PATTERN, DETERMINANTS AND MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN CALABAR, SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

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OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES
- METHODOLOGY
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Sexual violence is a worrisome global health issue
Female undergraduates have been shown to be at higher risk due to increased interaction with young men
Predisposing factors: social activities like parties, alcohol use
Fraternities which promote male dominance are a common feature of Nigerian universities.
Sexual harassment from lecturers have been speculated but not officially reported.
BACKGROUND

- Sexual violence is a psychological threat to conducive learning environment.
- Recognizing its existence and understanding the context in which they occur on Nigerian campuses is crucial for primary prevention.
OBJECTIVES

- To determine the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in Calabar, Southern Nigeria
- To determine the pattern of sexual violence among female undergraduates
- To find out the determinants of sexual violence among female undergraduates
- To determine the mental health consequences of sexual violence among female undergraduates
METHODOLOGY

- STUDY AREA: Calabar is the capital city of Cross River State, an emerging tourism destination in Southern Nigeria. There are two Universities in Calabar; University of Calabar and Cross River University of Technology
- STUDY POPULATION: The study was conducted among female undergraduates in the two universities
- STUDY DESIGN: Cross-sectional descriptive
METHODOLOGY CONT’D

- Minimum sample size required was 246
- Sample size was calculated using the formula for single proportion taking the precision level of 0.05, standard normal deviate of 1.96 and 95% confidence level
- Sampling was done using multistage sampling method
- Tool used was a pre-tested, semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire
METHODOLOGY CONT’D

- Data was managed using the Epi-Info version 3.3.2
- Ethical approval was obtained from the joint institutional review committee of the University of Calabar and University of Calabar Teaching Hospital.
- Confidentiality was ensured
- Verbal informed consent was obtained before administering tool and only consenting respondents were recruited into the study
RESULT

- 271 questionnaires were administered, 6 were excluded from analysis because they were not properly filled.
- 50 (18.9%) were in 1st year, 75 (28.3%) in 2nd year, 61 (23.0%) were in 3rd year, 64 (24.4%) were in fourth year, 12 (4.5%) were in 5th year. 3 (1.1%) respondents did not volunteer information on their level of study.
RESULT CONT’D

- Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents: Mean age of respondents was 22.3±3.1. Majority of the respondents (256, 96.6%) were Christians.
- Out of the 265 respondents, 137 (51.7%) of respondents had suffered one form of sexual violence or the other.
- Age at incidence ranged from 10 through 26 years with peak (mode) of 20 years. Mean age at violence was 19.7±3.12 years.
## Spectrum of sexual violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>16 (11.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex for favours</td>
<td>45 (32.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugged</td>
<td>3 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fondling/grabbing sensitive parts</td>
<td>28 (20.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwanted sexual remarks</td>
<td>77 (56.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwanted sexual advances</td>
<td>63 (46.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of right to use condoms during sexual intercourse</td>
<td>18 (13.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
62.7% of victims were already admitted into higher institution before they experienced any act of sexual violence.

Most of the victims, 103 (75.2%) had a single episode, while 2 (1.5%) had 5 episodes. Mean number of episodes ever experienced was 1.8±1.1.

Only 4.8% of victims reported their experience to law officers.
RESULT CONT’D

Perpetrators of sexual violence as % of total

- Lecturer: 18
- Intimate partner: 16
- College colleague: 16
- Relatives: 8
- Boss: 2
- Total stranger: 14
## Reported Location of Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator’s Office</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim’s Home</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Hostel</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DETERMINANTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Only age was significantly (P-value = 0.0034, at 95% confidence level) associated with experience of sexual violence.
- Being an undergraduate and level of study was significantly associated with age at sexual violence (P-value = 0.0000 and 0.05 respectively at 95% confidence level).
DISCUSSION

- What we already know: Sexual violence is common in Universities elsewhere.
- Teachers perpetrate some of the acts
- Mental health problems are varied
- Help seeking is poor
- What this study highlights: an increased prevalence of sexual violence when used in a more elastic sense to include both contact and non contact forms of sexual violence.
- Establishes the active involvement of lecturers although the reasons are not obvious
DISCUSSION

- Fresh undergraduates appear more at risk perhaps owing to their naivety and likely increasingly reduced age at entry into university.
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Undergraduates appear vulnerable especially where lecturers are involved.
- Age and level specific interventions would be more appropriate.
- Avenues for confidential help seeking within the university may aid reporting.
Thank you!