

ANALYSIS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF RAPE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PUPILS: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION FROM THE NIGERIAN DAILIES

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Abstract

This study analyzed the effects of anti-rape laws and policy on offenders in Nigeria as well as its psychological effects on pupils and adolescents' academic performance in Nigeria schools. The population of this study consists of rape victims and offenders across the country. The descriptive statistical results from this survey shows that about 89% of rape victims in Nigeria occur among girls between the age of 2-18 while 10% occur between the age of 18 and above among women of reproductive age. Meanwhile, the chances of boys/men being a rape victim is about 0.001%. The study also found a somewhat non-significant relationship between anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria and the degree of punishments meted out on perpetrators of rape. Therefore, this study queried the efficacy of anti-rape laws and policy of Nigerian system to actually bring about revolution in the sexual violence against girls and women in Nigeria society. In addition, the statistical results from the correlation analysis carried out in this study also found a positive and significant association between the psychological trauma resulting from rape, pupils and adolescents academic performance in Nigeria schools as indicated by 0.9. Based on the outcomes of the empirical findings in this survey, this study recommends that, psychologists, teachers, counselors, parents and guardians should embark on awareness campaign through the media, fliers and classroom teaching on the importance of rape victims to speak out whenever they are being sexually abused or raped. To this end, the study also recommends that the international community, including the United Nations and African Union as well as all stakeholders should encourage and support Nigeria government in implementing fully all international and regional treaties, declarations, resolutions and recommendations aimed at condemning, prohibiting and preventing all acts of violence against women most especially rape.

Keywords: *Sexual violence, rape, anti-rape laws and policy, psychological trauma, rape victims, perpetrators of rape, characteristics of rape victims and offenders, pupils, adolescents, academic performance.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has increasingly recorded an upsurge in the number of gender-based violence, especially rape and child defilement recently (UNICEF, 2020). For example, according to RAINN (2020), an American anti-sexual violence organization reports that over 12 million girls in Nigeria have been raped between 2010 through 2019. The United Nations Children's Fund (2020) reported that one in four boys and one in 10 girls under 18 years are victims of sexual violence. According to UNICEF and WHO (2020), 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. For example, 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).

In Nigeria, the same ugly scenario floods the nation and the Nigerian media, particularly the print media, are daily becoming awash with catalogue of incidents and stories of girls and women being not just sexually molested and abused but most wickedly descended on and raped without scruples leaving this poor victims wallowing in both physical and psychological trauma without urgent remedies even in the face of apparent enabling laws against such dastardly and inhuman crimes.

There is no age limit to this barbaric act, even as tribe, colour or class are irrelevant with this heinous crime even though the list of rape victims in Nigeria is endless, it will be difficult to compile a list of those who have had to deal with this menace in the country. This is because statistical reports on rape cases over the years have been inaccurate as most incidents go unreported due to fear of stigmatization and lack of follow-through investigations by law enforcement agents and agencies. These mindless cases of rape as have been reported in the Nigerian media, particularly newspapers. For instance, in June, 2020 Nigeria declared a state of emergency on rape and sexual violence in all 36 Nigerian states. Earlier that month, activists from women-led groups marched and sent a memo to Nigeria’s House of Representatives, demanding Nigeria adopt and properly implement the 2015 Violence Against Prohibition Person’s Act (VAPP). This was triggered by brutal rape cases reported in May and June 2020: Barakat Bello was raped and killed in her home; Vera Uwa Omozuwa, a student of University of Benin was killed in her church in Benin City, southern Nigeria; and a 12-year-old girl was raped by 11 men in Jigawa, northern Nigeria among others (Daily Sun Newspaper, Thursday 18th May 2020, p.25)

Studies (Kayode, 2019, UNDP, 2019, NAPTIP, 2020 & UNICEF, 2020) have reported that in the United Kingdom, there are about 147,000 rape cases every year and only a thousand plus are convicted. The trend is the same in India, where in every 20 minutes, a case of rape is reported and only less than 25% of these cases are persecuted. In Lagos state, western Nigeria, about 78,079 cases, which constitute only 68% of the rape that, occurred between 2019 and 2020 (Peters & Olowa, 2020; Caroline, 2019). An NGO (Mirabel centre), (2020) reported 170 rape cases between July 2019 and July 2020. In addition, reporting a high rise in rape cases, the police command identified gang rape as the most common, as it was at the top of the crime chat in 2020.

However, this trends become worrisome to educational psychologists alongside Guidance and Counsellors that despite the new state of emergency on rape, anti-rape laws and policies formulated against rape in Nigeria a culture of rape and impunity are still on the rise, making it difficult for victims to hold their abusers accountable. A recent study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (2020) reports that one in four girls and women will experience rape and/or sexual assault in Nigeria before the age of 18. However, there are fewer than 80 total recorded rape convictions in Nigeria. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, (2020) also reports that nearly one in five women are raped or sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, often by someone they know and trust.

