

## THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL VARIABLES ON PRONENESS TO LESBIANISM AMONG FEMALE ADULTS IN LAGOS METROPOLIS

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the influence of socio-cultural variables on proneness to lesbianism among female adults in Lagos Metropolis. A structured questionnaire was designed for the purpose of collecting data by the investigator. The questionnaire was administered on 150 female adults drawn from two local government areas in Lagos State which include Ikeja Local Government (the staff of Police Children School and Sogunle Primary School) and Mainland Local Government Area (Sandwich Students offering Guidance and Counselling, and Educational Psychology in Educational Foundations Department, Faculty of education, University of Lagos). The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient and t-test were used to test the five hypothesis generated for testing in this study. The findings revealed that three of the five hypotheses – peer group pressure, sexual gratification and mass media - tested established the influence of socio-cultural variables on proneness to lesbianism among the female adults while the remaining two – ethnicity and beliefs/customs - do not. As a result, three of the hypotheses are accepted. To further ascertain the degree of these variables, other silent factors have been examined under the discussion on findings which elucidate the slight variations of the hypotheses tested among the tribes of Nigeria. The implications of the study for guidance and counseling were also discussed to help the counselors effectively handle this unhealthy practice in our society.*

**Keywords:** *Lesbianism; Socio-cultural; Female Adults*

### Introduction

Lesbians, homosexuality and gay are sexual practices which are prohibited by nature. The globalisation and unchecked influence of internet and social media on the society at large has resulted in outrageous growth in the number of people indulging in these immoral sexual practices globally. Nigeria, as a member of the global community, has continued to have their share in the growing record of male and female citizens who are engaging in these despicable acts. The demand by some world leaders to influence the legalisation of lesbianism, homosexuality and gayism in Nigeria is evidence that there exist lesbians, gay men and bisexual women and men in Nigeria. With the growing concern about lesbians and gay identities in recent years, issues relating to sexual orientation have become more and prominent in public discourse. Sexual orientation and enlightenment remain the key approach in creating awareness among the Nigerian populace on the danger of engaging and promoting same sex practice either between men to men or women to women. This study is embarked on to investigate the influence of socio-cultural variables on proneness to lesbianism among female adults in Lagos metropolis. This will serve as one of the resource materials on this subject for the counsellors and a working document for the government of Nigeria on how best to tackle the challenges envisaging from the practice of lesbianism.

Sexuality is an integral normal human process. It is a natural phenomenon, which can be used by individuals in a pleasurable manner with a view to gratifying sexual needs emotionally, socially and otherwise. Freud S. (1953) said that at the onset of puberty, when the adolescent experiences physical, physiological and emotional changes, it is normal occurrence that they get attracted to the opposite sex. They are bound to experiment in sexual matters with the opposite sex; however, the basic thing at this stage is mating with appropriate partner. Evidently, one of the basic things in life is sex. Osarenren (1997), indicates that

perpetuation of the human race through procreation may not be possible without the satisfaction of our sexual needs. All over the world, sociologists also recognised the integration of function of sex as contributing to the stability of the family unit and the entire structure of the social group.

But most adults tend to digress from the normal sexual act of heterosexuality (male and female sexual relationship) to lesbianism. Lesbianism is a sexual affection between female and female partners. In a broader perspective, a lesbian can be defined as a woman whose primary sexual and affection attractions are to other women and who has a sexual minority identity; that is, recognises through the use of language or symbolic expressions that her sexual orientation places her apart from a sexual mainstream, even though she may not use the term “lesbian” per se. Our culture, over the years, abhors same sex sexual affection whether between female and female or male and male. It is generally perceived as a sinned against nature and humanity. Lesbianism is a kind of practice that came into existence through the western education which has been further spread and promoted today by the Internet and social media. This "imported practice" has come to influence the diverse cultures that the city like Lagos in Nigeria is surrounded with, through the complex ethnic groups (such as the Yoruba's, the Ibos, the Hausa, the Efik's, the Ibibios..., the upper, the middle and the lower classes, the educated and the non-educated etc) in the society. In every society culture demands the normal sexual process of man and woman, even right from Adams.

