



PREVALENCE AND DIMENSIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPERIENCED BY FEMALE UNDERGRADUATES IN AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY EKPOMA, EDO STATE

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the prevalence and dimensions of sexual harassment among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State Nigeria. The descriptive survey research design was used in the study comprised all the 13,788 female undergraduates in the 2019/2020 academic section of the university. A sample size of 540 female undergraduate students representing 4% of students in all the faculties was drawn for the study, by

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment is described as unwanted sexual advances, requests for Sexual favours and other verbal or physical conducts of a sexual nature, when submission to or rejection, explicitly or implicitly affects a person's employment or education, unreasonably interferes with a person's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or learning environment. The definition above identifies the various behaviours that may constitute sexual harassment in a work environment. The first, deals with unequal power relations between the employer/supervisor and employee/supervisee, an employer or a supervisor demands sexual gratification from the employee or subordinate in return for unmerited benefits and promotions (Omonijo, Uche, Nwadiafor & Rotimi, 2013). In the academic environment, a parallel situation could be argued to arise when a faculty lecturer, proposes to a female student for sexual favours, in return for favourable examination results. The second provision refers to the existence of a hostile work environment, where the offending behaviour interferes with the satisfactory work performance of an employee, within the context of a learning institution, sexual harassment could arise,



proportionate random sampling technique. The instrument titled sexual harassment dimension and prevalence questionnaire (SEHDAPQ) with a test retest reliability coefficient (∞) of 0.78 was used in the study. The research questions were analyzed with mean (\bar{X}), standard deviation (S.D) and percentages. The findings showed that verbal and physical sexual harassments were the most prevalent and most commonly experienced dimensions of sexual harassment among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. It was therefore recommended that the university management should institute legislations or anti-sexual harassment polices that would help protect female undergraduates against these forms of sexual harassment from the opposite sex.

Keywords: *Prevalence, Dimensions, Sexual harassment.*

when the harasser (say a male lecturer), employs his position to extort or secure unlawful sexual relationship from female students by making threat to fail her in a test or examination (Omonio, Uche, Nwadiafor&Rotimi, 2013).

Sexual harassment according to Imonikhe, Idogho and Aluede (2012) is a silent disease that is seriously eroding academic excellence in universities in Nigeria. It is often seen as a behaviour that is unwelcomed, unsolicited, and repeated. They noted that a behaviour can be considered as sexual harassment when: (a) submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly a term or condition for an individual's employment or participating in educational programmes; or (b) submission to, or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the individual. Sexual harassment is part of everyday experience of students and teachers in universities. It is characterized as one of the most omnipresent and rampant form of gender-based violence which many ladies face daily (American Association of universities Women, 2006). In the school system, there are implicit and explicit coercive sexual behaviours that are used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student. These include: withholding or threatening to withhold grades earned or deserved, submitting or threatening to submit underserved performance evaluation, denying or threatening to deny a scholarship recommendation or college application (American Association of University Women, 2006).

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTE) (2010) also noted that there was a trend indicating an increase in sexual harassment cases. There is now growing evidence that the internet is a new medium through which some commonly recognized forms of child maltreatment, sexual and emotional abuse Surfaced. Furthermore, many social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, television series, movies, animations, cartoons and video games promote the sex appeal of females, as well as social and legal



tolerance towards more subtle forms of sexual harassment. It is worth noting that students and youths are more receptive to these new media, and tend to gravitate towards information about sexual development and sexuality.

In Edo and Delta State, the only recent works on sexual harassment in tertiary institutions was carried out by Imonikhe, Idogho&Aluede (2012) and Utebor (2014) respectively. Utebor (2014) in her unpublished thesis submitted to the department (Educational Foundations und Management, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma Edo State), examined the influence of school ownership on dimensions and prevalence of sexual harassment among the female students in Federal and state owned colleges. On the other hand, Imonikeet *al.*, (2012) examined teachers and students' perception on the prevalence of selected dimensions of sexual harassment in selected institutions in Edo State. Aside suggesting the need for further studies to make generalizations on prevalence of sexual harassment in Edo and Delta State, Imoinke *et al.*, (2012) and Utebor (2014) investigated the influence of school ownership and location on dimension and prevalence of sexual harassment. It has become pertinent to investigate the prevalence of sexual harassment among female undergraduates in Edo State.

