

Experiences of Sexual Abuse by School Adolescent Girls in Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Adesola A. Ogunfowokan (FWACN, RN, PhD)

Department of Nursing Science

Obafemi Awolowo University

Ile-Ife, Nigeria, West Africa

Outline

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Recommendations
- References

Introduction

- Sexual abuse of adolescent girls is a global epidemic and a public health issue (Krug et al., 2002; Chibber and Krishnan, 2012)
- Incidence is increasing at an alarming rate worldwide (Saewyc et al., 2003)
- In Africa, it is difficult to determine the prevalent rate as a result of cultural silence (Ekabua et al., 2006).
- In Nigeria, school adolescent girls have always fallen victims of Sexual Abuse within and outside the school environment (Olaleye et al., 2007)

Introduction (ctd..)

- Sexual abuse of adolescent girls had long been linked to physical injuries, long and short term reproductive health problems, and psychological problems (Banyard et al, 2001)
- It is pertinent to identify the perpetrators and settings for adolescent girls' sexual abuse, and the reaction of the survivors to sexual abuse in order to assist these adolescents to recognize imminent sexual abuse acts and react appropriately to the acts.

Objectives of the study

Study was designed to:

- assess experiences of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape among school adolescent girls in Nigeria,
- identify the perpetrators of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape of school adolescent girls,
- identify the settings for the abuse, and
- determine the reactions of the survivors to sexual abuse.

Methods

Design: Descriptive, cross-sectional

Setting: Ilesa-East and Ife Central Local Government Areas of Osun State, using two Mixed-sex Public Senior Secondary Schools

- **Sample:** 200 school adolescent girls (99,109)
- **Sampling:** Cluster sampling technique
- **Instrument:** Semi-structured questionnaire of Cronbach Alpha of 0.7
- **Ethics:** Institutional review board approval received

RESULTS

- 87% were middle-age adolescents (14-17 years)
- 70% of their mothers were petty traders (70%) and had secondary education certificate (50%)
- Fathers were petty traders (40%) and had tertiary education certificate (43%)
- 56% of the adolescents usually go to school with lunch money of between N1 and N50 (<\$1)
- 7% had between 2 and 4 sexual partners