There are norms, values, beliefs and aspiration which govern the practices or conducts of the individual in the society. Thus, lesbianism is regarded as a huge taboo in most societies because it does not conform with the societies culture and could lead violating social norms and values that guide the normal sexual process. Hence, the normative Nigeria cultural view, on human sexuality is that a boy or girl enters on maturity into sexual activity through heterosexual marriage.

Even though, the Nigerian cultures, religion and social life are strongly against immoral sexual practice, lesbianism has found it ways into Nigeria society. Though most native languages and cultures have no words to describe such practice or no words to describe such practice or specific sanctions for those who indulge in them. The argument is that the more enlightened members of modern Nigerian society would accommodate such practice as normative proved false. However, since there is no law prohibiting it in Nigeria, it will be very difficult to prosecute anyone who engages in this act. The first defensive measure to curtail the spread of this vice is to develop law that will prescribe appropriate penalties on anyone finds indulging in this act.

Consistent with the ecological approach therefore society/community and culture/contextual issues about lesbianism, the ways in which individuals and social group are embedded in it, influenced by it, and in turn influence their larger community are the focus of this study.

### **Statement of Problem**

Globalisation is fast eroding the cultural values of the world's nations. The recent legislation of same sex practice and homosexuals in the western world is worrisome. Even though, Nigerian government has vehemently condemned this heinous act and has refused to be influenced by the purported supporters of this anti-nature practice to legislate this act in country, the investigator has examined, in this study, the influence of peer group, ethnic differences, mass media, sexual gratification, and beliefs and customs on proneness to lesbianism among the female adults in Lagos Metropolis of Nigeria. In addition to this, this study has also examined the probable reasons while female adults take to lesbianism as the means of getting affection and sexual satisfaction. More so, the study considers the various challenges as antigay and anti-lesbian prejudice

is evident in institutions involved with health care, education and employment that often fail to support and in many cases are openly hostile to lesbian and gay families.

In the field of Education in general and psychology in particular, the practices (Lesbianism and homosexuality) are regarded as abnormal of sexual indiscipline and sexual deviant respectively. This is because the practices do not conform with the societies norms, values beliefs and aspirations. All these prejudices need to be addressed.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main focus of this study is to determine whether significant influence of socio-cultural variables on proneness to lesbianism among female adult exist. To achieve this, the study will establish whether:

- (a) Peer group affects proneness to lesbianism.
- (b) Ethnic differences affect proneness to Lesbianism.
- (c) Mass Media through Television, Newspapers, Magazines, etc affect proneness to lesbianism.
- (d) The need for sexual gratification affects proneness to lesbianism.
- (e) Influence of beliefs on man with regard to marital prejudice affects proneness to lesbianism.

### **Research Questions**

As the outline of issues suggests, the following research questions are posed by the emergence of prospective lesbians in order to find solutions.

- (i) Does peer group influence proneness to lesbianism?
- (ii) To what extent does ethnic differences affects proneness to lesbianism.
- (iii) What are the different means mass media affects proneness to lesbianism?
- (iv) Is sexual gratification a serious factor on proneness to lesbianism?
- (v) How does the influence of beliefs on man with regard to marital prejudice affect proneness to lesbianism?

### **Research Hypothesis**

For convenient proceedings of this study, the following five null hypotheses, were formulated to test the probable factors on proneness to lesbianism among female adults:-

- ❖ Peer group does not significantly influence proneness to lesbianism among female adults.
- ❖ Ethnic difference does not significantly influence proneness to lesbianism among female adults.
- ❖ Mass media does not significantly influence proneness to lesbianism among female adults.
- ❖ Sexual gratification does not significantly influence proneness to lesbianism among female adults.
- ❖ Cultural beliefs do not significantly influence proneness to lesbianism among female adults.