It has become pertinent therefore to investigate specially the dimensional and prevalence of sexual harassment among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli Universities.

Review of Related Literature

The term “sexual harassment” was coined in the 1960s by feminists after contended that the legal system, being male-dominated in many organizations, lack understanding of how women feel after they have been sexually harassed (Oswalt & Wyatt,) 2020). It can be further explained as educational discrimination consisting of unwelcomed verbal or physical conduct directed at a student because of her sex. It can be concluded that anyone who deliberately or repeatedly makes unwelcomed verbal comments, gestures or physical contact of a sexual nature is engaging in a sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment can also be defined conceptually, as disrespectful, reducing, and refocusing on non-work related issues, such as looks or sexual practices, this type of definition, approaching sexual harassment from a different perspective, was used by Robinson (2005) when he defined sexual harassment as any physical, visual or sexual act experienced by a person from another person at the time or later, which asserts a person's sexual identity over their identity as n person, which makes them feel any of the following: embarrassed, frightened, hurt, uncomfortable, degraded, humiliated or compromised, which has the further result of diminishing a person's power and confidence.

There are many grey areas regarding sexual harassment perceived by adolescent peers. They are mostly presumed as normal teenage behaviors in order to experience what gender is and to explore the development of gender roles (Margolis, 1993). Therefore,



prior to define what "sexual harassment" means, it is essential to differentiate any welcomed, two-way, mutually agreed and interactive sex-related behaviors, flirts, attraction and friendship, which should not be considered as sexual harassment (Dellinger & Williams, 2002).

Taiwo, Omole and Omole (2014) investigated the prevalence/reoccurrence of sexual harassment and its psychological implication among students in five higher education Institutions in South West, Nigeria. The study population comprised of the student body across various faculties including Arts; Administration; Education; Engineering; Clinical Science; Health Sciences; Law; Social Science: Technology and Agriculture in the selected higher institutions in Osun state. A total number of 2500 (M=1221, F=1279) students selected through systematic sampling participated in across-sectional survey that used semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire in September 2012. A self-developed and well-structured questionnaire with six themes and seven items per theme was used in the study. The instrument was validated through a test-re-test method. Cronbach's alpha result yielded a validity of r-0.79, which was sufficient for administration. Result showed that the prevalence of sexual harassment in all the live education institutions is very high (97%) within the age of female students aged between 22years and below. Sexual harassment was also reported as a frequently occurring phenomenon that is announced through various media such as friends (92%), campus news bulletin (4%) and sharing of personal encounter (4%). They concluded that the prevalence of sexual harassment is more prevalent among female students aged between 22years and below.

According to Dastile (2004), the University of Venda in South Africa had several incidents of sexual harassment from the year 2000 to 2004 among female students in different departments. He recounted an incident where a female student enrolled in Bachelor of Arts, a non-resident and a class representative, Was sexually harassed by the lecturer when she went to call the lecturer for a lecture. The lecturer touched the student, hugged and kissed her in his office and this happened more than once. The student felt uncomfortable and irritated because this brought back past memories of earlier to the victim by her cousin. He also reported a similar incident where a female student in the College of Law and Jurisprudence was invited to the lecturer's office. On arrival, the lady was ordered to assist him arrange a few books on his book shelf on which she complied. While she walked towards the shelf to carry out the instruction, the lecturer went straight to the door of his office, shut it, and walked slowly behind the lady to grab her boobs. Based on several issues of this kind across the colleges and department, the researcher noted that the dimensions of sexual harassment are somewhat different with respect to study programme.