The World Health Organization, (2019) equally reported that 85 per cent of women worldwide experience some kind of physical or sexual assault in their lifetime, with adolescent girls much more likely to be victims of rape, attempted rape or assault. In addition, a 2019 report, “Violence Against Children in Nigeria,” by UNICEF revealed that four out of 10 girls experience sexual violence between the ages of six and 11, while it is one in every 10 for boys before they become adults.

Further, over the years, there has been an upsurge in the number of rape related cases in the Nigerian society (Agaba, 2019) and situation appears to be increasing in astronomical proportion as days roll by (Okunzua, 2020). This has created palpable worries in the minds of many. Some of these sexual assaults and rapes are according to Ifeacho (2019) either reported or intentionally “buried” by the victims or their parents or relations for fear of stigmatization while some few others are reported by the media.

Therefore, it is against this upward rape trajectory that this study seeks to provide answers to the following research questions.

1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. What are the characteristics of rape victims and perpetrators in Nigeria?
- ii. What is the impact of anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria on the offenders?
- iii. Is there any psychological effects of rape on pupils and adolescents’ academic performance in Nigerian schools?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

H²₀: Anti-rape laws and policy have not significantly reduce the menace of rape incidents in Nigeria.

H³₀: The outcomes of rape does not have any significant psychological effects on pupils and adolescents academic performance in Nigerian schools.

2. Conceptual Analysis and Literature Review

2.1 The Act of Rape

The Nigeria communal code refers to rape as follows: Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman by impersonating her husband, is guilty of an offence, which is called rape. Today however, rape is seen as an act of power or dominance of one person over another. According to Brigneti and Egbonimali (2019), rape is an act of sexual violence that involves intercourse without consent or against someone being unwilling to engage in the act. The issue of rape cannot be trivialized. It cuts across race, tribe and class. It is a universal phenomenon. And it is endemic. It is an issue that has been subjected to debates by human rights bodies all over the world (Human Right Watch/Africa). Rape is the most gruesome form of violence against women. It is a denial of women’s right of self- preservation. It is an intrusion into the right of privacy of the victim. It is a particular kind of human violence which carries powerful meanings in any culture, ancient and modern. The act of rape is not new. The problem is that it is on the increase and the effects are becoming more harmful to the victims and their relatives. A nationwide survey undertaken in 2019 by the CLEEN Foundation, a Nigerian NGO, which promotes public safety, security and justice, found that only 18.1 per cent, less than one in five of some 10,000 respondents who had been raped had reported the offence to the police. According to CLEEN’s figures, 2,241 cases of rape and indecent assault were reported in 2014; 1,529 in 2015; 2,284 in 2016; 2,084 in 2017; 2,253 in 2018; 1,626 in 2019 and 1,835 in 2020.

2.2 Psycho-Social Traumatic Events among Pupils and Adolescents in Nigeria

Trauma is a psychological disordered resulting from severe mental or emotional stress or physical injury (Bolarin & Ayinmiro, 2020). It is a very difficult or unpleasant experience that causes someone

to have mental or emotional problems usually for a long time. Women in a patriarchal society like Nigeria, are treated with gender subordination which subjects them to experiencing indelible traumas. Trauma, however is today regarded as one of the leading causes of death. As such, its theorist put to light its various sources as: intimate partner violence, natural disasters, loss of loved one, sexual assault or any physical or mental wound, rape, female genital mutilation and witness of violence. Poverty is yet another great cause of trauma amongst many Nigerian women, especially among the no/low income socioeconomic status, polygamy is as well seen to be a great causative agent of psychological disturbances amid Nigerian women chiefly among the northerners, and of course the recent Boko Haram terrorist acts that subjected many Nigerians to psychological distortion. Also, we cannot leave out one of the most reprehensive subjugation among the so called cultural practices in Nigeria which is the oppression borne out of widowhood (Olatunji & Agunbaide, 2020; Onaolapo & Oladipo, 2020).

2.3 Rape as a global concern

Rape cases are not limited to Nigeria alone. Other countries of the globe have their own side of the story too. A Ugandan court sentenced a teenage girl to a six-hour jail term for killing her rapist father. The 58-year-old man had been raping the daughter repeatedly from the time she was 13 years old. Also a woman is raped in India every 20 minutes. Statistics show that in North America, there is a high probability of a woman being a victim of sexual assault during her life time. For instance, six men riding in a Bus in New Delhi, Indian's Capital, raped and battered a 23year old female medical student and she died as a result of the fatal internal injuries. The death of this Indian rape victim sent shivers around the globe, exposing how the sad trend is affecting many societies and putting more women at risk (WHO, 2019).

2.4 Types of Rape

According to the study conducted by Amadi and Uju (2019), rape can be categorize into the following types:

Date Rape: this is a type of rape in which the individuals have agreed on social engagement. The assailant may be an acquaintance or a person one have been dating.