### **Research Methodology**

A combined quantitative and qualitative descriptive survey research method was adopted in this study to assess the influence of socio-cultural variables on proneness to lesbianism among female adults in Lagos metropolis. The sample, for this study was one hundred and fifty [150] female adults, age 21 years and above, drawn from 2 local government areas of Lagos State. The participants include married, unmarried, separated, and widows female adult professional teachers in Sogunle Primary School Ikeja and Police Children School Ikeja and female adults in sandwich undergraduate and post graduate students in Educational Foundations Department 500 and 800 levels faculty of Education, University of Lagos Akoka. The questionnaire is divided into part A and B. Part A – 7 items raised questions related to personal data. Part B has 5 sections A – E. Section A – 10 items raised relating to proneness to lesbianism; Section B

– 10 items raised questions relating to peer group influence; Section C – 10 items covered questions relating to mass media influence and Section D – 10 items covered questions relating to sexual gratification and Section E – 10 items raised questions relating to beliefs and customs influence. The researcher used split-half method to validate the questionnaire. The essence of this, is to determine the test reliability by splitting the test into halves. A group of thirty (30) respondents were used after obtaining the scores of each respondent on each half test, and finally correlating the two sets of score so obtained, Pearson product moment correlation coefficient formula was used to derive the reliability coefficient.

### Procedure for Data Analysis

To analyse the data collected the researcher made use of the mean, Standard deviation, one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) after categorization of the group into: low, moderate and high, with the aid of SPSS Programme package to test the extent of the influence of one variable on another variable through the following hypothesis tested:

### Hypotheses One:

There is no significant influence of peer group on proneness to lesbianism among female adults.

Table 1: One-way analysis of variance on peer group and proneness to lesbianism among females.

Peer influence	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	
High	34	26.58	3.44	
Moderate	70	23.34	2.69	
Low	46	21.46	5.83	
Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean of Square	F-ratio
Between groups	247.36	2	123.68	3.32
Within groups	5481.63	147	37.29	
Total	5728.99	149		

Significant at 0.05; df 2 & 147; Critical F = 3.05

Table 2 shows that a calculated f -value of 3.32 resulted as the influence of peer group or proneness to lesbianism among female adults. This calculated f - value is significant since it is greater than the critical F -' value of 3.05 given 2 and 147 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significant. This led to the acceptance of the alternate hypothesis, which stated that there is a significant influence of peer group on proneness to lesbianism among females.

Consequent to the significant F – value of 3.32 observed, further analysis of data was done using Fisher's protected t - test to do a pair wise comparison of the group means ( $\bar{x}$ ) to determine which group differ from the other on proneness to lesbianism. The result of the comparison show that females who have high peer influence significantly have higher proneness to lesbianism than those who have moderate peer group influence ( $t=2.55$ ;  $df=102$ ; Critical F =2.00;  $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly females who had high peer influence significantly have higher proneness to lesbianism than those who have low group influence ( $t=3.71$ ;  $df= 78$ ; critical F=2.00;  $P <0.05$ ). On the other hand females who had moderate peer group influence do not significantly differ in level of proneness lesbianism from those who had low peer influence ( $t=1.62$ .  $df=114$ ; critical F= 2.00;  $P > 0.05$ ).

**Hypothesis Two**

In the null form the hypothesis stated that there is no significant influence of ethnicity on proneness to lesbianism among female adults.

To test the hypothesis, the sample responses on item No 3 in part A of the questionnaire was used to categorise respondents into three groups before using their responses on item numbers 1 to 10 in Section A of part B in the questionnaire to calculate the mean (x)score and standard deviation for each group. Therefore One -way analysis of variance statistics was used to determine whether significant influence of ethnicity on proneness to lesbianism among female adults exist. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2 –

Table 2  
One-way analysis of variance on ethnic difference and proneness to lesbianism among females.

