotes early marriage.	96	166	82	56	400	2.75	10.54	Agree
11.	Sexual immorality makes family planning unrealistic.	121	183	64	32	400	2.98	11.28	Agree

From the analysis in table two (2), the effects of sexual immorality on secondary school students in Afijio Local Government Area was presented, using the mean and standard deviation. The table has it item 15, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 17 have mean of 3.76, 3.68, 3.60, 3.57, 2.98 and 2.75 with the standard deviation of 15.70, 14.66, 13.60, 15.17, 11.28 and 10.54 respectively. This shows the noticeable effects of sexual immorality are unattained educational goals, unwanted pregnancy, STDs, death due to unsafe abortion, early marriage and makes family planning unrealistic.

Research Question Three: *What are the remedies to sexual immorality among secondary school student in Afijio Local Government Area?*

Table 3: remedies to sexual immorality among secondary school student in Afijio Local Government Area

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	F	X	SD	Results
12.	Sexual immorality will be reduced through improved counseling service.	163	213	16	8	400	3.32	13.20	Agree
13.	Self discipline by students can reduce sexual immorality	229	123	32	16	400	3.41	12.86	Agree
14.	Proper dressing among students can reduce the rate of sexual immorality	176	134	66	24	400	3.15	11.33	Agree
15.	Adequate and systematic moral education in schools will reduce the rate of sexual immorality.	168	176	32	24	400	3.22	8.82	Agree
16.	Government ban on importation and use of pornographic films/literature will help to reduce the rate of sexual immorality.	182	160	34	24	400	3.25	12.03	Agree
17.	Teachers and parents' personal examples as models of sound morality will reduce the rate of sexual immorality.	144	176	48	32	400	3.08	11.47	Agree

The analysis from the above table has undoubtedly shown that sexual immorality can be remedied. The table shows that items 24, 20, 19, 23, 22, and 21 have respective mean of 3.08, 3.41, 3.32, 3.25, 3.22, and 3.15, with the standard deviations of 11.47, 12.86, 13.20, 12.03, 8.82 and 11.33. These therefore, indicate that sexual immorality can be corrected through improved counseling, self discipline, proper dressing and balance moral education. Efforts of the government, church, teachers and parents will also go a long way to reduce the rate of sexual immorality to the barest minimum.

DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FINDINGS

From the findings in table one, it is an indication that sexual immorality is caused by poverty, negative influence, pornographic film, literatures, excessive use of alcohol and too much exposure. This study is corroborated by Kirby (2000) that drastic challenge facing the adolescents for this presents generation. Adolescent at all times are confronted daily by peer group which is extremely influential in their lives. They can conform with positive or negative peer group pressure. Wall (2010) but the adolescent usually involved themselves in negative peer standard than positive such as disobedience, drunkenness, indiscipline, lawlessness and other societal vices are prevalent among the younger ones with its efficacy. Sexual immorality among the secondary school students is an enormous challenge to both society and students. The behavior like hooliganism, nepotism, truancy, cultism, drug abuse, examination malpractice violation of constituted authorities in addition to sexual promiscuous, with this evidence it is clear that most secondary school students who engage in sexual immorality, will promote detriment in their future. However students should be educated on how to avoid these risky behaviors.

From the findings in table two, it shows the noticeable effects of sexual immorality are unattained educational goals, unwanted pregnancy, STDs, death due to unsafe abortion, early marriage and makes family planning unrealistic. These challenges arise from indiscipline, some adolescents who indulge in premarital sex (sexual immoral) due to some circumstances beyond their control. Those who are into rape due to influence of alcohol or drugs while some who involved in prostitutions as a survival process then abortion will be available to avoid unwanted pregnant or early motherhood. Lahaye (2015) stressed that the actions are good indication and reflection of moral decadence in the society. Sexual indiscipline is across the whole societal.

From the findings in table three, it is therefore; indicate that sexual immorality can be corrected through improved counseling, self discipline, proper dressing and balance moral education. Efforts of the government, church, teachers and parents will also go a long way to reduce the rate of sexual immorality to the barest minimum. Kirby (2000) was of the opinion that adolescence needs discipline home environments that can assist the person to develop good qualities in order to withstand the societal ill. On the other hand when our youths are enlighten and equipped with good home background, they can effectively overcome the challenges of immorality.

CONCLUSION

Considering the upsurge of teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDs, vindicating adolescent about sexuality require efforts of parents, counselor, teacher curriculum planners and the government. Counselor has the first stage to have the task of demystifying sexuality by providing the youngster with adequate and vital information about sexuality and reproductive health, helping the students to abstain from sex until they are ready, encourage the development of skill to help adolescents and off peers who may intimidate or lure them into wrong sexual practice.

Parents should be ready to their responsibility to teach sexuality at homes so that their children will be well prepared for family life. Teacher should also teach certain of sexuality at schools so that the adolescent will be familiar with social expectations of their future roles as wives and husbands. The sexuality education curriculum needs to be implemented in the schools in order to build the students morally. This should be a comprehensive package that should include adolescents' reproductive health generally expect expressions for sexual feelings. Government should promote issues of family and regulate the influx of foreign films to protect our adolescents from the adverse effects of exposure to pornographic films.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Parents should try as much as possible to relate well with their children. This will eliminate the psychological problem of being oppressed by the opposite sex.
2. Students should by all means decide on individual's basis not to continue with sexual immorality.
3. Sex education should be a mandatory aspect of the school's academic activities. Churches and religious bodies should intensify their teaching against sexual immorality.
4. Guidance and counseling services should be equipped in all the school.
5. Parents and teachers should enforce proper dressing for students in schools and at homes.
6. Students should go to church regularly and read their Bibles always to refrain from evil communication that corrupts good manner.
7. Federal Government should ban the import of pornographic films literatures.
8. Parents should take responsibility of discussing sex related issues with their children in order to give them this first hand information on the situation while the teachers and school administrators should develop a curriculum that will embrace the enlightenment on the risk of indulging in sex before and outside marriage.

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