Sexual Coercion Among University Female Students in South-South Nigeria

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated sexual coercion among university female students in South-South, Nigeria. The influence of age and parent living conditions on the university female students experience of sexual coercion where also investigated. Sexual coercion is the dependent variable while age and parents living conditions are the independent variables. The study employed the descriptive research of the survey type. The population is the university student South-South Nigeria. The sample is 1,200 university students selected from nine universities drawn from the south-south using stratified sampling technique. A research instrument titled sexual coercion questionnaire (SCQ) was used. One research question and two hypotheses guided the study. Frequency counts and percentages were used to ensure the general question while t-test was used for the two hypotheses generated. The results show that most forms of sexual coercion exist among female students. Moreover, age and parents living conditions will not significantly influence their experience of sexual coercion. University female students should be careful of dealings with the opposite sex. Those female students with wealthy parents should be careful of their spending on boys while those with poor parents should be patient. Counselors should advocate for more security in the South-South Nigeria University to arrest maladjustment behavior among students, counselors also should organize skill acquisition program for the benefits of the female students. Government should provide well secured accommodation for the students.

Keywords: Sexual coercion, Age, Parents, Living conditions, Female, South-South University, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION
Sexual coercion among university female students in South-South Nigeria has been on an increase and has attracted the attention of all and sundry including researchers. Before this time, women were considered as the properties of their fathers and of their husbands. This increased the risk of sexual coercion (Vander-word in Yen Srach, Aliye, Bisiat & Robera, 2017). Studies confirm that female suffer injury and disease from sexual coercion, not only because they comprise the vast majority of victims but also because they are exposed to negative sexual and reproductive health consequences such. as unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, maternal health risk, and a higher risk sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. Hornby (2015) see sexual as usually something done before connected with the physical activity of sex. Also, coercion is seen as action of making something do something they do not want to do, using force or threatening to use force. In order words, sexual coercion is any unwanted activity or forceful sexual contact. It is an interaction in which someone is forced to engage in sexual act against his or her will (Odu & Qusegun, 2017). They further said that sexual coercion could be regarded as an act of compelling a person to involuntarily engage in sexual acts by the use of threats, violence, intimidation, deception, alcohol, drugs or some other forms of pressure or force, which may typically involve the infliction of physical and psychological harm. This act they said may lie on the condition of sexual aggressiveness and
harmful behavior, ranging from unwanted touch, verbal intimidation, harassment, attempted rape, to forceful sex, referred to as rape.

Koss & Tanzaman in Odu & Olusegun (2017) defined sexual coercion as sexual activities with one or more persons, with greater power due to age, physique, status, position or knowledge without the other party’s mutual consent. With this we can see that the age of a person, the physique, status, position, wealth can be used a times as driving forces for sexual coercion and helplessness, fear, lack of understanding and weakness may be involved in such conditions.

Shams & Michele (2017) defines sexual coercion as the act of using pressure, alcohol or drugs, or force to have sexual contact with someone, against his or her will and includes persistent attempts to have sexual contact with someone who has already refused. They further said that, it can be a spectrum or a range. It can vary from someone verbally urging you on to someone actually forcing you to have contact with them. It can be verbal and emotional, in the form of statements that make you feel pressure, guilt or shame.

Sexually coercion according to UNAID in Odu & Olusegun (2017) is when a person knowingly renders another person unconscious and thereby engages in sexual act with the person by force or threat of force or without the knowledge or permission of that person through a drug, intoxication or other similar substance and thereby impair the ability of that person. To the researchers best of knowledge, sexual coercion is the act of forcing someone who is not in the mood of having sex to have sex. It can be done through unwanted touch, unwanted sexual talks, sexual questions, unwanted sexual jokes and verbal assaults. Others are non-contact abuse and other sexual acts such as sexual molestation, sexual harassment, forced relationship, forced viewing of pornography, repeated request dates, threatening text messages, arousal questions, showing one’s private parts.