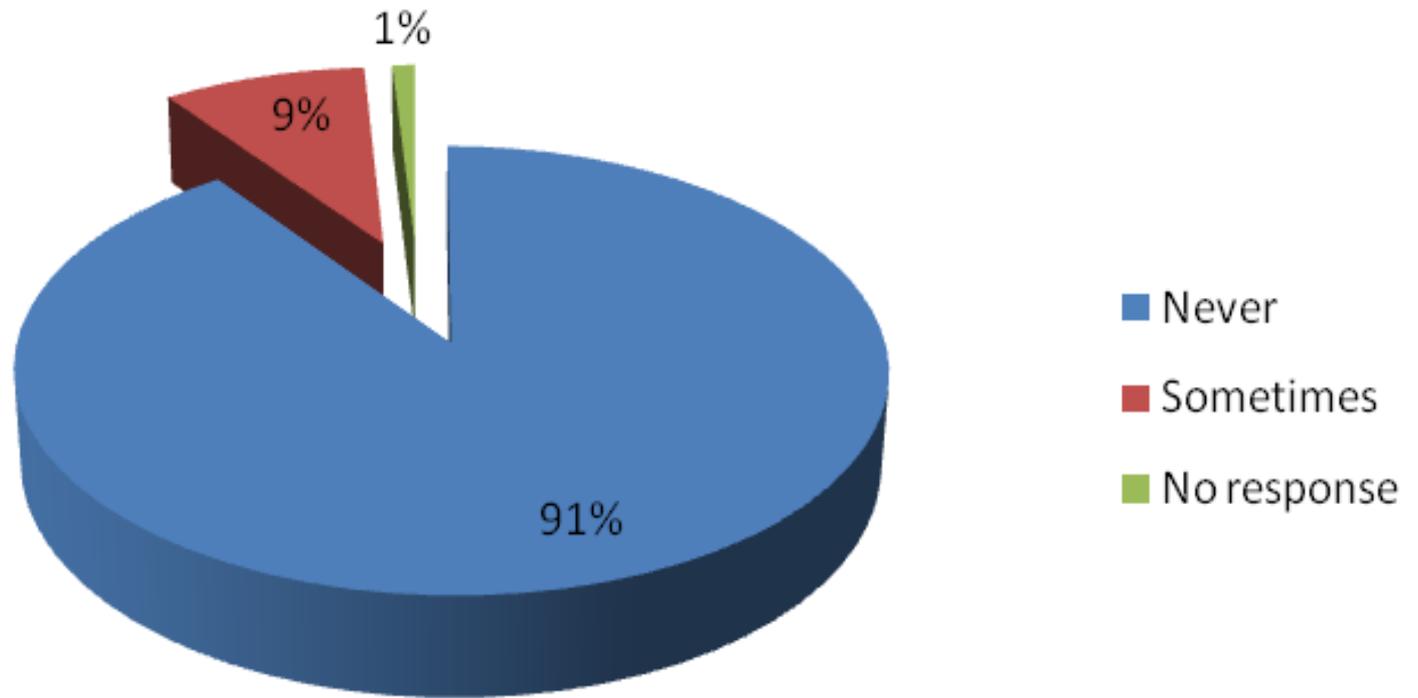


Figure 1: Frequency of sexual intercourse with the opposite sex

Table.1: School Adolescent girls' experiences of childhood sexual abuse (N = 200)

Sexual abuse acts	Yes	No
	%	%
A man touched her sexual parts against her wish when she was in primary school	3	97
A man kissed her against her wish when she was in primary school	12	88
A man fondled her breast against her wish when she was in primary school	4	96
A man had sex with her against her wish when she was in primary school	3	97