Power Rape: power rapist sexuality want to capture, conquer and control their victims.

Gang Rape: this is when a group of people participate in the rape of a single victim.

Anger or Retaliatory Rape: it involves expression of hatred and rage towards the victim.

Sadistic Rape: This rapist is obsessed and forces the victim to act out a part in some sort of role-play, it could involve mutilation, or torture as a means of getting the rapists excited.

2.5 Causes of the increase in rape scourge in Nigeria

The state of Nigeria poorly defined criminal laws and weak law enforcement creates an environment where rape is committed with freedom (Amnesty International 2018). As a result of the inadequacy of the law in solving this problem, women advocates are presently trying to prevent future rapes by educating the public, ensuring that quality services are provided to victims in order to .encourage accountability and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. According to the Child Rights Law in Nigeria (31(2) enacted by the federal government in May 2003, anyone convicted for rape is liable to life imprisonment. But nobody seems to be enforcing the law. Thus women and girls continue to be raped and molested (Odeh, 2019). Nigeria economic and political conditions, as well as social norms support stereotypical divisions between men and women. Other causes of rape

include alcohol and drug abuse, idleness, pornography, psychological disorder, and bad company (Osimodu, 2019; Ariyo, 2020 & Alade, 2019).

However, in the studies conducted by Adebola et al. 2019, Alakija et al. 2020 and Bolade et al. 2019 advance the following causes for the unfortunate reality of rape in Nigeria:

- ❖ Failure in educating the pupils and the adolescents as well as observing them during school period, this is because abused children often lose interest or get easily distracted during class lessons. This can result into poor academic performance of pupils and adolescents in a school settings.
- ❖ **Exposure to Modernity:** Adolescents in Nigeria today are being bombarded by modernizing influences. They read about sex in novels, books, magazines and newspapers. It is said that the adolescents also “Watch various types of pornographic movies aside from being exposed to sexually overloaded advertisements in newspapers and the television. All these and the sexually graphic music, movies, obscene literature directed at the adolescents arouse their interest in sex. Some parents allow their wards to spend too much time watching television programmes where sex is used by most manufacturers to advertise their products. These adverts help put the younger generation under terrific pressure to go into sex by all means. As a result of this exposure, the adolescents are perpetually under pressure to experiment on sex, even if it means raping. It is believed that some of them desire to experience it once, just to know how it is. But they become captured by the power of immorality. This situation makes raping inevitable among the Nigerian youths.
- ❖ **Mishandling of Rape Cases:** Another concrete reason why it seems that rapists go about their business with impunity is not unconnected with the lax rape laws in the country (Bolarin, 2019). It is observed that “The laws in Nigeria appear to further victimize and humiliate women. They do not bring justice to them”. The rigorous requirement involved in producing authentic evidence of rape such as getting a medical report, as well as a police report and within the shortest possible interval of any rape incident in question, seems to trivialize the whole matter.

It is an open secret that some policemen in Nigeria are fond of treating rape victims as though they are the offenders themselves (Bolarin, 2019). In some cases, it is held that the police after demanding in vain to get bribe in order to investigate rape cases, accuse the victims of consenting to the sexual intercourse with the rapists. It is an established fact that police in Nigeria seems to contribute to the culture of tolerance for sexual violence against women. This probably may account for the reason an Abuja High Court Judge, Umoh Enah, recently lampooned the Nigerian Police for its poor handling and prosecution of an alleged rapist. As revealed by Alhassan (2020), “Over a hundred cases of violence against the child and women often go without any of the culprits being prosecuted and jailed”. For example, sometime in 1999, an uncle sexually assaulted a little girl of six years. The matter was taken to court and prosecuted. In giving judgment however, the magistrate set the accuse person free for lack of “corroboration”. This was in spite of the bloodied pants, the testimony of the mother who noticed the pains while bathing her and the medical evidence from a government hospital.

- ❖ **Peer Group Pressure/Influence:** Some studies (such as Onimode, Adeola & Akintunde 2019 & Bolarin 2019) report that most adolescents are led into sexual promiscuity by peer influence. Peer group is an important factor in the upsurge of rape cases in Nigeria. Innocent youths who keep regular company of rapists may easily learn their evil ways, no matter how careful they

think they are. Most adolescents, in trying to remain relevant and to gain the continued approval of their friends try to experiment sex through raping. It is said that children who are more influenced by their parents are more likely to adopt socially acceptable sexual behavior than those who are more influenced by their peers.