According to Dinwindle in Olusegun (2017), sexual coercion can be categorized into different ways that by reference to the situation in which it occurs by the identity or characteristics of the perpetuators. These categories are referred to as types of sexual coercion such as data acquaintance sexual coercion, marital or spousal sexual coercion, gang sexual coercion, sexual coercion of children, statutory sexual coercion, prison sexual coercion, war and transactional sexual coercion. Osarenien & Anyama (2015) states that sexual abuse refers to any action that parts pressure or coerces someone to do something sexually, they do not want to do and will not be willing to do. But the person finds herself doing it because of the older person presuming or coercion her to do so.

Briggs & Samuel (2015) stated that some university undergraduate students usually complained that lecturers failed them as a result of not consenting to their sexual advances. In the same vein, cited the World Health Organization (WHO, 2002) report that, schools and colleges given certain adults the opportunity to abuse positions of authority over young people in the form of non consensual sexual intercourse. Fareo (2017) explains the following:

**Rape and Marital Rape:** The invasion of any part of the body of the victim or of the perpetrator with a sexual organ, or of the anal, or genital opening of the victim with any object or any other part of the body by force, threat of force, coercive, taking advantage of a coercive environment, or against a person incapable of giving genuine consent.

**Forced Sodony and Rape:** Forced/coerced anal intercourse, usually male-to-male make or male-to-female.

**Sexual Abuse:** Actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature including inappropriate touching by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

**Sexual Exploitation:** Any abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes, this includes profiting momentary, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another (IASC). Sexual exploitation is one of the purposes of trafficking in persons (performing in a sexual manner, forced undressing and/or nakedness, coerced marriage, forced child bearing, engagement in pornography or prostitution, sexual extortion for the granting of goods services, assistance benefits, sexual slavery) (UNHCR, 2003).
Fareo (2017) discussed the concept of gender-based violence against women (GBVW); ascertained the prevalence of GBVW in Nigeria and source other nations globally, some types of GBVW such as sexual violence. The study concluded that violence against women is an age-long problem which lowers the status accorded to women and constitutes an obstacle to peace, progress, and a threat to the objective of equality.

Sexual coercion of females has been there. It was recorded in the Bible how (Genesis 34 verses 1-2) the account of Dinah who was raped by Scheckwem and was highly depressed due to the loss of her virginity. Tamar, David’s daughter, who was raped by Amnon her brother was disappointed and sad after losing her virginity (2Samuel 13 verses 1-14). Now, it was also recorded by West in Olusegun (2017) about the rape of a noble woman Lucrecta, who lost her virginity and thus affected her bride price, and finally committed suicide.

Sexual coercion is the dependent variable while independent variables of this study are age and parents living conditions. But there are other ones like mental status, religious, ethnicity, faculty, father’s educational status, mother’s educational status, family income, pocket money (source of support). Substance use History (Cigarette smoking, drinking, alcohol and chewing chart) (Yemsrachi, Bisiart & Robert, 2017).

This study has some theories to backup such as feminist theory which is the extension of feminists’ theoretical fictional or philosophical discourse. It aims to understand the nature of gender inequality. It examine women and men’s social roles, experiences interests, chores, feminist politics in a variety of fields such as anthropology and sociology, communication media studies and psychoanalysis (Nancy in Gillis, Roberts, Padwell & Kember, 2015). This theory focuses on analyzing gender inequality. Themes explained in feminizing include discrimination, objectification, oppression patriarchs, stereotyping and contemporary art and aesthetics. This theory emerged as early as 1794.

Freud (2005) believes that human behavior and feelings are powerfully affected by unconscious motives, the traumatic experiences that were not acceptable to experimental awareness. Freud stressed that life is built round tension and pleasure. According to him, all tension is due to the build-up of libido (the sexual instinct), the exclusive source of energy for human behavior. It requires the expenditure of sexual energy to derive the pleasure desired. Freud believed that human nature has it that it is difficult to retain the instinctual drive due to the tension it generates unless the wish is satisfied which could degenerate into abnormal behavior of which sexual coercion emerged.

