

Parental Negligence and Peer Pressure as Correlates of Risky Sexual Behaviour among In-School Adolescents in Lagos State

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Abstract: Risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescent all over the world has assumed an alarming dimension. It has become so worrisome that it has gained prominence in social discourse. The prevalence rate of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents gives room for concern. This study therefore investigated the parental negligence and peer pressure as correlates of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state. A descriptive survey research design was adopted in the study. Three hundred participants were selected from six secondary schools in Lagos state through simple random sampling. Their ages ranged between 12 and 19 years with mean of 17.38 years ($SD= 9.90$). Three research questions were tested using multiple regression analysis and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The findings revealed that there was significant positive relationships between parental negligence ($r= .121, p < 0.05$), peer pressure ($r= .174, p < 0.05$), and risky sexual behaviour among the participants. The two variables jointly accounted for 0.58% variance in predicting risky sexual behaviour among the participants. The independent variables made positive relative contribution to risky sexual behaviour in the following order: Peer pressure contributed most to the prediction of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state ($Beta = .216, t= 3.719, P < 0.05$), followed by parental negligence ($Beta = .134, t= 2.311, P=0.05$). Based on this finding, it is recommended that youth-friendly centres to positively engage the adolescents both in-school and out-of-school youths on risky sexual behaviour and sexual awareness boosting training as a strategy for curbing risky sexual behaviour.

Keywords: Parental negligence, Peer pressure, Risky sexual behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescents as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) refer to people between the ages of 10 and 19 years, while adolescents form a significant population group in terms of demographic parameter as they constitute about a fifth of the human population globally and are rapidly increasing in terms of absolute number. Adolescents are also a unique population in terms of characteristics and needs and they face unique challenges as a result of their level of development and the societal situation (Falaye, 2012). During the transition from childhood to adulthood, adolescents establish patterns of behaviour and make lifestyle choices that affect both their current and future health. Serious health and safety issues such as sexual involvement and risky sexual behaviours can adversely affect adolescent and adolescents (Falaye, 2012).

Risky sexual behaviour is a problem of high magnitude among adolescents in Nigeria. Adolescence is predisposed to a lot of risky sexual behaviour, some of which are: early intercourse, unprotected intercourse or sex with multiple sexual partners who contribute to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. These risky sexual behaviours have devastating effects on the teenagers. Dropping out of school is a known consequence to adolescents' risky sexual behaviour in Nigeria. There is the need to tackle these effectively and is good time to forestall their consequences. Risky sexual behaviour among secondary school adolescents, defined as early sexual initiation, unprotected intercourse, or sex with multiple partners, is a major area of concern given the many associated negative consequences (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008); risky sexual behaviour has a lot of consequences because teens from single parent homes are more likely to commit school crimes than teens from intact homes One of the consequences of the involvement of young persons in risky sexual activities is that this group is disproportionately affected by reproductive morbidity including STI/HIV and their complications (Well, 2015).

Adolescence risky sexual behaviour is also a major risk factor for serious diseases as well as unplanned pregnancy. Risky sexual behaviour doesn't have a genetic basis but it is only influenced by social and cultural conditions. High-risky sexual behaviours include failure to use condoms or other birth control methods, having a large number of lifetime sex partners, non-discriminating sex partner recruiting patterns, participating in concurrent sex partnerships and having sex after heavy alcohol consumption (Hoyle, 2010). These behaviours tend to correlate among one another, forming a pattern of behaviour that is a primary risky factor for sexually transmitted disease and unplanned pregnancy. Despite being the primary risk factor for these health burdens, the etiology of risky sexual behaviour is not well understood. Aetiological research has primarily focused on specific social and cultural influences on risky sexual behaviour.

It is worrisome however to note that adolescence in Nigeria are sexually active and engage in risky sexual behaviour (Fosukun, 2005), they do not engage in protective behaviour. Research has shown that adolescent in Nigeria engage in risky sexual behaviour outside protection against STIs and unplanned pregnancy (Ahanonu, 2014). This might therefore account for the high level of

unplanned pregnancy, death and morbidity due to induced abortion and STIs among adolescent in Nigeria as documented in extant literature (FMOH, 2009). Adolescents' risky sexual behaviour is influenced by their social and economic environment as well as their psychological adjustment to their environment. Aspects of the social and economic context that increase or decrease susceptibility of adolescents to risky sexual behaviour includes gender issues in relationships and families, social norms and poverty (Wilson and Donenberg, 2014). Since poverty level in Nigeria is high (UNICEF, 2007), studies have shown that in order to satisfy their material needs, adolescent, especially women engage in transactional sexual activity with multiple partners or casual partners or agree to have sex without a condom for money (Odu and Akanle, 2008).

