

RELIGIOSITY, PARENTAL MONITORING AND CONTROL AND NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS AMONG EMERGING ADULTS

Introduction

High prevalence of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS has generated a serious public health concern in sub-Saharan Africa countries in the last three decades. Among these grave sexual outcomes, HIV/AIDS has reached an epidemic proportion and has affected the health status of the segment of the population that countries leverage on for development initiatives, the emerging adults. For example, evidence shows SSA shares 71% of the global HIV burden in the world and more than 50% of new infections are among young people aged 15-24 years (Kharsany & Karm, 2016, WHO, 2016). The high prevalence of HIV and other STIs is attributed to engagement of young people in risky sexual behaviour including early sexual debut, substance abuse, multiple sexual partnership and transactional sex Chomma et al, 2012, Uchudi et al, 2012, Namisi et al, 2013).

Evidence shows 9% of the global burden of HIV is in Nigeria especially among the youth aged 15-24 years (NPC and ICF Macro, 2014). Nigeria population has about 45% of young people under the age of 15 years. While several studies in Nigeria have linked individual, household and community factors to sexual behaviour of young people considering their age categories, evidence is sparse on factors driving risky sexual behaviour among emerging adults who have been understudied in SSA (ref)

Emerging adulthood (ages 18-25 years), is a stage within the individual life course and is conceptualized as a period of relative freedom responsibilities associated with adulthood (marriage, having children) where individuals are able to explore aspects of their identity. Yet, studies on emerging adults sexuality is sorely lacking in Nigeria except a study by (Agunboade & Aransiola, 2016) that focused on patterns of sexual behaviour of emerging adults in two selected tertiary institutions in Osun State, to our knowledge no study has been conducted in Nigeria on the sexuality of this understudied social category of young people. This omission has implications in addressing the increasing negative sexual health outcomes in Nigeria. It has been debated in the literature that unmarried emerging adults who have relative autonomy in decision-making, live independent of parents especially the university based students are more vulnerable to poor health outcomes because of identity exploration and sexual permissiveness (Anett, 2015 Bersamp et al, 2014).

One of the identity exploration factors has been sparingly examined in Nigeria is the influence of religiosity on sexual behaviour of youth people. However, the few studies that have established relationship between religiosity constructs and sexuality of young people in Nigeria focused on adolescents and reported mixed results. Although researchers have begun in earnest to interrogate the

influence of religiosity constructs on sexual behaviour of emerging adults in studies outside Nigeria (ref)

These studies emphasised the need to focus research on emerging adults sexuality because it is the period of identity exploration, sex experimentation and permissiveness

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 descriptive analysis of socio-demographic Religiosity constructs parental control and S B of

| Variables | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Sex | | |
| Male | 375 | 45.13 |
| Female | 456 | 54.87 |
| Total | 831 | 100.00 |
| Age | | |
| 15-17 | 182 | 21.90 |
| 18-25 | 649 | 78.10 |
| Total | 831 | 100.00 |
| Religion | | |
| Christianity | 470 | 56.56 |
| Islam | 349 | 42.00 |
| Traditional | 12 | 1.44 |
| Total | 831 | 100.00 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------|
| Education | | |
| Educated | 816 | 98.31 |
| Non educated | 14 | 1.61 |
| Total | 830 | 100.00 |
| Family size | | |
| Small | 123 | 14.86 |
| Moderate | 584 | 70.53 |
| Large | 121 | 14.61 |
| Total | 828 | 100.00 |
| Religious Attendance | | |
| No religious service | 46 | 5.54 |
| Weekly | 461 | 55.48 |
| Daily | 324 | 38.99 |
| Total | 831 | 100.00 |
| Religious belief | | |
| Strongly disagree | 35 | 4.22 |
| Disagree | 302 | 36.43 |
| Strongly agree | 492 | 59.35 |
| Total | 829 | 100.00 |
| Religious important | | |
| Very important | 35 | 4.22 |
| Somewhat important | 353 | 42.58 |
| Not important at all | 441 | 53.20 |
| Total | 829 | 100.00 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Number of religious group | | |
| None | 190 | 23.14 |
| One to two group | 487 | 59.32 |
| Three or more group | 144 | 17.54 |
| Total | 821 | 100.00 |
| Parental control | | |
| Low | 23 | 431 |
| Medium | 72 | 13.48 |
| High | 439 | 82.21 |
| Total | 534 | 100.00 |
| Ethnicity | | |
| Yoruba | 642 | 77.26 |
| Hausa/Fulani | 177 | 21.30 |
| Igbo | 12 | 1.44 |
| Total | 831 | 100.00 |
| Employment status | | |
| Working | 209 | 25.27 |
| Not working | 618 | 74.73 |
| Total | 827 | 100.00 |
| Number of sexual partners | | |
| None | 426 | 54.41 |
| Single | 205 | 26.18 |
| Multiple | 152 | 19.41 |
| Total | 783 | 100.00 |

Table 2**Unadjusted Bivariate Relationship between Religiosity constructs and numbers of sexual partners**

| Variable | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Number of sexual partner | | | |
| | None | 1-2 | 3+ |
| None | 98(23.28) | 232(55.11) | 91(21.62) |
| Single | 25(26.00) | 123(61.50) | 25(12.50) |
| Multiple | 28(18.42) | 104(68.42) | 20(13.16) |
| $X^2 = 14.23$ p-value = 0.00 | | | |
| Importance of religion in daily life | | | |
| None | 18(4.24) | 157(36.94) | 250(58.82) |
| Single | 6(2.93) | 97(47.32) | 102(49.76) |
| Multiple | 10(6.62) | 83(54.57) | 58(38.41) |
| $X^2 = 21.50$; p-value = 0.00 | | | |
| Religious belief | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Strongly agree |
| None | 13(3.06) | 112(26.35) | 300(70.59) |
| Single | 8(3.92) | 95(46.57) | 101(44.51) |
| Multiple | 13(8.55) | 78(51.32) | 61(40.13) |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| $X^2 = 56.5810$; p-value = 0.000 | | | |
| Religiosity | Christianity | Islam | Traditional |
| None | 238(55.87) | 182(42.72) | 6(1.41) |
| Single | 115(56.10) | 88(42.93) | 2(0.98) |
| Multiple | 92(60.53) | 56(36.84) | 4(2.63) |
| $X^2 = 3.1517$; p-value = 0.533 | | | |
| Parental control | Low | Medium | High |
| None | 10(3.31) | 30(9.93) | 262(86.75) |
| Single | 4(3.36) | 19(15.97) | 96(80.67) |
| Multiple | 4(5.63) | 16(22.54) | 51(71.83) |
| $X^2 = 10.3510$ p-value = 0.035 | | | |
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