- ❖ **Myths about Sex:** There are quite a number of myths about sex which serves as an impetus to the growing incidents of rape in Nigeria. For instance, Okoro (2020) and Ajala (2019) report that it is a common belief among many ethnic groups that: without premarital sexual intercourse, boys are bound to have small testicles, suffer from pimples, have difficult erection and not be able to perform well when married. Girls, on the other hand are bound to have small breasts, experience early menopause, painful menstruation and painful nipples when breastfeeding their babies. In addition, some HIV infected men hold to the superstitious belief that if they have sex with a virgin, that they would be cured of AIDS (Garland, 2019). This perhaps lure most people living with HIV and AIDS to resort to raping innocent girls in the society in their quest for a cure. A typical example is the case of a 66 years old HIV and AID patient who raped an eight old girl in Asaba, Delta state, Nigeria (AIT NEWS, August, 2020).
- ❖ **Influence of Indecent Dressing:** Indecent dressing among women and girls are inappropriate mode of dressing that often exposes parts of one's body that ought to be covered from public view. This mode of dressing often attracts the opposite sex and causes them to have lustful thoughts that may eventually lead into raping women (Diara & Nweze, 2019; Ariwodola et al. 2020; Adekunle et al. 2019, Bolarin, 2019). Indecent dressing engineers sexual desires in men, culminating in sexual seduction. According to Eze and Abdallah (2019) "It has become fashionable, particularly among the youthful female folk, to dress so half nakedly that some parts of their body that are supposed to be 'hidden' are exposed to the public". Ladies attract men by wearing sexy or transparent dresses (Okpara & Festus, 2020). This type of fashion is particularly rampant among College and University students, and it has become a common mode of dressing for the masses in Nigeria today. A survey by Ayogu and Boris (2020), sheds light on this and said some parents buy clothes for their children to wear with such negative "Inscriptions like: I am a sexy girl, Hug me tight, Lovely babe-sexy babe,! Devil's advocate". Expectedly, the wearing of these psychedelic and ludicrous dresses that advertise ladies nudity, side by side the unusual painting of their faces presents a very strong pull to rapists to carry on their vices.
- ❖ **The Nature of Adolescents:** Adolescents generally have very strong desire for sex. This propels them into wanting to experiment on anything including rape in order to satisfy their sexual drive. This is said to be motivated by their hormonal increase and activities which often create an upsurge in the sexual interest of the adolescents. Psychologists believe that adolescence period is a time of sexual activeness, with their sexual drive developing to the highest point (Benwell & Smart, 2019). This period is the most critical and precarious stage in the adolescents and it is marked with confusion and turbulence.
- ❖ **Rape and Stigmatization:** In Nigeria, the woman is frequently victimized twice. First by the violence she endures and by the failure of the governments to bring her abusers to justice. There seems to be a culture of silence surrounding rape in Nigeria. The social stigma associated with rape across the globe forces female victims in Nigeria to conceal rape assaults in order to save themselves from shame and public embarrassment. Even parents of the raped often find it difficult to come out publicly to report such cases. In Nigeria, when a woman is raped and it becomes public knowledge, "She and her family are "ostracized" due to the dishonor associated

with rape”. Another reason for not taking bold step in reporting such cases could be for the victim’s family to maintain the ever existing cordial relationship with the parents of the perpetrator of the heinous crime. This situation encourages other intenders to go into raping since people who indulge in it go scot-free.

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- ❖ **Rape and the Nigerian Constitution:** The Nigerian authorities at both federal and state levels have failed to address adequately gender-based violence, including rape. The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria seems to contribute in a way to the growing cases of rape in Nigeria. It is most probable that the interpretation of section 357 of the Criminal Code Act, CAP 77, LFN, 1990 which opines that “Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of false threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false or fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband, is guilty of an offence called rape” (Musbau, 2020) and especially section 282 of the Penal code which says that “Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife is not a rape, if she has attained puberty” (Olurounbi, 2019). This appears to exonerate people who promote child rape in the name of marriage from punishment by the law. This also implies that the Nigerian constitution seems to have no regard for full maturity of 18 years old before marriage. As it is, Nigerian laws appear not to prevent rape especially child rape, provided it is done under the cover of marriage. In Nigeria, it is common knowledge that the existing Customary and *Sharia* laws which encourage contrary religious and cultural practices other than the ones stipulated in the Nigerian constitution directly or indirectly affect female folks in no small ways. For instance, the toleration of *Sharia* law in Nigeria makes the prosecution of rape cases in Northern Nigeria very difficult. However, the House of Representatives Abuja on Tuesday March 5, 2020 approved life imprisonment for any person convicted of rape. They equally approved a minimum of 20 years in jail terms without an option of fine for persons convicted. Thereafter the senate equally legislated same in like manner, as a way of checkmating rape incidences in Nigeria (Akumadu, 2020). Akumadu, reiterated that “Enacting laws are not enough; what is more important is the enforcement of the law to protect those it is supposed to protect”.
- ❖ **Poor Parental Upbringing:** As a result of Modernity, some parents over-pamper their children by not enforcing strict disciplines on them. They themselves engage in extra-marital affairs incautiously, before them, and so they are more likely to foster children that are rude, arrogant and wayward (Ipinlaye & Ajanlekoo, 2019). Most children under this setting may probably become rapists.
- ❖ **The Problem of Under-Reportage of Rape Cases:** Rape is one of the most underreported of all serious crimes in Nigeria and in other countries as well. When we try to get a true picture of the enormity of its incidence, we find the issue complicated by the lack of reliable rape statistics. A major problem encountered when dealing with this issue of rape is that most victims simply refuse to come forward and report to the authorities incidences of sexual violence. For many rape victims, a sense of shame or guilt or self-blame about their role in the rape assaults may be enough to prevent them from coming forward and pressing charges. In many instances, the public often, seems willing to blame the victim for the assault rather than the rapist. There are a number of barriers preventing the victims of sexual assault from coming forward; hence rape continues to be one of the most underreported crimes. For example, a young girl “Folake” was jailed after

