
PREVALENCE OF RAPE INCIDENTS IN LAGOS STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS: CAUSES, EFFECTS AND REMEDIAL APPROACHES

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Abstract

The issue of rape in the Nigeria society is becoming more alarming than ever and leaves a lasting effect on the victims. The victims of rape suffer many effects that cut across physical, social, psychological not excluding academic performance. Thus, the need for this paper that aimed at examining the prevalence, causes, effects and remedial approaches to rape incidents, especially in Lagos State primary schools. The paper was guided by two objectives. The study adopted descriptive survey research design, with 170 respondents drawn from the population. The data collected through questionnaires were analyzed using frequency table, mean and standard deviation and chi-square statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed the major causes of rape to include peer pressure, poverty, parental negligence, civilization/modernization, indecent dressing and substance abuse amongst others. Additionally, the study also revealed that rape incidents do not only affects pupils academic performance but also their general wellbeing. The study recommends that strict punishments should be given to rape perpetrators and indecent dressing and substance abuse should be discouraged by parents and other education stakeholders.

Keywords: Rape, Causes, Effects, Approaches, Pupils, Lagos State primary schools

Introduction

Rape has remained an issue among the populace of virtually all nations across the globe. The issue of rape can be likened to a cankerworm destroying the self-esteem, image, social and academic performance especially among the female folks. Although, before now, the group that experience or become the victim of rape were teenagers and youths this is in accordance with a community-based survey which estimated the incidents at 1300 among 100,000 women. However, recently according to the findings of Chinedu, et. al. 2020) sexual abuse of the under-aged (minors) is now a common happening in today's society particularly in Nigeria. Furthermore, the incidence of rape varies in different parts of the world. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported that about 85,000 women were raped in 2006 in the United Kingdom (Oniyangi, et al., 2017). While in the United States of America, cases of rape of about 212,190 were recorded in the Department of Justice in 2006, in Nigeria, 10,079 cases of rape were reported between 2001 and 2005. Despite existing bilateral and multilateral educational programmes, millions of girls in Nigeria remain without primary level of education and a much larger are dropping out of school without basic literacy and numeracy skills (Peters & Olowa, 2010). Similarly, according to the report of United Nations Children's Funds (2020), Nigeria has increasingly recorded an upsurge in the number of gender-based violence, especially rape and child defilement recently.

Nigeria is said to be trailing India, as the most dangerous place for women of all ages to live in. A cursory look at the series of unfolding events and developments the world over indicates that the globe is fast degenerating into crimes and crime-related offences. One of such crimes is that of men sexually abusing women and, in fact, forcefully having carnal knowledge of girls and women without their consent (Oniyangi, et al., 2017). For instance, India as a country has in recent time, continued to have its doses of not just rape cases but 'gang raping' of powerless, defenseless and innocent women and girls by rapists and the situation has become more or less chronic and satanic (Ogbu, 2019).

Rape is a traumatic experience that affects the victim (also known as 'survivor') in a physical, psychological, and sociological way (Wikipedia, 2017). Even though the effects and aftermath of rape

differ among victims, individuals tend to suffer from similar issues found within these three categories. Long-term reactions may involve the development of coping mechanisms that will either benefit the victim, such as social support, or inhibit their recovery. Seeking support and professional resources may assist the victim in numerous ways.

According to Agubosi, et. al. (2022), the agony of a victim that follows rape cannot be overstressed. Raped victims live with the trauma throughout their life time. Minors who experience rape, particularly children, suffer a lot of pain during the act. The reason being that they are not mature enough for sexual activities. There have been cases of profuse bleeding from the vagina and bruises on the child which requires medical attention. Sadly, most children did not receive any sex education from their parents. Most persons got their sex education from peers and since it is almost impossible for children or teenagers to give right information concerning sex and their bodies. Sexual abuse is another outrageous crime that is being committed against many children in the world (Chidalu, 2020).

