

Impact of wrong sexual behavior on adolescent development : a factor dragging the society towards ruin

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Abstract

Impact of wrong sexual behavior of adolescent has been surveyed. Its effect on the victims has been proven negative, with consequences like health effect including financial effect been a drawback, acting like a barrier to the ideal development of an individual adolescent. Wrong sexual behavior has been found to be on the increase, forcing adolescents to drop-out of school, exhibiting behaviors that do not conform to the development of the society. Result of this research findings shows the impact of wrong sexual behavior to include: Disregard for cultural/societal moral values, teenage/adolescent pregnancies, rapid increase in STDs and HIV/AIDS transmission, eagerness to practices illicit sexual acts, wrong conception about the opposite sex including sexual intercourse addiction with prostitution tendencies. The high positive percentages achieved from statistical analysis (respondent view-point) presents these impact as been on the increase, capable of dragging the society towards ruin. Recommendations of this study presents a view that the problem of adolescent wrong sexual behavior can be control, presenting guides like proper guidance and counseling, proper monitoring, aggressive sex education, reawakening of traditional African moral and value teachings, inclusion of sex education in religious teachings including proper dressing and restricting of adolescents from pornographic materials.

Keywords: Sexuality; Wrong Sexual Behavior; Societal Values; Sexual Intercourse; Adolescent Development.

1. Introduction

Over the year's adolescents sexual behavior in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa has been a point of concern to both individual, communities, Governments, including religious bodies. It has transformed from what it used to be in the past to a heart breaking and deadly practices, hindering the development of humanity.

Sexual behaviors been displayed by adolescents are of types, with young people been more willing and inquisitive in experimentation with new variation learned through intuition, including foreplay and coitus. The flooding of pictorials, including legal and illegal movies found here-and-there in the society have fuel loss of shame, loss of guilt, acting like a strength upon which adolescents' draw upon.

Research of Owuamanam [1] presented kissing, breast/genital fondling, embracing including sexual intercourse as sexual behavior portrayed by adolescents. The work of Diepold and Young [2] presented dating including masturbation and homosexual behavior been found among young people. Alzae [3]; Soyinka [4] reported oral contact as a sexual behavior been displayed among adolescents in the society. Vital issues affecting the society have been raised here-and-there, especially in Nigeria with a pointer to rapid urbanization, including a rapid breakdown of societal moral values been a factor leading to the delinquent behaviors of adolescent and the youth. High rate of pregnancies, including contracting of sexu-

al transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS been recorded. Research findings have proven high level of abortions been recorded among adolescents and the youths, with health complications often been recorded as one of the after-effect associated with incessant abortions. Report also has it that bleeding, anemia, including fatigue has been associated with abortion [5].

Dropout-of-school including poverty has been associated with the problem of Adolescent's sexuality behavior. Report of Fafunwa [6] stated inadequate preparation for life in the traditional system as a factor leading to the rapid breakdown of morals in the mind of the adolescents, further stating that before the Western Education; that the traditional African System was helping in reduction of adolescent delinquencies like wrong sexual behavior. This view was also confirmed in the research of Bledsoe and Cohen [7], where the researchers reported traditional structures been an influence towards positive behavior of adolescents where societal moral values are still hold-on to and before the advent of Western civilization.

Against the negative impacts associated with adolescent wrong sexual behavior, this paper seeks measures adolescent wrong sexual behavior can be reduced or eliminated. The research intends to air the views of parents, teachers and students on the negative impacts of adolescent wrong sexual behavior on their development.

2. Methodology

The study undertook an arithmetic means. The method was chosen because it is the method that best suit and could interpret the outcome from the study. The main focus is on the impacts of wrong sexual behavior of adolescents in Nigeria. The data from this study were collected from selected University, College and Secondary Schools within Obubra, Cross River State and FCT-Abuja, Nigeria. Others came from relevant research finding literatures.

The technique used in the interview is both open-ended and structured. The interview questions took care of student, teacher/lecturers and parents. About 200 people were reached. Data recorded during the interview include note making and tape-recording. Random sampling technique was used in drawing the sample study. A total figure of about 100 questionnaires was ultimately processed and used.

Final analysis of this finding will help to illuminate the negative impacts of the sexual behavior of adolescent on their development while recommending measures to cut-down these impacts on adolescents. The finding of the study would be of great value in formulating modalities for better management of adolescents.