she accused a man of rape. A domestic worker, she said her employer's husband had forced her into his bedroom and made her watch a pornographic film before forcing her to have sex. A medical examination supported her allegation. Yet she was the one brought to court, charged with slander for making the accusation and remanded in prison (Amnesty International Interview with "Folake", 2019). Most crimes of rape are not reported for reasons such as the social stigma attached to the victim, the fear of being ostracized from the family and community, and also the fact that the police may be unwilling to make an official report due to insufficient evidence.

- ❖ **Socio-Economic Factor:** Poverty is a major problem affecting many families in Nigeria. Poverty and economic down turn have forced many families into allowing their female children and teens to hawk things for sale, even at unholy hours and places to augment the family income, thereby exposing them to avoidable danger of being raped by rapists.
- ❖ **Declining Moral Values:** The eroding social morality has resulted in some parents having passion for their own biological children, pastors fancying their female converts, and lecturers lusting after their students.

2.5 Consequences of rape on the perpetrators

No rapist goes free, even if he is not apprehended by the law enforcement agencies. He will always be hounded by the memory of the evil perpetrated on his victims. The offenders should know that rape has severe consequences, ranging from incarceration to poor health, guilt and condemnation, social stigma, bad criminal record, sexually transmitted diseases and several others. Knowledge of the consequences or implications of rape may be a factor that can deter the intended sexual offenders and reoffenders in to giving up the crime of rape (Osimodu, 2019; Ariyo, 2020 & Alade, 2019).

2.6 Pupils

A pupil is described as a person or learner who is enrolled in an educational institution or school. It is also used to refer to someone who is under the direct supervision of a teacher because he is either a minor or has special needs (0-9 years). In most parts of the world, such as England and in Asia, the term "pupil" is used to refer to schoolchildren who are in the primary and elementary grades as well as those in secondary schools. Children in Nursery and Kindergarten are also referred to as pupils. Young people who are below eighteen years old and who are enrolled in a learning facility or institution are called by the term "pupil." A pupil may be supervised by a teacher or a private tutor and is given lessons in every subject necessary for his learning and development. Supervision is necessary to make sure that knowledge is imparted to the pupil who needs it because of his young age Brigneti and Egbonimali (2020)

2.7 Adolescents

Adolescence is the phase of life between childhood and adulthood, from ages 10 to 19. It is a unique stage of human development and an important time for laying the foundations of good health. Adolescents experience rapid physical, cognitive and psychosocial growth. This affects how they feel, think, make decisions, and interact with the world around them. Despite being thought of as a healthy stage of life, there is significant illness and injury in the adolescent years that may undermine their learning outcomes. Much of this is preventable or treatable. During this phase, adolescents establish patterns of behaviour – for instance, related to diet, physical activity, substance use, and sexual activity – that can protect their health and the health of others around them, or put their health at risk now and in the future (Osimodu, 2019; Ariyo, 2020 & Alade, 2019).

2.8 Effect of rape on the Pupils and Adolescents

According to Ashiru & Amurawaye (2019), rape devastate the lives of the victims and their families, causing severe physical and psychological pains and sufferings, including death, sexually transmitted infectious diseases and unwanted pregnancies. It is a form of gender-based violence which knows no border. Rape is a global pandemic affecting both the young and old, people of various classes and both the uneducated and educated, regardless of their race, ethnic background or religion. Sadly, women and girls are the most affected of this crime.

Brigneti and Egbonimali (2020) opined that “If virginity is what makes women honourable, rape is an easy weapon to permanently damage them” In the opinion of Obasi and Onagoruwa (2019), “Rape leaves painful memories and lifelong consequences on the victim”. It inspires permanent damages on its victims.

Rape equally degrades as well as violates a whole tribe or nation. According to Inuwa Sani, a Child Psychologist, the trauma that follows this bitter experience is better imagined than described. Alhassan (2020) captures the consequences thus: In the months following a rape, victims often have symptoms of depression or traumatic stress. They are more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs to control their symptoms. Other effects includes self-blame, lack of control over feelings and thoughts, drug or alcohol dependency, physical injuries, sexually, transmitted diseases, poor self-image, unhealthy sex life, depressive or post-traumatic stress disorders in their lifetime, longtime negative effects on sexuality and inability to form or maintain trusting relationships are common.