Ethnicity	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	
Hausa	18	23.02	5.72	
Igbo	41	24.61	7.16	
Yoruba	60	22.94	8.05	
Others	31	25.33	6.44	
Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean of Square	F-ratio
Between groups	234.26	3	78.09	
Within groups	4396.06	146	30.11	2.59
Total	4630.32	149		

\* Not significant at 0.05; df = 3 & 146; Critical F=3.06.

Table 3 shows that a calculated F -value of 2.59 resulted as the influence of ethnicity on proneness to lesbianism among female adults. This calculated F - value of 2.59 is not significant since it is less than the Critical F -value of 3.06 given 3 and 146 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Consequently, the null hypothesis, which stated that there is no significant ethnic difference in proneness to lesbianism among adult female, was accepted.

**Hypothesis Three**

In the null form hypotheses stated that there is no significant influence of mass media on proneness to lesbianism among female adults.

To test the hypotheses, the response of the female participants on item numbers 1 to 10 in Section C measuring mass media influence was used to categorise respondents into three groups before using their responses in section of part B in the same questionnaire to calculate the mean score and standard deviation for each of the groups.

Consequently, One way analysis of variance statistics was used to determine whether significant influences of mass media on proneness to lesbianism among the female adults exist. The result of the analysis is

presented in Table 3.

Table 3

One -way analysis of variance on mass media and proneness to lesbianism among females.

Mass media	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	
Moderate	73	25.84	4.16	
Low	38	23.19	5.63	
Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean of Square	F - ratio
Between groups	208.42	2	104.21	
Within groups	4461.45	147	30.35	3.43
Total	4669.87	149		

\* Not significant at 0.05; df = 2 & 147; Critical F=3.05.

Table 3 shows that a calculated F -value of 3.43 resulted as the influence of mass media on proneness to lesbianism among female adults. This calculated F - value of 3.43 is significant since it is greater than the Critical F -value at 3.05 given 2 and 147 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Consequently, the alternate hypothesis, which states that there is a significant influence of mass media on proneness to lesbianism among females, was accepted.

Further analysis of data was done since there was significant influence observed. This was achieved using Fisher's protected t test technique. The result of the analysis shows that females who had mass media influence are not significantly prone to lesbianism more than those who had moderate influence of mass media ( $t = 1.44$ ;  $df = 110$ ); critical  $F = 2.00$ ;  $P > 0.05$ ). However, females who had high mass media influence significantly are more prone to lesbianism than those who have low mass media influence ( $t = 3.36$ ;  $df = 75$ ; critical  $F = 2.03$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ) Similarly, adults who had moderate mass media influence significantly are more prone to lesbianism than those who had low mass media influence ( $t = 2.41$ ;  $df = 109$ ; Critical  $F = 2.00$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ).

#### Hypotheses Four

In the null form the hypothesis stated that there is no significant influence of sexual gratification on proneness to lesbianism among female adults.

To test the hypothesis, respondents were classified into three groups based on their response on item numbers 1 to 10 in Section D, part B of the questionnaire. Thereafter each respondent's scores on item numbers 1 to 10 in section A and part of the questionnaire was used to calculate the mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) scores and standard deviation for each group. Consequently, One-way analysis of variance statistics was used to determine whether significant influence of sexual gratification on proneness to lesbianism exist. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 4.

One-way analysis of variance on sexual gratification and proneness to lesbianism.

Gratification	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	
Adequate	32	22.06	3.25	
Moderate	66	24.83	7.19	
Inadequate	52	26.55	4.26	
Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Means of Squares	F = ratio
Between Groups	281.04	2	140.52	4.71
Within Groups	4388.83	147	29.86	
Total	4669.87	149		

\* Not significant at 0.05; df = 2 & 147; Critical F=3.05.

Table 4 shows that a Calculated F - value of 4.71 resulted as the influence of sexual gratification on proneness to lesbianism among females. This calculated F-value of 4.71 is significant since it is greater than Critical F-value of 3.05 given 2 and 147 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. This led to the acceptance of the alternate hypothesis which states that there is a significant influence of sexual gratification on proneness to lesbianism among females.