3. Result and discussion

Table 1: Impact of Wrong Sexual Behavior on Adolescent Development

S/N	Factor	% of Responses	
		Agreed	Disagreed
1.	Disregard for cultural/societal moral values	70.00	30.00
2.	Teenage/Adolescent pregnancies	90.00	10.00
3.	STDs and HIV/AIDS transmission during unprotected sexual intercourse	80.00	20.00
4.	Waywardness and drop-out of school	70.00	30.00
5.	Child bearing complications and general health challenges	90.00	10.00
6.	Infertility and bareness associated with unsafe abortion with bleeding, anemia including fatigue	75.00	25.00
7.	Disrespect for parents, elder ones including eagerness to practice new and illicit sexual acts	85.00	15.00
8.	Wrong conception about opposite sex: view of the opposite sex merely as a sexual tool used to satisfy sexual desires	95.00	5.00
9.	Emotionally unstable: continual thinking of sexual intercourse	70.00	30.00
10.	Sexual intercourse (sex) which may relates to the use of drugs including prostitution	80.00	20.00

STDs = Sexually transmitted diseases

Table 1 summarizes respondents answer on the impacts of wrong sexual behavior on Adolescent development. (70%) Of the respondents agreed that an adolescent who engages in wrong sexual behavior is likely to disregard cultural/societal values, with 30% disagreeing with the view. 90% of the respondents holds the view that teenage/adolescent pregnancies are associated with wrong sexual behavior with 20% disagreement. The rise in STDs including HIV/AIDS transmission has been attributed to associate with wrong adolescent sexual behavior, with a strong view point of (80%) agreed. Adolescent waywardness and drop-out of school has been attributed to wrong sexual behavior, with respondents view of (70%) agreeing, which stands above the disagreed of 30%. (90%) of the respondents attributed the rise in child-bearing complications among adolescents, including health challenges to be as a result of an adolescent indulging in wrong sexual behavior with 10% disagreement to his view. 75% of the respondents pointed to infertility, including bareness as a result of unsafe abortion, with cases of bleeding, anemia, including fatigue has been one of the products of wrong sexual behavior of adolescents, however, (25%) of the respondents disagreed with this view. 85% of the respondents stated and agreed that the rapid disrespect for parents, elderly one, including the eagerness to engage and practice illicit sexual acts is as a result of the wrong sexual behavior which an adolescent must have hold-on to. However, (15%) of the respondents disagreed with this view. (95%) of the respondents pointed to wrong conception about opposite sex: agreeing that wrong sexual behavior has influenced the view of some adolescents about the opposite sex; viewing the opposite sex as merely a tool to be used for sexual desire and satisfaction. Emotional instability, with continual thinking about sexual intercourse has been identified to be among the factors hindering/influencing adolescent development, with (70%) of the respondents agreeing to this view, although (30%) of the respondents disagreed.

Sex addiction with prostitution tendencies has been identified as a factor responsible for hindrance in adolescent development, with (80%) of the respondents agreeing with this view. However, 20% of the respondents disagreed.

Findings of this research confirmed the research of Nwankwo [5], where the researcher stated one-third of adolescent/teenage pregnancies been aborted with cases of bleeding, anemia, including fatigue been recorded. Research survey of Fasubaa [8]; Abdool-Karim et al. [9] further confirm the findings from this research as valid, where their research findings presented a view that in Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Nigeria, young women in their teen having the highest seroprevalence rate.