Mean Experience = 0.22 ±0.57

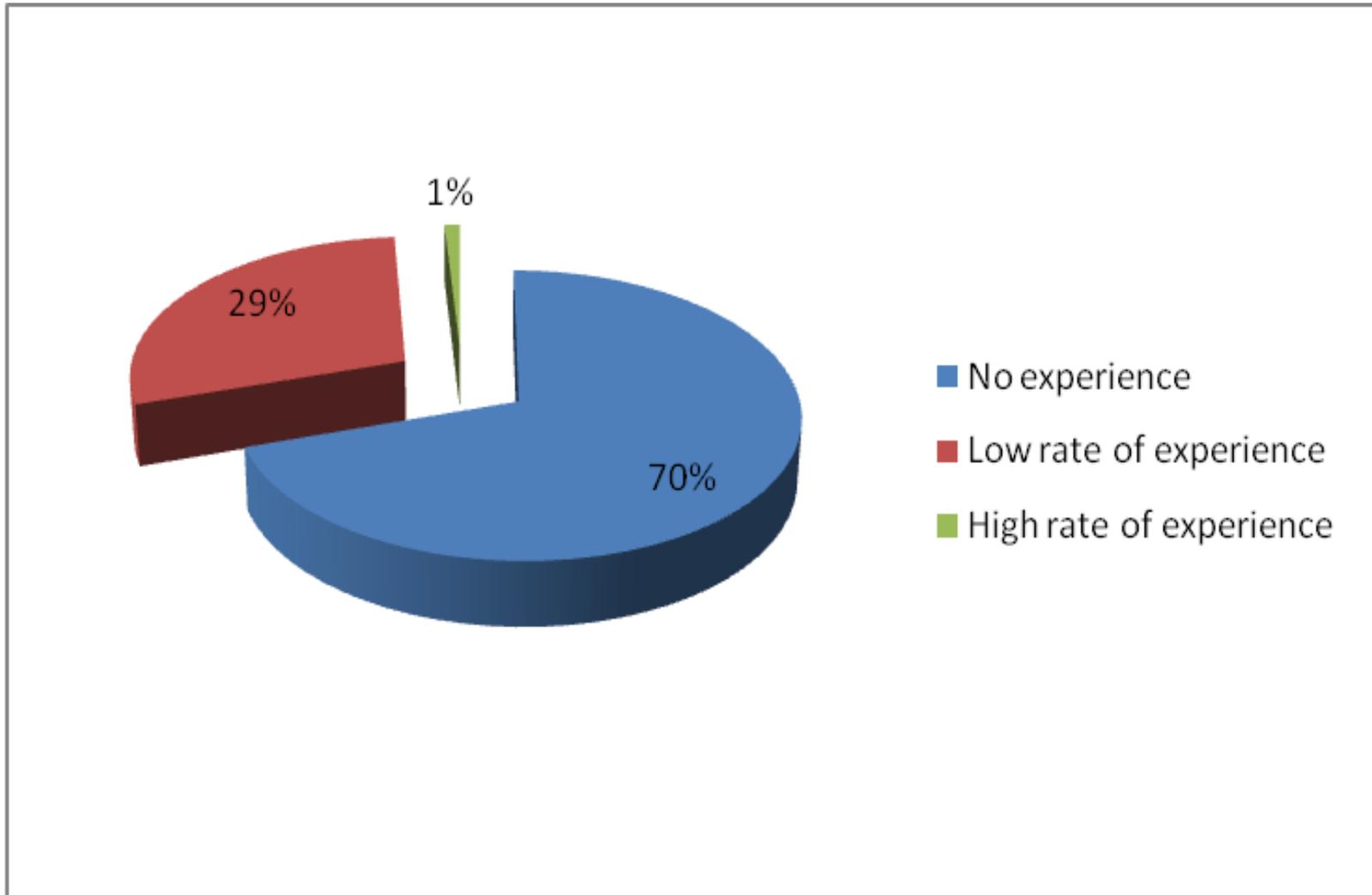


Figure 2: Female School Adolescents' experiences of sexual abuse

Mean experience
=0.57±1.13

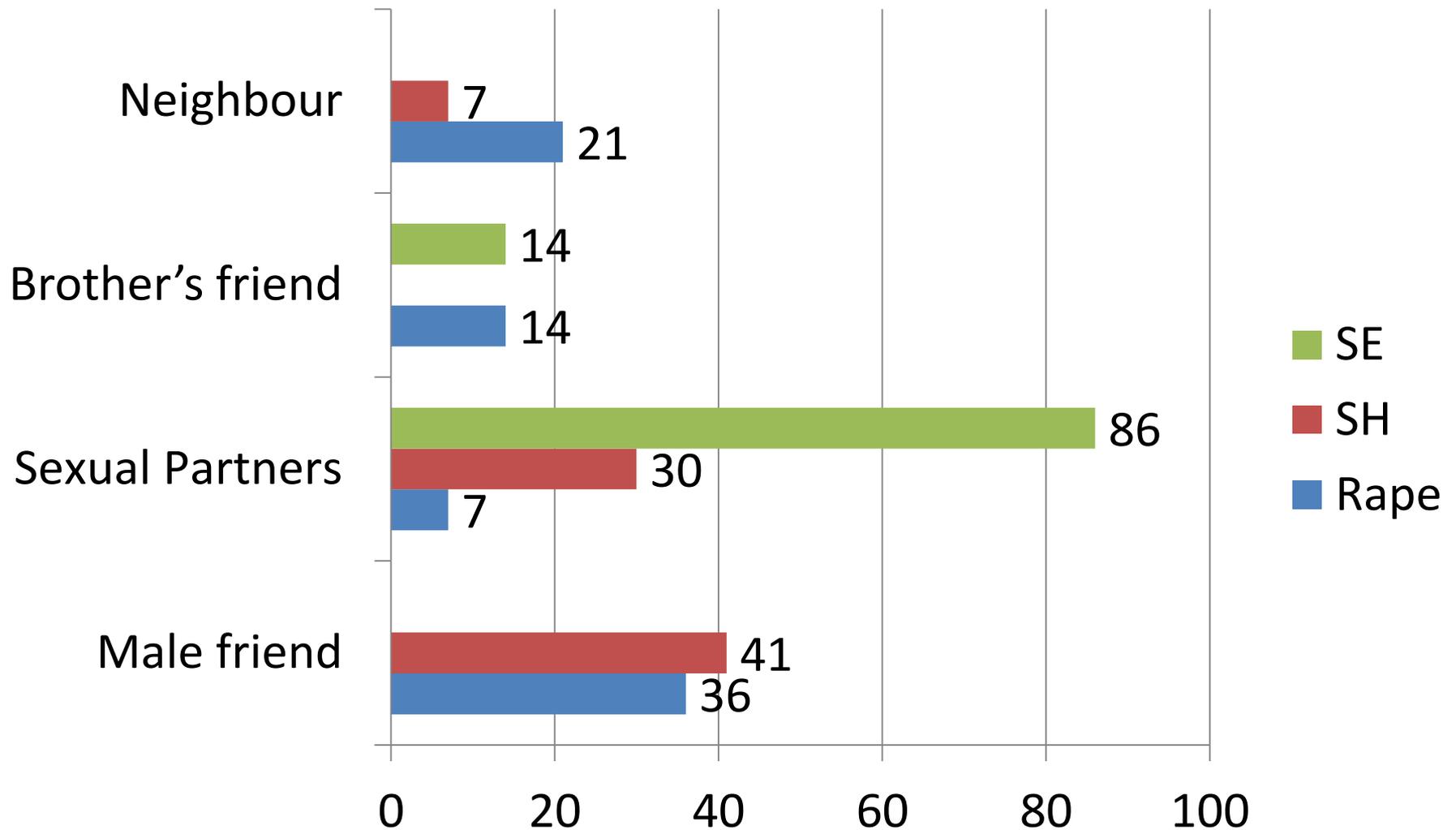


Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of perpetrators of Sexual Abuse of School Adolescent girls