According to Agubosi, et al., (2022), rape has become endemic in Nigeria as cases of rape are being reported almost on a daily basis. Sequel to this incessant raping in the country, the Governor of Kaduna, Malam Nasir Al-Rufai, Governor of Kaduna State in Nigeria took a bold step of enacting laws on rape to stem the crime in his state. The law says that any man convicted of rape will be castrated. Though the Governor came up with this law in his own state, the Nigerian government is yet to enact severe laws on rape that would really deter further occurrence of rape incidences in the country. The perpetrators of rape could be one's relatives (Jewkes, et al., 2002), teachers, colleagues, classmates, clerics, and friends. Victims of rape go through psychological, social and physically harrowing experiences during and after the act of rape. Psychologically, the victims of rape live with trauma, depression and sadness. Physically, the victim sustains a lot of injuries in the private parts, bleeding and bruises that sometimes need medical attention to heal. Socially, the victim of rape withdraws, becomes afraid of entering into relationships and is afraid of victimization. Sometimes victims of rape become pregnant after the ugly incident. This puts the victim in a serious dilemma on whether to abort the pregnancy or to keep it. The victims could also contract

sexually transmitted diseases such as Human Immuno Virus (HIV), Syphilis and Gonorrhea from the rapist. Some female victims sometimes enter into unplanned marriages when they become pregnant, thereby ending up marrying the wrong person of their choice (Agubosi, et al, 2022).

However, certain measures can be utilized to combat the incidents of rape in Lagos state. Although, sex education has been included in the Nigeria Primary and post primary education curriculum, however, the early usage of the curriculum in terms of teaching and learning of sex education to primary school pupils from Age 6 and above will go a long way in exposing the pupils what should and should not be done to them by the opposite gender. Also, parents, teachers and other education stakeholders should be enlightened regularly on the various effects and consequences of rape on both the victims and the perpetrators. This will enable them to give the proper guidance to the children under their care. Additionally, they should be reminded and taught various parenting styles to help them train and nurture the children appropriately. Furthermore, the availability of competent counselors and counseling services in schools especially primary schools will not only reduce the menace of rape incidents but also become a channel where the pupils, teachers and schools administrators can express themselves freely concerning their observations and feelings. The main objective of the study is to examine the prevalence of rape incidents in Lagos State primary schools: causes, effects and remedial approaches. The specific objectives are to:

- i. determine the causes of rape in Lagos State primary schools; and
- ii. determine the consequences of rape on pupils' academic performance and general wellbeing

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered in the course of the study:

- i. What are the causes of rape in Lagos State Primary Schools?
- ii. What are the consequences of rape on Lagos State Primary School Pupil's academic performance and general wellbeing?

Methods

The study adopted both descriptive and survey research design. The choice of the design is to determine and describe the causes, effects and remedial approach to rape issues in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised of primary school pupils and teachers in Lagos State, and education district V specifically. Primary source of data was used to obtain data for the study. Purposive and simply random sampling techniques were used to obtain 170 respondents that served as the sample size of the study. Questionnaires as the main instrument contain 10 items divided into two. Part one sought information about the causes of rape in Lagos State, while section B sought information on the effects of rape on pupils' academic performance and general wellbeing in Lagos State. The instrument was validated through face and content validity. The instrument were given to respondents and retrieved upon completion. The retrieved data were subjected to data analysis using frequency tables, mean and standard deviation.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the causes of Rape incidents in Lagos State Primary Schools?

Table 1: Analysis of Respondents Responses on the Causes of Rape

S/N	Items	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Mean	S.D	Decision
-1.	Poor parental upbringing/ negligence leads to rape	90	52.9	30	17.6	25	14.6	25	14.6	2.65	.705	Accepted
2.	Peer pressures/ wrong company	80	47.1	46	27.1	20	1.8	23	13.5	2.79	.821	Accepted
3.	civilization/modernization are among the factors that lead to rape incidents	60	35.3	60	35.3	30	17.6	20	14.7	2.86	.810	Accepted
4.	Poverty and unemployment contributes to increase in rape issues in Lagos State	130	76.5	20	11.8	10	5.9	10	5.9	2.98	.911	Accepted
5.	Indecent dressing and substance abuse	140	82.4	5	2.9	10	5.9	15	8.8	2.69	.81	Accepted

Any mean value that is or greater than 2.5 is accepted while the one lesser than 2.5 is rejected.

Table 1 indicates that poor parental upbringing/ negligence leads to rape. This indicated that when children are not well nurtured and

trained, such children are prone to involves in rape incidents either as the victims or the perpetrators. Peer pressure, civilization/modernization, poverty/unemployment and indecent dressings were among the contributing factors to rape incidents in Lagos State Primary Schools.

Research Question 2: What are the effects of Rape on Lagos State Primary School Pupils Academic Performance and General Wellbeing?