2.9 Theoretical Frameworks

The theoretical frameworks underpinning the analysis in this study are theory of Gender and Power by Cornell (1987) and theory of Feminists by Betty Friedan (1963). There is something amiss in the treatment of women in the society. Feminists have over time strived to find out what it is, but to no avail. Betty Friedan (1963) calls it the problem without a name. An xray of the relationship in the society’s social structure, shows that eminent in the institution is the dominance of men over women in every the society. The theoretical framework on which this paper is anchored is the Feminism perspective. Feminism is not directly a set of beliefs but also a set of theoretical construct about the nature of women, the role they play, their oppression and the part these play within social reality in general.

The theory of Gender and Power by Cornell (1987), states to a large extent women’s experience as a result of power dominance. This theory is used to situate the structure and the phenomenon of rape. This theory states that the way the male and female are perceived is based on gender differentials by culture. As described by the theorist, culture is the foundation of gender division of labour, roles and contributions of men and women. Cultures subjugate women by placing men in roles that make it easy for them to subjugate women. These culturally defined lines have in the long run impacted on their experiences and the chances they get in life is translated into low social status in society, poverty and powerlessness. This theory explains why women are often victims of rape and why they are very powerless and ashamed to voice out this crime that is frequently committed against them. Instead they suffer in silence (Onyejekwe, 2018). Feminists in recent times have perceived rape as an expression of male dominance over women, it is a skewed relationship that have relegated women to be people that should be oppressed and victimized, and that is the major reason why it is perceived that women (rape victims)do not get justice (McGrath 2020).

Most culture, places women (rape victims) on a trial process whereby she is either called a gold digger, an accuser, a seducer or a frivolous person. The Nigerian culture and judiciary system is not exempted from these practices as a woman have to prove that she was a victim of rape by showing evidence (most times semen) (Onyejekwe, 2018). In a country like Nigeria, where there are no defined structure and clearly defined criminal law on rape, and enforcement is weak, has enabled the prevalence of rape to thrive as it is in most cases not punished (Ibrahim & Ajogu; 2018, Onyejekwe & Muoghalu, 2020). Rape and Women’s Sexual Health in Nigeria has defined these failures of the judiciary system as a general violation of women human rights.

3. Methodology

Following the studies of Babawale Akingbemi, Aduragbemi Ajala and Alabe Akinwumi (2018) and Bolarin (2019) this study used a set of analytical techniques such as chi-square, descriptive statistics and content analysis to analyze the information extracted from the Nigerian Dailies on the incidents of rape in Nigeria from 2014-2019. Content analysis as a research method was found apt and suitable for this study because the method involves the assessment and evaluation of newspaper coverage of rape cases in Nigeria. The population of interest for this study consists rape victims and the offenders as published by the editions of *The Guardian*, *Daily Sun* and *Vanguard* newspapers published from January 2014 to June 2020. To arrive at the population of this study, the number of days/editions of newspapers that make up one year are multiplied into three to cover the three newspapers used for this study. Hence the population of this study was 1095 editions. In order to determine the sample size for this study, the Taro Yarmane’s formula was adopted following the study of Bolari (2019) and Samuel (2020). The essence of the Yarmane’s formula is to draw the sample size.

$$S = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where S = Sample size

N = Given population

e = Margin of error

I = Constant

Using the above formula, a sample size of editions of the three newspapers was arrived at. Apart from the above, the systematic sampling was equally adopted in selecting the samples of the newspapers studied. Applying the staggering list order, the months of the year were listed and the six(6) months were systematically selected using an interval of every two months commencing from January 2014 to June 2020 and purposively three days in a weeks – Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursday were selected.

4. Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

What are the characteristics of rape victims and perpetrators in Nigeria?

Table 4.1 Analysis of the characteristics of rape victims and perpetrators in Nigeria

Table 4.1a: Socio-demographic characteristics of rape victims in Nigeria

Sex	Frequency	Percentage

Male	15	3.6
Female	322	96.4
Total	337	100.0

Source: (Nigerian Dailies, 2020)

The table above illustrates the socio-economic backgrounds of the sex of rape victim and offender, the age of the victims, males constituted about 4% of the total number victims of rape reported for the past 5 years. On the other hand, the total number of female victims reported for the past 5 years by the three selected newspapers was three hundred and thirty seven (337). This implies that women are more involved in the incidents of rape in Nigeria than to men.

In other words, females constituted about 96% of the total victims of reported rape cases within the period covered. This is in line with reports of Andrew and Jafar (2019) that rape as a criminal act that is targeted at women in order to humiliate, debase, overwhelm and control them. In addition, the above statistical report also corroborate with study of Khalid and Anthony (2019).