Based on the significant F =value obtained, further analysis of data was done to determine the trend of the difference observed. Fisher's protected t -test was used to do a pair wise Comparison of the group means. The result of the comparison shows that females who have adequate sexual gratification are less prone to lesbianism than those who had moderate sexual gratification ( $t = 2.37$ ;  $df = 96$ ; Critical  $F = 2.03$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). Similarly, females who had adequate sexual gratification are less prone to lesbianism as compared to those who have inadequate sexual gratification ( $t = 3.68$ ;  $df = 82$ ; Critical  $F = 2.03$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). However, there was no significant difference in proneness to lesbianism observed in the comparison between females who have moderate sexual gratification and those who had low sexual gratification ( $t = 1.70$ ;  $df = 116$ ; Critical  $F = 2.00$ ;  $P > 0.05$ )

### **Hypothesis Five**

In the null form the hypothesis stated that there is no significant influence of cultural beliefs on proneness to lesbianism among females.

To test the hypothesis, respondents were categorised into three based on their responses on item numbers 1 to 10 in Section E, part B of the questionnaire.

Thereafter each respondent's responses on item numbers 1 to 10 in Section A of Part B of questionnaire was used to calculate the mean Score and standard deviation for each group. Consequently, the One-way analysis of variance statistics was used to determine whether significant influence of cultural beliefs on proneness to lesbianism exist. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 5

Table 5

One -way analysis of variance on cultural beliefs and proneness to lesbianism among females.

Beliefs	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	
High	46	23.69	4.38	
Moderate	63	24.07	7.92	
Low	41	22.85	2.46	
Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean of Square	F - ratio
Between Groups	106.86	2	53.43	
Within Groups	4563.01	147	31.04	1.72
Total	4669.87	149		

\* Not significant at 0.05; df= 2 & 147; Critical F = 3.05.

Table 5 shows that a Calculated F-value of 1.72 resulted as the influence of cultural beliefs on proneness to lesbianism among females. This Calculated F - value is not significant since it is less than the critical F - value of 3.05 given 2 and 147 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Consequently, the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant influence of cultural beliefs on proneness to lesbianism among female adults, was accepted.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings in the analysis of the first hypothesis stated that peer group influence significantly female adults on proneness to lesbianism. This infuses that female adults have peer pressure of their own age or social class on the way they behave or dress like the adolescents, too. The finding is found supported by the study of Wiese (1992), when he stated that the group described their behaviour as a practical joke but that it appears also to have strengthened their sense of solidarity which informal leader explained that peer pressure has a lot to do with their behaviour as lesbians. That sometimes, you are forced into doing something to prove yourself to others. Another member, according to Wiese study, describing her feelings after the incident as a "Relief" and a kind of high.

In contrast to the findings, Ogbebor (1990), emphasised that peer group may not relevantly be a determinant of child behaviour but that it is what the child inherits from the environment, home, school, family through imitation, etc. That this urge to imitate peers either for good or for bad increases, as the child grows older into adulthood. In any case, the researcher believed that an individual whether young or old has instinct that control his or her behaviour. In effect, this instinct has more influence on someone behaviour than peer influence. More so, the child orientation and family background have a lot influence on individuals' behaviour.

Another findings in this study revealed that there was no significant influence of ethnicity on proneness to lesbianism among female adults. This finding is not surprising as it supported the findings of Herek and Glunt (1988) which revealed that lesbians and gay men which do not live near metropolitan areas still experience profound isolation with few sources of social support. Another supportive finding was that of the



general opinion of the society that the practice is considered a 'huge taboo' in the society describing it as tools for corroding and eroding societal norms and values.