Bandura in Odu & Olusegun (2017) opined that both young and old female students could be sexually coerced due to some characters that are common with female university, student generally such as indecent dressing, how they engage in friendly gestures like parting others buttock, pecking of checks, embracing each other and other sexual acts. Fergusson, Hornwood and Lynskey in Odu & Olusegun (2017) observed that coercions are within the same age range with the victim, he however stressed that there are some cases of older males who indulge in sexual coercion of younger females. Hunper (2008) asserts that young female students in their teens and early twenties are highly over represented among sexual coercion victims around the world and they are target for older males especially those in intimate relationship, they usually obtain sex through force and deception, others in this category are their boyfriends co-students, lecturers, administrative officers, cultists and men in authority who are fond of forcing young female students into unwanted sexual encounters as found by the researcher.

The empirical findings of this study starts from Olusegun (2017), who worked on sexual coercion among university female students in South-West Nigeria, saw the prevalence of sexual coercion among the female students in South-West Nigeria. In the study conducted by Odu & Olusegun (2017), on examining sexual coercion among university female students in south-west Nigeria, the sample consisted of 1,200 sexually coerced female students selected from nine universities drawn from south-west using purposive sampling technique. The result showed that different forms of sexual coercion among university female students, the study by Yemasrachi, Aliye & Bisiat (2017) using sexual coercion and associated factors giving female private university students in Bishop Town, East Shewa Ethiopia, from May 26 to June 12, 2016. A total of 395 students were involved simple random sampling method was employed to select the study participants. The study revealed that 171 (43.3%) of the respondents experienced sexual coercion.
Ofole & Agoke (2016) studied about sexual victimization against young girls and women, used 600 fresh female students whose age raped from 16 to 19 (x = SD = 17.65), with simple sampling technique. Result shows that parent-child communication has negative relationship with sexual victimization while peer group and media influence were positively associated with sexual victimization.

An empirical finding of Struckmen and Struckman in Olusegun (2017) revealed that over 25% of female students, in a sample of over 750 in universities have experienced one form of sexual coercion or the other. In a study conducted among university students in Ibadan by Ajuwon, Oladeye Faromoju, Ladipo and Akin-Jimoh (in Olusegun, 2017) in the sexual coercion of university students, 15% of the students reported forced sexual penetration, 27% reported attempts of forced sex- and 44% reported the experience of unwanted sexual touching.

Osarenren et al. (2015) investigated into the incidence of sexual abuse experiences of adolescent girls in all girls and co-educational secondary schools in Lagos, Nigeria. 778 adolescent girls in senior secondary class two (552) filled a self- report questionnaire in a classroom setting. A total of 359 out of 778 respondents indicated higher experienced sexual abuse and 219 of 573 are from all-girls school while 140 of 205 are from co-educational schools. Analysis of data rising chi-square revealed that there is a significant relationship between sexual abuse and type of school. Sexual coercion was one of the sexual levels of sexual abuse.

Briggs et al. (2015) investigated the non consensual sexual experiences of university undergraduates in Rivers State tertiary institutions. A sample of 800 university undergraduates was used for the study. Hypotheses were tested with the inferential statistics of chi-square. The result shows that there was a significant relationship between gender and rape incidents. Ojeme (2017) cited the World Health Organization (WHO) that about 15 million girls experienced sexual violence with physical contact in 2002.

Omoworare & Adebowale (2015) cited the work of Adam & Mutuagu (2007), referring university students as being identified as a vulnerable group of people who demonstrate intense risky sexual behaviours. Eze (2015) cited that recently UN (2011) gender-based violence analysis report from over 80 countries found that worldwide over 35% of women have experience either physical and or sexual intimate parties violence. Furthermore, that world health organization (WHO) prevalence analysis of violence against women indicates an alarming percentage for different regions of the world as follows; 29.8% for region of the America, 23.2% for high income countries, 25.4% for Europe 36.6% Africa, 37.7% for South-East Asia and 24.9% for Western Pacific. This kind of situation mortifies women’s human rights and fundamental freedom. Fareo (2017) concluded that violence against women is an age long problem which lowers the status accorded to women, and constitutes, an obstacle to peace, progress and a threat to the objective of equality.