Table 4.1b: Socio-demographic characteristics of rape perpetrators in Nigeria

Age	Frequency	Percentage
< one year	1	0.3
1-10	109	32.7
11-20	153	46.1
21-30	28	8.4
31-40	12	3.6
41-50	3	0.9
51-60	1	0.3
61-70	3	0.9
71 and Above	2	0.6
Unknown	19	5.7
Total	337	100

By “unknown” we mean those categories of rape victims reported with unspecified age. We included them to account for their victimhood in the study. However, non-inclusion of age does not make them less a victim

Source: (Nigerian Dailies, 2020)

From Table 1b, the total number of males was three hundred and thirty-seven (337). That is males constituted about 99% of those who engaged in the act of rape in the past 5 years. On the other hand, the total numbers of females who engaged in the act of rape are two (2). This means that females constituted only about 0.6% of perpetrators of the act of rape. These findings indicate that males were more likely to engage in rape than their female counterparts. This is in line with the finding in the United States that female victims accounted for a total of 94% of all completed rapes, 91% of all attempted rapes and 89% of all attempted and completed rapes.

Rape victims within the age of 1–10 recorded a total of one hundred and nine (109), which is about 33% of the total victims of reported rape cases for the past 5 years. This figure is frightening when the ages of these victims are considered especially knowing that they are children. This connotes that children between ages 1 and 10 are at a high risk of falling victims to rape. According to Babalola and Akinduro (2018), rape of this nature are scary because these children are innocent, tender, vulnerable and they are most times raped by people they trust and look up to such as teachers, uncles,

fathers, step-fathers, grand-fathers, neighbors, in-laws, family friends, etc. In addition, Fagae and Abdullahi (2017) also report that the psychological trauma rape victims go through after this incident is more than that of adults. These victims are also at risk of contracting several sexually transmitted diseases such as STD, HIV/AIDS and other complications such as lacerations which put their lives at risk (Ademokoya et al. 2016 & Bala-gbogbo et al. 2017). This result is in line with the findings of Babawale Akingbemi, Aduragbemi Alaija and Alabe Akinwumi (2018) and Bolarin (2019).

Research Question II: What is the impact of anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria on the offenders?

Table 4.2. Analysis of the impact of anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria on the offenders.

Response & Stimulus Variables	Statistical Outcomes	SD	DF	P-Value
Government Punishments for rape perpetrators/offenders	Pearson Chi-square	-20.120	12	0.016
	Likelihood Ration	-14.134	12	0.018
Anti-Rape laws and Policy in Nigeria	Linear by linear Association	2,333	2	0.0012
	N of valid cases	337		

Source: (Nigerian Dailies, 2020)

The table 4.2 depicts a somewhat non- significant relationship between anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria and punishment for offenders with the probability value being greater than 0.05 level of significance and chi-square value of -20.120. Therefore, by implications the null hypothesis in this study is hereby accepted to be valid while the alternative is rejected. The result shows that anti-rape policies of the government are not effective in Nigeria. This findings corroborate with the findings of Olatunji and Agunbiade (2020) who conducted an extensive review of the Nigerian anti-rape law and identified shortcomings in the provisions which make rape prevention challenging in Nigeria. In addition, Olatunji and Agunbiade (2020), the study reports that anti-rape policies are not effective in Nigeria because perpetrators of rape are not being punished according to the provisions of the law. The findings of Olatunji and Agunbaide (2020) also agree with the results of Onaolapo and Oladipo (2020) who assert that the limitations of anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria with establishing consent make the punishment of rape cases difficult. Bolarin (2019) in his studies also reports that the low prospect of receiving legal judgment for rape stifles enthusiasm in seeking legal recourse Bolarin (2019).

Research Question III: Is there any psychological effects of rape on pupils and adolescents academic performance in Nigerian schools?

Table 4.3: Analysis of the psychological effects of rape on pupils and adolescents’ academic performance in Nigerian schools.

Response & Stimulus Variables	Statistical Outcomes	SD	DF	P-Value
Pupils and Adolescents Academic Performance in Nigerian schools	Pearson Chi-square	-123.120	12	.0001
Psychological trauma	Likelihood Ration	-300.045	12	.0000
	Linear by linear Association	-15.056	3	.0000
	N of valid cases	337		

Source: (Nigerian Dailies, 2020)

The table 4.3 actually shows that there is a significant positive relationship between the psychological trauma, pupils and adolescents’ academic performance in Nigeria schools resulting from psychological trauma experience by the adolescents’ rape victims during their lifetime with the

probability value of 0.05 level of significant and at chi-square value of -62.056. The findings above is in line with the reports of Aboyade and Ayoola (2018), Akinlolu and Arapaja (2019), they argued that the psychological trauma caused by sexual violence runs deeper than people can fathom and that the pain is unending as victims are scarred for life with detrimental effects on the academic performance of pupils and adolescents in the society. Beyond rape, victims and their family members live a life of trauma and are daily haunted by the bestial experiences. They are subjected to detrimental mental torture, which experts say leads to depression, suicide ideation and deviant behaviours. In addition, findings in this study is also in line with study of Sonia Okodo and Kayode Salami (2019) they reported that the invisible wounds from rape are far more devastating and far harder to repair with devastating psychological trauma throughout the victim's lifetime.