On the other hand, April (1996), likened ethnicity on proneness to lesbianism to "racist or sexist" who do not see anything wrong with their attitude but to other people's behaviour; thereby showing deliberate offensive or harmful to people who do not belong to their race. They think their race is better than other people's. Consequent upon this, the researcher believes that racist exist on proneness to lesbianism from the researcher's interview with three interviewees explained that in Hausa land, women were not to be seen and not to be heard; besides, their husbands or men were always in the desert fighting Jihad in the then days. For this reason, women were all days in doors as "Pule" and this gave room for indulging in female-female sexual relationship. The Ibo interviewee, told the researcher that in Ibo land, women are given out in marriage to women especially if the woman who pays the dowry was unable to give birth to children. That the woman can have sexual intercourse with the woman she pays dowry for, any time or if she wishes to do so. Another important reason advanced by the Ibo interviewee was that when a girl has encountered unwanted pregnancy, she will have no other choice than to agree to female-female marriage, to secure and satisfy herself.

The finding of hypothesis three showed that the influence of mass media affects female adults on proneness to lesbianism. This implies that the alternative hypothesis was retained instead of the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant influence of mass media on proneness to lesbianism. In this case, the study supporting this finding was that since lesbian and gay youth have been expose to T.V and the media for the longest period of time before coming out and since the images the media house presented for the most part, been filled with psychopathology of one sort or another then, it is little wonder that the prospect of being homosexual and lesbian would be met with mixed feelings. That without parental supports, mentoring or positive role models, gay and lesbian youth also face other tremendous difficulties.

In contrast to the findings was Gertsel et al (1989) a group approach to psychotherapy with lesbian and gay youth when, they postulated that it is not only adolescents who are opportune to T.V., newspapers or magazines are found practising lesbianism or homosexuality. More so, lesbians or gay may not necessarily be educated or sociable. In effect, the researcher opined that whether literate or illiterate, sociable or unsociable, urban or rural lesbianism and gay can cut across all, since, their reasons for doing it is rather obvious to them.

It was also noticed that there exist significant influence of sexual gratification on proneness to lesbianism among female adults. This finding was in line with the finding of the Hawaii legislature through the State Attorneys (1996), who carried out "procreation" argument in their case against same-sex marriage. Their finding was that some men and women comprise the biological procreative unit; only heterosexual couples need the protection that marriage provides. In another development contrasting this finding can be seen in the work of ACSF Investigators (1992) who stated that there are other risks apart from HIV/AIDS. In an exclusive chat with weekly Trust, the preventive cardiology expert said same-sex, intercourse destroys the epithelial layer of anal lining is not so lubricated as to "withstand frictional movement". The researcher's view on this finding could be seen in the supportive angle that most females who indulged in lesbianism do so as a getaway strategy. That is if I do it with a man I will be pregnant but with a female of my type, I will not be pregnant. In addition, it will empower the females and allow them the right of a woman in marriage.

Another finding of this study showed that influence of beliefs and customs is not significant on proneness to lesbianism among female adults. The finding was consisted Ad leman (1986), study, who found that people

with recreational or traditional attitudes about sex tend to have the most negative reactions toward same-gender sex, considering such activity to be almost always wrong. The rational attitudes group is more moderate in its disapproval of same-sex and the people who hold recreational attitudes about sex are the most accepting group. On the contrary therefore, it is a “huge taboo” Kellys (1977) refuted when he came out with a finding that a number of negative stereotypes held in the popular and scientific literature concerning older lesbians.

The researcher believed that the perceived influence of beliefs and customs on men in Nigeria context differ from one society to the other. For this reason, a thing of value in one society may be perceive as valueless by another society. Thus, the belief of every individual is governed by his or her philosophy in life.

These findings as highlighted in this section have shown the possible underlying factors responsible for female adults indulging in same-gender sexual relationship which fashioned out the decision making process of various variables consisting proneness to lesbianism in Lagos Metropolis in particular and Nigeria situations at larger.