Parental negligence that is, the behaviour and attitude of parents have lasting effect on their adolescent's antisocial behaviour. This goes beyond the family (immediate environment) and touches every aspect of the adolescent's life: in school, relationships. Thus, it is believed that for an adolescent antisocial behaviour, the parents need to have a balanced approach to parenting. Studies have shown that parental negligence who adopt negligence style are prone to abusing their child physically as any slight mistake done by the child would result into punishment (Terry, 2004). The negligence style adopted by parents in bringing up their children could have effect on the child as the child is being abused socially, it could also affect their mental health and consequently, social relationship is hindered (Rossman, 2005).

Parental negligence are high on responsiveness, but low on demandingness. These parents interact with their children in a passive manner, of avoiding the use of power when dealing with issues of discipline. Parents view themselves as resource available to the children; the children may or may not choose to use this resource that is available to them. Parental negligence is likely to view discipline as an infringement upon the freedom of their offspring, which they believe impinges upon their healthy development. Consequently, these parents attempt to behave in a non-punitive, accepting and affirmative manner toward their children's impulses, desires and actions. Parental negligence give their children high levels of independence, which results in low levels of parental guidance (Schaffer, Clark and Jeglic, 2009). Hertherington and Parke (2009), noted that the parental negligence is described as low in responsiveness and low in demandingness. In general, these parents often show disengagement from the responsibilities of child rearing and are often seen as being negligence regarding the needs of their offspring (Baumrind, 2010). Parental negligence do not engage in structure or control with their adolescents and often there is a lack of closeness in the parent-child dyad; therefore, adolescents of parental negligence often engage in more externalizing behaviours (Hoeve, Geert, Stams & Gerris, 2009).

Peers in schools display patterns of deviant behaviour in an attempt to re-affirm their freedom from parents and other adults at the adolescence stage (Raheem, 2009). If such risky sexual behaviour continue to go unpunished or wrongly punished may become too critical to handle (Nzekwu, 2011). In every society, there exists groups that are part of the larger society but whose members adhere to norms and values that favour the violation of the norms of the larger society. Individuals in society will usually make friends or have their closest associates from among their peer groups. Therefore, peer associates have a great influence on the lifestyle of their members. Peer group association as an agent of socialization, determines to a large extent, what social codes an individual learns (Nsofor, 2013). This implies that individuals whose core group members believe and act deviant behaviour within norms will learn and internalize more of deviant behaviour codes than those that conform with the norms of the society. Peer groups or associations have their own cultures, sanctions or rituals into which members are socialized and accordingly, members (especially new members) who do not comply with any of these may be ostracised (Carlson, 2010). Peer pressure extends to all groups. Peer groups refer more specifically to the cluster of associates who know each other and serve as a source of reference or comparison for one another (Nzekwu, 2011). Peer groups describes the various ways in which people of similar age, sometimes similar in height, class and the status which include the adults in the society that relate and adjust to each other (Nsofor, 2013). It is also noted that though adolescents may have friends in another neighbourhood or town, the peer group that has a direct impact is the one that dominates the adolescents' daily life settings.

Statement of the Problem

The number of adolescents involved in risky sexual behaviour is increasing in epidemic proportion. Hence, the range of the problem of risky sexual behaviour is wider than it seems, everything pertaining to the behaviours or attitudes, which the adolescents exhibit today, can directly or indirectly be attributed to their environment factors. The question that arises is as to what actually perpetuates risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The participation in risky sexual behaviour as an adolescent can have lasting impacts into adulthood. Adolescent's health outcomes have been linked to the behaviours in which they engaged as children. In fact, any health risk behaviours that are established during adolescence can be difficult to change in adulthood. There is a tremendous cost of adolescent participation in sexual risky behaviour. It has immediate and long-lasting impacts not only on the individual engaging in the act but on society as a whole.