**METHODOLOGY**

In course of the study, sexual coercion has been observed as one of the prevailing social problems in Nigeria, especially in the south-south among female university students. The rate increases daily. Though it appears mild to some people in the society, its consequences are enormous. It encompasses fear, anxiety, depression, poor academic performance, withdrawal from school, acquisition of sexually transmitted disease and others. These lead to the researcher’s thorough investigation on the prevalence, mode and etiological cause behind sexual coercion in Nigeria Universities. The question that guides this study is:

1. Does sexual coercion exist among university female students?

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of age on the university female students’ experience of sexual coercion. It also sought to find out if variable such as parents living conditions influence their experience. In dealing with the problem of the study and to achieve the purpose of the study the following hypothesis were raised to guide the study;

1. There is no significant difference in the rate of sexual coercion experienced by different age group of university female student.
2. There is no significant difference in the rate of sexual coercion experience by parents living conditions of University students.

The study employed the description research of the survey type because it focused on existing characteristics of a particular group in order to satisfy the curiosity and the desire for better understanding of the sexual coercion of university female students. It also involves the distribution of large copies of the instrument used.

The population is the university female student in south-south Nigeria. The sample is 1200 university female students selected from nine universities drawn from the south-south using stratified sampling techniques. A research instrument titled sexual coercion questionnaire (SCQ) was used. The instrument was in four sections, the first section sought information on the female, biodata such as age, parents living condition and so on, section two contains items on the occurrence of sexual coercion experienced by university female students, section three consisted of items which are meant to measure the causes that could influence female students, sexual coercion while section D contains items measuring the effects of sexual coercion on university female students. Test re-test method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument. The reliability coefficient of 0.75 was obtained. The administration of the instrument was done by the researcher and assisted by some research assistants. The data generated were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency counts and percentages were used to ensure the general question while t-test was used for the two hypotheses generated.

**INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS**

**Research Question 1:** Does sexual coercion exist among university female students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Responses on Sexual Coercion among Female University Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forms of Sexual Coercion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Female students that experienced unwanted sexual talks fell into the moderate level, 27 (2.25%) of the female students, never experience unwanted sexual talks. One hundred and sixty six (17.3%) of the university female students experienced high level of unwanted sexual gesture, majority of the university female students that experienced unwanted sexual gesture fell into moderate level, 6.21 (64.6%) while 175 (18.2%) of the female students experienced low level of unwanted sexual gesture, 238 (19.8%) of the female students never experience unwanted sexual gesture. For pornography, 1.44 (21.3%) fell into high level. 230 (33.7%) experienced moderate while 305 (44.9%) low. 517 (43%) never experienced it. 199 (19.2%) experienced high level sexual harassment, 312 (30.2%) moderate while majority low 523 (50.6%). Rape, 12 (4.1%) high, 73 (25.1%) moderate and 214 (71.8%) low level of rape. Majority of the female students 901 (75.0%) never experience rape while 298 (24.8%) of female students experienced rape. The result shows that most forms of sexual coercion exist among female students and the level of occurrence is moderate, except the experience of rape that was very low.
Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 2
There is no significant difference in the rate of sexual coercion experienced by different ages of university female students. In order to test this, mean scores of respondents on sexual coercion were compared among the age groups using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. The result is shown below in table 2.