### **IMPLICATION FOR GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING**

A critical assessment of the implication of findings in this study specifically for guidance and counselling situation indicated that for bisexual men and women, the predominance of a polarised view of sexual orientation and relative lack of a visible bisexual community complicate the task of coming to terms with concurrent heterosexual and homosexual attractions. As for many lesbians and gay men, psychotherapy has been helpful for many women and men in facing the issues involved in the coming out process. Several issues that bisexual women and men typically bring into psychotherapy have been identified thus, uncertainty about how to interpret their sexual attractions to both women and men; isolation, based on not knowing other bisexual men and women; alienation, feeling different from both heterosexuals and gay men or lesbians; apprehension about disclosure of their bisexual to other people in their lives; and concerns about relationships and how to proceed with new or existing relationships while being open about sexual orientation issues. Psychotherapy can assist an individual in coming to terms with these issues by facilitating greater self-acceptance and the courage to move from isolation to connection with a community of similar others. Autobiographical accounts also can be helpful by illustrating how bisexual women and men have experienced and successfully moved through the coming out process of lesbians. Moreover, lesbian and gay studies have emerged and these issues are integrated in curricula focused on human diversity and multiculturalism. So the goal of organising it in high schools, colleges and universities can serve a better forum of dealing with the issue. Religious institutions discrimination has been confronted as well. Anti-heterosexism educators have been a dialogue about biblical – theological news in various denominations and the HIV/AIDS movement or campaigns are all in a better position to provide therapeutic intervention to the issue.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings in this study, it is obvious that socio-cultural variables influences proneness to lesbianism. Hence, the socio-cultural variables are more influential on proneness to lesbianism among females, which invariably constitutes a social determinants of them on proneness to lesbianism specially during adolescence. The psych-analytic theory of Sigmond Freud (1952) stated that moral development involves internalisation of parental behaviour and values. This is a social learning theory. It entails that as individual grows up in the society they watch how elder ones in that society and the home behave and learn to behave likewise. The behavioural theorists believe that morality develops as the child searches for pleasure

and as he tries to avoid pain. That morality is learnt. Cognitive theorists state that all children regardless their particular cultural experiences pass through the same sequence of moral stages and arrive at a universal moral understanding.

In effect, the kinds of peer or friends individual keep, model of parents, individuals orientation or upbringing, individuals attitudes towards pleasurable things in life or social status, individuals attitudes to his/her culture and religion, etc leave profound effects on the individuals all round developments and consequently affect the individuals behaviour in life.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGESTIONS**

The following recommendations and suggestions were made based on the findings of the study:

- ❖ Based on the high degree of peer influence, adequate attention must be paid to children tumultuous transition between childhood and adulthood. Therefore, parents, counsellors and religion leaders should help work on individual child self esteem as way of limiting the influence of peer pressure. In addition, students in boarding schools, most especially same sex schools should be monitored by their hostel masters/mistress to avoid students indulging in sexual immorality.
- ❖ Since the finding revealed that lesbianism is not limited to one ethnic group alone; the researcher recommends that further study be carried out on other factors, such as war, religion practice, marriage rite, socialisation and other circumstances which may encourage the practice of lesbianism among different ethnic groups.
- ❖ The finding indicated that mass media has tremendous influence on proneness to lesbianism. With the use of internet and social media today, lesbianism and other sexual vices are spreading more like wildfire. Therefore cautions must be taken in the use of these modern technologies. Users should avoid login into sites that promote same-sex practices. The children should be shielded from these sites by restricting their activities online to only educative and informative sites.
- ❖ The fear of unwanted pregnancy has been noted to be one of the reasons why women indulge in same sex sexual intercourse. Therefore, the researcher recommends family planning as preventive measure. There should be adequate enlightenment on the medical implications or side effects of this anti-nature and immoral practice.
- ❖ The researcher has discovered through this study that beliefs and customs of any community have no influence on the proneness to lesbianism. It is recommended that there should stability in marriage and married men should not deny their wives sexual right to forestall immoral practices.
- ❖ Education is particularly important to counter the homophobic myths and stereotypes gay and lesbian adolescents have internalised. Therefore, researcher recommends proactive educational programmes, awareness, campaign and sensitisation to educate school children and adult females on the dangers of same-sex practice. The crusade should be championed by parents, guardians, professional counsellors, government, NGOs, religion leaders, etc.

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