The study by Tang (2002) carried out a survey in 2001 on sexual harassment in local tertiary institutions, found that of about 2,000 students participating, 28% of the newly admitted students ('fresher's) had experienced peer sexual harassment, including 21% for gender



harassment (e.g., making sexual jokes about gender), 16% for unwelcome intimate bodily touch, 10% for cyber sexual harassment, and 5% for sexual coercion. Apart from cyber sexual harassment, more female respondents in their second year claimed that they had experiences of peer sexual harassment. This survey also showed that approximately one-tenth of the second year respondents (11%) reported being sexually harassed by their teachers, with 7% for gender harassment, 5% for unwelcome intimate bodily touch, 3% for cyber sexual harassment, and 2% for sexual coercion. Results showed that a majority of the students in higher study levels ignored the harassers, and only 2-5% of the newly admitted students ('freshers') complained to the universities. About 20-30% of these respondents, after being sexually harassed, had low self-confidence/self-image, depression, insecurity, and poor sense of belongingness to the institutions. Tang noted that these reactions were more prominent with female respondents.

Popoola (2002) investigated the prevalence and nature of peer sexual harassment among female Nigerian university students. Participants consisted of 387 female undergraduate students selected by convenience sampling from three faculties at the Obafemi Awolowo University. A self-constructed instrument with a test-retest reliability coefficient of 0.79 was administered on students collect data on their experience and perception to peer sexual harassment as well as adopted coping strategies. Data collected were subjected to frequency counts, simple percentages and chi-square statistical analysis.

The results among other findings showed that the prevalent dimensions of sexual harassment reported were verbal abuse of a sexual nature (85.0%), followed by unnecessary touching (81.1%), indecent sexual rumours (80.3%), sexual bugging (72.5%), threats to enter into sexual relationship (71.6%) and Subtle pressure for sexual activity (70.5%). The test of hypothesis on Chi-square (X^2) showed that dimensions of sexual harassment experienced by undergraduate female participants differed Significantly by their level of study ($p < 0,05$).

Research Questions

1. What dimensions of sexual harassment are experienced by female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?
2. What are the most prevalent dimensions of sexual harassment experienced by female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Method

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. A descriptive survey research design is one in which information is collected without changing the environment or manipulating the variables of the study. It is a research design in which the researcher interacts with the participants through personal contact, interviews or questionnaire to collect the necessary information (Sekaran, 2013). Hence, the descriptive survey design



was considered appropriate to determine the prevalence of prevalence of selected dimension sexual harassment among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The population of the study comprised of all the 13,788 female undergraduates in the 2020/2021 academic session in Ambrose Alli University, which is made up of eleven faculties namely: Faculties of Agriculture, Arts, Education, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Law, Management Sciences, Natural Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences and Social Sciences. A Sample size of 540 female undergraduate students representing 4% of students in all the faculties was drawn in the study. The proportionate sampling technique was used in the study. The instrument that was used for this study was a questionnaire titled: Sexual harassment Dimension and Prevalence Questionnaire (SEHDAPQ).

The instrument was subjected to scrutiny by two senior lecturers from the Department of Guidance and counseling Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The reliability of the instrument was done using the test-retest reliability technique. This was done by administering copies of the questionnaire to a trial group of 30 female.

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire to students before or after their lecture periods in various faculties with the assistance of departmental class representatives and executive members of departmental associations.

The research questions were analysis with real, (\bar{x}), percentages deviation (SD), and the mean criterion of 2.50 was set as the benchmark in determining the dimensions and prevalence of sexual harassment experienced by the female undergraduates.

Results

The results of the research questions are presented below: hypothesis

Research Question 1: What dimensions of sexual harassment are experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State?

Table 3: Mean score on dimensions of sexual harassment as experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

S/N	Items	X	S.D	Remark
1	I hear offensive sexual comment or jokes about me	2.66	0.90	Agreed
2	I am called names with derogatory terms, such as "Ashewo," prostitute or whore in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma,	2.61	0.80	Agreed
3	I hear the spread of sexual rumour(s) about me in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma,	2.53*	0.84	Disagreed
4	I hear suggestive sexual remarks about my dressing in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.36	0.89	Disagreed
5	I watch a person leer at me with suggestive overtones in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.43	0.89	Disagreed



6	I watch a person look in the direction of my breast or cleavage in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.39	1.04	Disagreed
7	I saw a guy gaze at my buttocks in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.37	0.79	Disagreed
8	I saw a lady gaze at my buttocks with admiration in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.49	0.93	Disagreed