Table 2: Analysis of Respondents Responses on the Effects of Rape

S/N	Items	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Mean	S.D	Decision
1.	It results to physical injuries and health related issues such as virginal bleeding, scratches on the body, lost of virginity	72	42.4	51	30.0	13	7.6	14	14.6	2.95	.905	Accepted
2.	It leads to psychological and emotional imbalance such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem	86	50.6	41	24.1	20	11.8	23	13.5	2.87	.821	Accepted
3.	it affects the behaviours of the victims	58	34.1	55	32.4	51	30.0	6	3.5	2.95	.876	Accepted
4.	It leads to academic related issues such as lack of concentration in classes, lack of engagement in school activities, e.t.c	101	59.4	2	1.2	67	39.4	-	-	3.38	.511	Accepted

Any mean value that is or greater than 2.5 is accepted while the one lesser than 2.5 is rejected.

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents agreed that rape incidents result to physical injuries and health related issues such as virginal bleeding, scratches on the body, lost of virginity. Also, it was discovered that it leads to psychological and emotional imbalance such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. Rape incidents affects the behaviours of the victims as well as result pupils' low concentration and engagement in classes and school activities.

Discussions

The findings of the study revealed that several factors contributes to the causes of rape in Lagos State primary schools. Some of the identified causes were poor parental upbringing and negligence, peer pressures and wrong company, civilization/modernization as well as

indecent dressing and substance abuse. The finding of the study is supported by the study of Agbo (2019) where he stated that indecent clothing, such as wearing leggings and miniskirts, has been identified as a major contributing factor to the high rate of rape in society. It is important to highlight that the majority of young girls who are at risk of rape were once motivated to sell their wares, which is why suspicious individuals with malicious intent are luring them into committing the horrible crime of sexual harassment. Furthermore, Ipinlaye & Ajanlekoo (2019) believed that some parents spoil their kids by not enforcing rigorous discipline on them because of modernity. Similarly, from the study of Ipinlaye & Ajanlekoo, (2019), it was revealed that parents themselves engage in extra-marital affairs before them, and so they are more likely to foster children that are rude and arrogant. They further claimed that because the parents have extramarital encounters before them, they are more likely to raise obnoxious, conceited, and mischievous children. Youngsters raised in this environment, especially boys, develop a negative perception of the other sex and may grow up to commit rape. A poorly raised child will inevitably become a threat to society in general and the country in particular.

Furthermore, the findings of the study revealed that the effects of rape incidents range from physical injuries, health related issues such as vaginal bleeding, scratches on the body, psychological and emotional effects such as depression, low self-esteem, low class attendance, engagement and concentration. The study's results are consistent with those of Tenaw (2022), who found that rape had behavioral and health effects, particularly when the sexual activity was unprotected. Rape-based sexual activity increases the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and can result in an unintended pregnancy. Sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV/AIDS, are a typical consequence of rape, and they can cause lifelong harm to the victims. Additionally, according to Adesoji et al., who cited Rothbaum, et al (1992), rape causes victims to experience strange emotions such as guilt, shame, mistrust, unworthiness, and mental health issues due to painful memories that last a lifetime and follow them into old age (Rothbaum, et al., 1992). While some victims of rape may be fortunate enough to receive assistance from social system staff, others may face a number of complications,

including posttraumatic depression, victimization, fear of a second rape, substance abuse, mental instability, severe health issues, nightmares with painful flashbacks, eating disorders, stress, low self-esteem, and more (Bassey and Emmanuel, 2019).

Conclusion

The issue of rape in the Nigeria society is becoming more alarming than ever and leaves a lasting effect on the victims. The victims of rape suffer many effects that cut across physical, social, psychological not excluding academic performance. It was discovered from the findings of the study that the major contributing factors to the incident of rape in Lagos State Primary Schools were peer pressure, poverty, parental negligence, civilization/modernization, indecent dressing and substance abuse amongst others. Additionally, the study also revealed that rape incidents do not only affects pupils academic performance but also their general wellbeing.

Recommendations

From the forgoing, the study therefore recommends that parents, teachers and pupils should be enlightened on the various effects of rape on both the victims and the perpetrators. Additionally, all children from the age of 5 and above should taught sex-education. This will help them to be aware and know what to do. Furthermore, strict punishments should be given to rape perpetrators and indecent dressing and substance abuse should be discouraged by parents and other education stakeholders.

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