Hence, social effect of risky sexual behaviour among adolescents includes lack of respect for elders, rape and negative attitude toward their own. Psychologically exposure to risky sexual behaviour of Nigeria adolescents can be a significant factor in early sexual activities, teenage pregnancy (unwanted pregnancy), significantly increased sexual intercourse with non-romantic friends, low self-esteem and masturbation among others. Based on the gravity of dangers of risky sexual behaviour of Nigeria adolescents and the society at large, this study therefore determined to investigate the parental negligence and peer pressure as correlates of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the parental negligence and peer pressure as correlates of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state. Specifically the objectives of the study were to:

- examine the relationship that exists between the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) and the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviour) among in-school adolescents in Lagos state.
- investigate the joint contribution of the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) and the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviour) among in-school adolescents in Lagos state.
- explore the relative contribution of each of the independent variable (parental negligence and peer pressure) and the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviour) among in-school adolescents in Lagos state.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. This is considered appropriate because, is an empirical method which presents a description of events as they were and the variables were not manipulated. The design also enhanced easy collection of factual information about the parental negligence and peer pressure on risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state.

Population of the Study

The population of the study is comprises of in-school adolescents in Lagos state

Sample and Sampling Technique

Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the participants from the population of the study. This technique was employed because the population of the study was broken into strata considering the school locations and types (private and public) secondary schools. With each stratum a representative of the population of the study. Three hundred participants were selected from the population of in-school adolescents in Lagos State. It was assumed that the selected samples have common characteristics or elements of the population of the study. Based on this, an inference was drawn and generalization was made on the population of the study.

Research Instruments

Three research instruments were adapted and used for the study namely, Risky Sexual Behaviour Scale (RSBS), Peer Pressure Scale (PPS) and Parenting Negligence Scale (PNS)

Risky Sexual Behaviour Scale

This instrument developed by Treboux and Busch-Rossnagel, (1995) measured adolescent sexual attitudes about appropriate risky sexual behaviour within the context of different types of relationships. The risky sexual behaviour was subscale (kissing, light petting, heavy petting and sexual intercourse). The respondent indicates level of agreement with each statement using a 5 point Likert-type scale, with responses ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The author reported an internal reliability co-efficient (alphas) ranging from .68 to .91.

Peer Pressure Scale

This section was developed by the Gorman and Fritzsche (2002). The scale was developed to measure peer pressure questionnaire. It contains 10 items and each item is rated using 5-point Likert scale. The Guttman Split half coefficient observed was 0.78, equal length Spearman Brown was 0.73 and unequal length was 0.71. For this study however the reliability result showed 0.86 as its Cronbach alpha.

Parental Negligence Scale

The parental negligence is developed by Nancy and Teru (2013). It has 14 items scale with five point liker scale. The coefficient alpha of responsiveness, autonomy granting and demandingness subscales are .74, .75 and .72 respectively

Administration of the Instrument

The instrument was personally administered to the respondents by the researcher with the help of some research assistant at the designated schools who is well trained on how to administer the questionnaire and get familiar with the instrument. The respondents were assured that their response was meant for research purpose only. A total of 300 copies of questionnaire was rolled out and taken to the field.

Method of Data Analysis

Simple percentages was used to analyse the demographic characteristics of the population, Pearson product moment correlation was used to test the relationship among the independent variables and the dependent variable while Multiple Regression Analysis were used to analyse the joint contribution and the relative effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research Question One: What pattern of relationship exists between the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) and risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos state?

Table 1: Correlation matrix showing the relationship between study variables.

Variables	Mean	Std.Dev	1	2	3	4
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Risky sexual behaviour	27.38	9.90	1.000			
Peer pressure	89.82	17.26	.121*	-.063	1.000	
Parental negligence	71.61	13.27	.174*	-.215*	-.078	1.000

*Correlation is significant at 0.05(2-tailed)

Table 1 revealed the relationship of each independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) with the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviour); positively correlated with peer pressure ($r = .121, p < 0.05$), followed by parental negligence ($r = .174, p < 0.05$). Hence it could be deduced that parental negligence and peer pressure influenced risky sexual behaviour positively among in-school adolescents in the study.

Research Question Two:

What is the joint contribution of the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) on the dependent variables (risky sexual behaviour)?

Table 2: Summary of regression for the joint contributions of independent variables to the prediction of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

R = .265 R Square = .070 Adjusted R square = .058 Std. Error = 9.6079						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2055.039	2	1027.519	11.206	.000 ^b
	Residual	27231.877	297	91.689		
	Total	29286.916	299			

Table 2 reveals a significant joint contribution of the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) to the prediction of risky sexual behaviour. The result yielded a coefficient of multiple regressions $R = 0.265$ and multiple R -square = 0.070. This suggests that the two factors combined accounted for 0.058% ($Adj.R^2 = .058$) variance in the prediction of risky sexual behaviour. The other factors accounting for the remaining variance are beyond the scope of this study. The ANOVA result from the regression analysis shows that there was a significant effect of the independent variables on the deviant behaviour, $F_{(2, 297)} = 11.206, P < 0.05$.