5. Summary and Conclusion

This study empirically investigates the characteristics of rape victims and offenders in Nigeria. Specifically, the study actually analyze the impact of anti-rape laws and policy on the offenders in Nigeria as well as the psychological effects of rape on pupils and adolescents' academic performance in Nigerian schools. The descriptive statistical results from this survey shows that about 89% of rape victims in Nigeria occur among girls between the age of 2-18 while 10% occur between the age of 18 and above among women of reproductive age. Meanwhile, the chances of boys/men being a rape victim is about 0.001%. The study also found a somewhat non-significant negative relationship between anti-rape laws and policy in Nigeria and the degree of punishments melted out on perpetrators of rape. In addition, the empirical results from the correlation analysis carried out in this study also reveals a negative and significant association between the psychological effects of rape, pupils and adolescents academic performance resulting from the psychological trauma experienced by them as indicated by 0.90. The study therefore concluded that anti-rape laws and policy put in place to protect girls and women against sexual violence is not effective in ameliorating the incidents of rape in Nigeria.

Educational Implications of Pupils and Adolescents Rape in Nigerian Schools

Pupils and adolescents rape has very serious adverse implications on the education of the children in Nigeria. It is important to note that the overall consequences of pupils and adolescents rape can affect learning and educational outcomes directly or indirectly, hence rape hampers all children's life activities including learning. The social stigma and shame associated with child rape is capable of causing truancy or school dropout for the rape victim (Osimodu, 2019; Ariyo, 2020 & Alade, 2019). Emotionally, pupils and adolescents rape can lead to depression, fear, school phobia and other emotional crisis depending on the age of the rape victim. She can develop suicide thoughts, anxiety disorder. Such child may feel worthless, guilty, hopeless, and regretful which may result to little or no interest in life including education, difficulty in concentration in learning, and recall of memories. All these may affect learning and academic performance If the rape involves school environment or a male teacher, the child may develop school phobia and lack of trust on her male teachers forever (Adebola et al. 2019, Alakija et al. 2020 and Bolade et al. 2019).

Emotional trauma generally impairs physical health as well as mental efficiency, both of which impede learning outcomes. Academically, children with emotional traumas are noted for low grade in school work, failure in school examinations, repeating of class or grade and school dropout. There is no gain-saying that physical consequences of child rape may involve fever, loss of appetite,

injuries, pains and hospitalization and death, which of course affect attendance to school and life adversely.

It is significant to note that the health risks of pupils and adolescents are detrimental to their education. A child who is infected with sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, syphilis and or cervical cancer through rape may have her life and education endangered sooner or later during their lifetime (Bade Onimode, & Alade 2019 & Bolarin 2019).

6. Recommendations

Following the outcomes of the empirical findings of this survey, this study recommends that:

- I.** Teachers are role models to pupils and adolescents in Nigerian schools, so it is beneficial for all schools through the teachers to keep re-orientating and re-educating the pupils and students on the importance of speaking out whenever they are being sexually abused or raped so that the perpetrators can get the fair share of their evil act. This will serve as deterrent to other potential rapists in the society.
- II.** Parents should build a strong, healthy and open relationship with their children and be very vigilant. They should closely observe their children for any sign of vulnerability or abuse. Parents should also know the right time and place to discuss sex related issues with their children and get to know the company they keep. In addition, parents girl-child on the dangers of rape and places to go to so that they are not caught up in this menace. They should also be careful about entrusting their children in the hands of persons they do not know or trust very well. Parents should ensure that the girl-child put on clothes that do not expose essential parts of their bodies.
- III.** Civil Societies and NGOs should initiate elaborate enlightenment campaigns against rape and rapists. They should exhibit zero-tolerance to rape by engaging in rape intolerance attitudes and as well as dispelling sex myths in Nigeria using the media.
- IV.** For the fight against rape to be won, every perpetrator of rape should be exposed and made to take full responsibility for his or her actions. Under no circumstance should such a one be shielded or protected by parents, teachers, religious institutions, non-governmental organizations, governments or the media. All Nigerians must rise up in condemnation of this social epidemic.
- V.** All rape victims should be shown much love and care to reengineer their self-esteem. The legislature, state ministries, women groups and the Federal Government should take up these cases and offer all necessary assistance to the victims.
- VI.** The international community, including the United Nations and African Union should encourage and support Nigeria in implementing fully all international and regional treaties, declarations, resolutions and recommendations aimed at condemning, prohibiting and preventing all acts of violence against women. All cases of violence must be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fair trial and without recourse to death penalty, and reparations provided the victims. They should also support and encourage initiatives by the Nigerian authorities, women's groups and Human rights organizations in their fight against the rape scourge and other forms of violence against women in Nigeria.

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