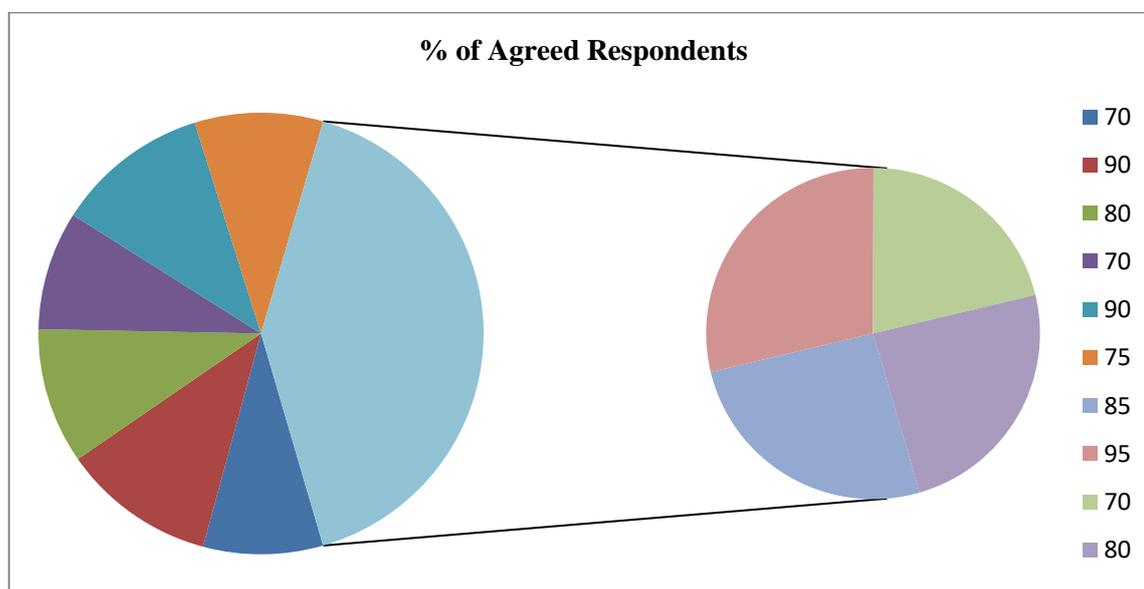


Fig. 1: Analysis Showing the % of Agreed Respondents.

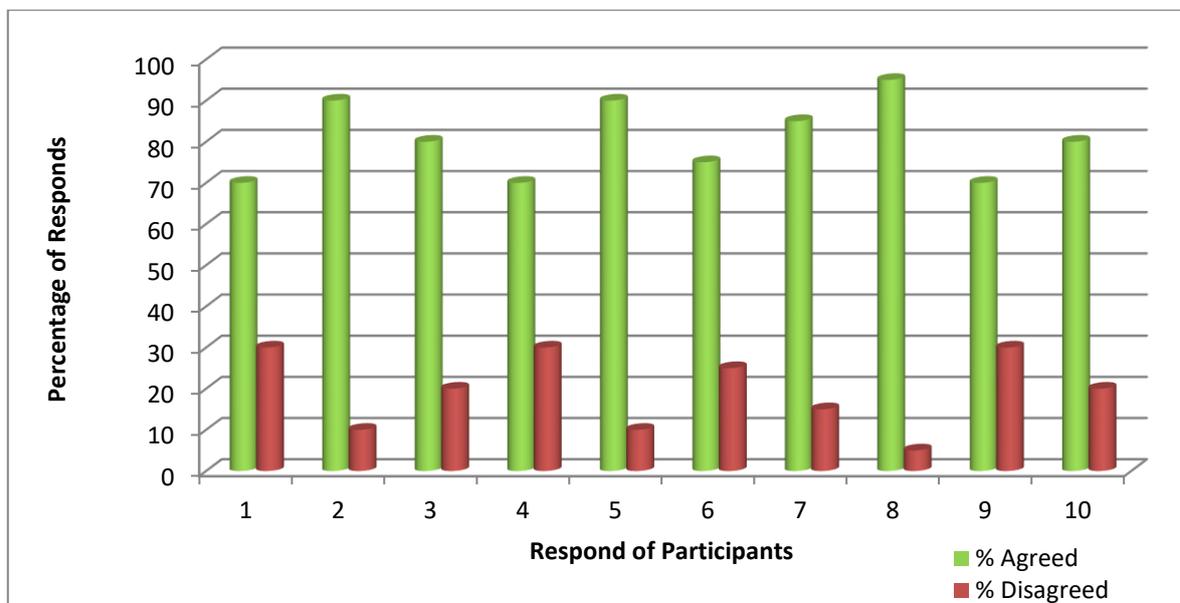


Figure 2: Impact of Various Sexual Behavior of Adolescent on Their Development.

4. Conclusion

Findings of this research presented a view that the increase downward movement for the development of adolescents in the study area is associated to factors identified in this study. Results of this finding present disregard for cultural/societal moral values, rise in STDs and HIV/AIDS transmission rate, including the tendencies for prostitution as a hindrance to adolescent ideal development, presenting a view that these factors must be looked-into and remedied in-order to create an ideal society.

5. Recommendation

Considering the need to create an ideal society, and to raise a healthy adolescent who will replace the adult in the shortest space of time, hence, the need for:

- 1) More intense sexual education becomes imperative.
- 2) Proper discipline of adolescent is important.
- 3) The need for proper Guidance and Counseling arises, for effective conscience building.
- 4) Proper monitoring of adolescents is advised, as they most often are ignorant of the impact/side-effect of what they do.
- 5) The need for reawakening of the traditional African morals and asset value's teaching is encourage/recommended.
- 6) Inclusion of Sex education in religious teachings is also a factor to the solution of the wrong sexuality conception of adolescents.
- 7) Proper dressing code and restriction of adolescent to pornographic materials is encouraged, as these is also a fueling factor to wrong sexual behavior of adolescents.

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