Research Question Three:

What is the relative contribution of the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) on the dependent variables (risky sexual behaviour)?

Table 3: Relative effect of the independent variables to the prediction of risky sexual behaviour

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.435	6.645		-.066	.948
	Parental negligence	.102	.044	.134	2.311	.022
	Peer pressure	.161	.043	.216	3.719	.000

Table 3 shows two independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) are potent predictors of risky sexual behaviour. The most potent factor was peer pressure ($Beta = .216, t = 3.719, P < 0.05$), followed by parental negligence ($Beta = .134, t = 2.311, P = 0.05$). This implies that students' risky sexual behaviour is likely to increase if peer pressure and parental negligence persists.

Discussion of finding

In response to the research question one which asks what pattern of relationship exists between the independent variables (parental negligence and peer pressure) and the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos. It was found that there was significant relationship between peer pressure and parental negligence and risky sexual behaviour. This finding is in line with the

finding of Donahue (2010) found that that peer pressure and parental negligence affect the risky sexual behaviour of adolescents. Etaugh and Malstrom (2011) reported that peer pressure and parental negligence was perceived as being high risky sexual behaviour and less reliable in comparison with other people. The environment in which a child is raised is the backbone of who they are and who they may become.

In response to the research question two which asks whether there is any joint effect of the independent variables on the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Lagos. The result shows that there was joint effect of the independent variables (peer pressure and parental negligence) on risky sexual behaviour. The combination of the independent variables accounted for 58% of the total variance in risky sexual behaviour. The analysis of variance of the multiple regression data yielded an F-ratio value which was found to be significant. The ANOVA results from the regression analysis also attests to the causal effect of the independent variables on the dependent variables; hence, the rejection of the null hypothesis. In line with this finding, a combination of variables like peer pressure and parental negligence has been observed by Pajare and Adegbite (2008) on risky sexual behaviour.

The result of the third research question on the relative effect of each of the variables has also been significant. In all academic work as a whole, it is revealed that the degree of parental negligence and peer pressure is very relevant to an actualization of risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents. This finding is corroborated by the study of Ryan (2006); Simon (2007); Adika (2009) who found that the above variables have independent effect on risky sexual behaviour among senior secondary school students.

Conclusion

This study was reinforced with the realization that the lingering risky sexual behaviour had permeated in to the secondary school system. This study has therefore, established linking pathways between some variables and risky sexual behaviour. Changing the face of student engaged risky sexual behaviour in Lagos requires a lot of psychological re-orientation especially considering interventions that employ the independent variables in this study (peer pressure and parental negligence). School curriculum should be developed along these lines and taught in schools and other centres of learning. Where this is consistently done with corresponding support from government and other stakeholders, the entire perspective would change for good.

This research work has established that, there is a positive joint and relative contribution between peer pressure and parental negligence as correlates of risky sexual behaviour. This study has provided more details to the existing information on the risky sexual behaviour as a factor that required immediate solution. From this study, it becomes clear that various strategies should be design to access the issue of risky sexual behaviour in different schools, attention should also be given to the identified means or factors through which the researcher has been able to identify that can affect the risky sexual behaviour of secondary school students in Lagos through the peer pressure and parental negligence

Recommendations

In Nigeria, though many governmental and non-governmental agencies, school administrator and managers, parents, educationist, counsellors, researchers and the policy maker have sprung up to assist in combating the issue of risky sexual behaviour in various schools at all level(primary, secondary and universities), but is surprising to note that much has not been achieved. In the light of these findings, the following recommendations are hereby proffered:

Proper adolescent and young adults monitoring and behavioural modification of adolescents should be given from home. Adolescent's behaviour should be monitored right from home before they become inducted into the society. Parents should also serve as good models, understand their child emotion and should attend promptly to the needs of their children at home and in school. Also the type of friends adolescents associate themselves with should be well known by the parents and monitored to ensure that they are not engaged in risky sexual behaviour and curb their excesses by constant counselling of the groups which their ward associate themselves with.

Counselling services should also be easily accessed to help these youngsters out of their deep psychological, personal and social problems that blur their vision about self and future.

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