Table2: Settings for Sexual Abuse of School Adolescent girls

Setting	Rape	SH	SE
	%	%	%
Perpetrator's house	93	67	86
Road side	7	15	--
School	--	15	--
Office	--	4	14
Total	100	100	100

Table3: Reaction of School Adolescent girls to Sexual Abuse

Reaction	Rape	SH	SE
	%	%	%
Did nothing	21	41	71
Fought him	21	37	--
Reported the incident	36	22	29
Cried	21	--	--
Total	100	100	100

Hypotheses testing

- Sexual abuse in adolescent stage / childhood sexual abuse ($r = 0.433$; $P = 0.0001$),
- Sexual abuse in adolescent stage / number of sexual partners ($r = -0.225$; $P = 0.001$).

Discussion

- Sexual Abuse perpetrators in Nigeria were majorly sexual partners (28%) followed by friends (25.8%), strangers (25.1%) and others (12.4%) , family (8.7%). (Yahaya et al. 2012). (Survey of 2008)
- Abuse most often occurred at the perpetrator's residence (29.2%). A familiar person was the perpetrator (62.5%) (Ige & Fawole, 2012).

Discussion (ctd..)

- In Seria Leone (Mansaray and Johnson, 2012) perpetrators were :
- age mates (50.0%),
- teachers (24.9 %)
- other adults in the community (19.9%)
- % were members of the girls' households (5.1%)

Conclusion

The study concluded that sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and rape is prevalent among school adolescent girls, and there is need for school nurses to create awareness among them to recognise potential perpetrators and report experiences of sexual abuse.

Recommendations

- Intervention programme should be mounted for children to prevent them from being sexually abused.
- Adolescents who have experienced childhood sexual abuse should be identified and counselled to prevent future occurrences.
- Sexual abuse Prevention programmes for adolescent girls should be carried out.

References

- Yahaya, I., Soares, J., Ponce De Leon, A., & Gloria Macassa (2012). A comparative study of the socioeconomic factors associated with childhood sexual abuse in sub-Saharan Africa *Pan African Medical Journal*. 11: 51.
- Chibber, K. S., & Krishnan, S. (2012). Confronting intimate partner violence, a global health care priority. *Mt Sinai J Med*. 78(3): 449–457.
- Ige, O. K. & Fawole, O. I. (2012). Evaluating the Medical Care of Child Sexual Abuse Victims in a General Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria. *Ghana Med J*. 46(1): 22–26.
- Krug, G. E., Mercy, J. A., Dahlberg, L. L., & Zwi, A. B. (2002). *The World Report on Violence and Health (eds)*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Ekabua, J. E., Agan, T. U., Iklaki, C. U., Ekanem, E. I., Itam, I. H., & Ogaji, D. S., (2006). Risk factors associated with sexual assault in Calabar, South-Eastern, Nigeria. *Niger J Med*. 15(4):406-8.
- Olaleye, O. A., Anoemuah, O. A., Ladipo, O. A., Delano, G. E., & Idowu, G. F. (2007). Sexual behaviours and reproductive health knowledge among in-school young people with disabilities in Ibadan, Nigeria. *Health Education* 107 (2): 208 - 218

References (ctd...)

- Saewyc, E. M., Pettingell, S. & Lara L. Magee, L. L. (2003). The Prevalence of Sexual Abuse Among Adolescents in School. *The Journal of School Nursing* 19 (5): 266-272
- Mansaray, A. & Johnson, A. O. (2012). Study in sexual abuse of in-school adolescent girls In the eastern province of Sierra Leone. *Scholarly Journal of Education*. 1(3), pp. 31-36.
- Banyard, V. L., Williams, L. M., & Siegel, J. A. (2001). The longterm mental health consequences of child sexual abuse: An exploratory study of the impact of multiple traumas in a sample of women. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 14, 697–715.