Table 2: One way ANOVA of Age and Sexual Coercion among Female University Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>MSS</th>
<th>F-cal</th>
<th>F-table</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between groups</td>
<td>3218.002</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1031.667</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within groups</td>
<td>415897.4</td>
<td>1196</td>
<td>427.740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>419115.4</td>
<td>1199</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* P < 0.05

Table 2 shows that F-cal is 2.41 and F-table is 2.60. Therefore, F-cal (2.4) is lesser than F-table (2.60). The null hypothesis is therefore accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference.

Hypothesis 2
Parents living conditions of female university students will not significantly influence their experience of sexual coercion.

To test this, mean scores or sexual coercion of parents living conditions, subjects were compared (Transactional family and psychological well being) compared for statistical significance using t-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The result is presented below in table 3.

Table 3: T-test Summary of Parents Living Conditions and Experience of Sexual Coercion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal</th>
<th>t-table</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transactional family</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>27.06</td>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>11.98</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological well being</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>26.31</td>
<td>19.04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that t-cal is 0.59 and t-table is 1.96. Therefore, t-cal (0.59) is lesser than t-table (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is accepted. It implies that parents living condition of female university students will not significantly influence their experience of sexual coercion.

DISCUSSION
The result of the study revealed that most form of sexual coercion exist among female students and the level of occurrence is moderate except the rate of unwanted sexual touching that is high. This finding was consistent with the findings made by Ajuwon Olaleye, Faromoju, Ladipo and Akin Jimoh in Olusegun (2017) where they reported different forms of sexual coercion. It was evident in the report of the Commission on the Review of High Education in Nigeria (CRHEN) (1991) that the phenomenon of sexual coercion is gradually assuring critics dimensions in Nigeria higher institutions. This could be as a result of the inability to be from in their decisions about sexual matters as opined by Omorotion & Olusanya (2008).

The study revealed that there is no significant difference in the rate of sexual coercion experience by female students of different ages, the result corroborate with that of Fergusson et al. in Odu & Olusegun (2017), they reported that female students are natural target of sexual coercion and that any female students could be a victim irrespective of the age, the behavior that certain form of sexual coercion are very closely associated with young females. The reported of Hunper in Odu & Olusegun (2017) negates the result of this study. These researchers asserted that female students in their teens and their early twenties are highly over represented among sexual coercion victims around the world and they believed that female students at these ages are target for older male. Bandura in Odu & Olusegun (2017) opined that females students that are 25 years and above due to their chronological age, experiences maturity and responsiveness, majority of them dress normally they are always cautious of their relationship with the
opposite sex and this make a difference in their experience of sexual coercion compared with female students below 25 years.

Mazzunato & Jeanne (2015) carried out a study on parent living condition (transactional family and psychological well being) using three countries from 2010-2011. The result show that transactional families fare worse than their counterparts living with parents with psychological well being. This study agreed with the above.

CONCLUSION
Based on the findings, it is concluded that university female students were sexually coerced by different categories of people in the university community irrespective of their age and parents living condition due to causes such as inadequate security, deception, alcoholic consumption, cultist activities, inability to hold onto their decisions and other permissive attitudes allowed in Nigeria Universities. This study will be useful to scholars, researchers, and readers because it provides information on the prevalence of sexual coercion, courses of sexual coercion of female university students. It also provides baseline information for prospective researchers on factors effects and consequences of sexual coercion.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Female university students that are at greater risk of sexual coercion due to their physical features and some acts that are peculiar to them which predispose them to the risk of sexual coercion should be careful to deal with the opposite sex. Counselors should advocate for more security in the south-south Nigeria universities to arrest maladjustment, behavior among students. Government should provide well secured accommodation for the females.

Those female students that have parents that are wealthy should be careful of spending their money; boys carelessly while those with unwealthy or poor parents should have some patience because one day the money will come. Counselors should organize seminars on skill acquisition, where female students can get themselves engaged in things that can give them money while in school.

The study is limited to finding the sexual coercion among university female students in south-south Nigeria. It went further to identify the causes of sexual coercion. It did not include the factors, effects and consequences of sexual coercion among university female students in south-south, Nigeria.

REFERENCES