Non-verbal or gestural harassment (\bar{X}) = 2.42

9	I have been shown sexual pictures or photographs in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.55*	0.95	Agreed
10	I have shown pornographic videos in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.50*	0.99	Agreed
11	I have heard student reading an untrue sex story about me in a school in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.37	0.91	Disagreed
12	I have read a false sexual comment about me on social media in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.48	0.96	Disagreed

Visual Harassment (\bar{X}) = 2.48

13	I have received unwanted social invitations to a secret place at night in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.29	0.95	Disagreed
14	I have received suggestive gifts such as pants and under wears from the opposite sex in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.53*	0.89	Agreed
15	I have received unwelcomed late night calls from the opposite sex in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.62	0.92	Agreed
16	I have received flirtatious text messages from guys for a date in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.44	0.90	Disagreed
17	I have been spanked, touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual manner in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.76*	0.90	Agreed
18	I have experienced pulling off or down of my clothes in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.62*	0.92	Agreed
19	I have been blocked or cornered in a sexual way in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	2.44	0.90	Disagreed
20	I have being intentionally brushed in a sexual way in Ambrose Alli University,	2.73*	0.93	Agreed

Ekpoma

Physical Harassment (\bar{X}) = 2.63*

Significant mean ($X \geq 2.50$) N = 523

The results in Table 2 showed that the respondents agreed on item 1, 2 and 3 at a mean range of 2.53 to 2.66 and disagreed on item 4 at a mean score of 2.36. They disagreed on items 5, 6, 7 and 8 at a mean score range of 2.37 to 2.49. Respondents agreed on items 9



and 10 at a mean score of 2.55 and 2.50 and disagreed on items 11 and 12 at mean score of 2.37 and 2.48 respectively. They disagreed on items 13 and 16 at a mean score of 2.29 and 2.44 and agreed with items 14 and 15 at a mean score of 2.53 and 2.62 respectively. On the last four items, respondents agreed on items, 17, 18 and 20 at a mean score range of 2.62 to 2.76 respectively and disagreed at a mean score of 2.44 on item 20.

The results in the table further showed that the overall men score on items 1 to 4 bordering on verbal dimension of sexual harassment was 2.54, items 5 to 8 that constitute items on nonverbal harassment had an overall mean score of 2.42, items 9 to 12 on visual harassment was 2.48, items 13 to 16 on psychological harassment had a mean score 2.47 while items 17 to 20 had a mean score of 2.63, Since the mean score of 2.54 and 2.63 were greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, verbal and physical sexual harassments were the dimensions of sexual harassment experienced more among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State,

Research Question 2: What is the prevalence of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State?

Table 4: Mean score on prevalence of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

S/N	VARIABLE	SPD	MDK	DD	DW	X
1	I hear offensive sexual comment or jokes about me in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	118 (22.6)	212 (40.5)	155 (29.6)	38 (7.3)	2.67*
2	I am being called names with derogatory terms, such as 'Ashewa' Prostitute or whore in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	61 (11.7)	176 (33.7)	242 (46.3)	44 (8.4)	2.61*
3	I hear the spread of sexual rumour(s) about me in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	61 (11.7)	188 (35.9)	215 (41.1)	59 (11.3)	2.53*
4	I hear suggest sexual remarks about my dressing in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	41 (7.8)	220 (42.1)	188 (35.9)	74 (14.1)	2.37
Verbal Harassment (X) = 2.55*						
5	I watch a person leer at me with suggestive overtones in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	62	194 (11.9)	197 (37.1)	70 (37.7)	2.48 (13.4)
6	I watch a person look in the direction of my breast or cleavage in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	81	189 (15.5)	151 (36.1)	99 (28.9)	2.44 (18.9)
7	I saw a guy gaze at my buttocks in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	27	208	214	74	2.37
8	I saw a lady gaze at my buttocks with admiration in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	82 (15.7)	193 (36.9)	174 (33.3)	74 (14.1)	2.50*
Non - Verbal Harassment (X) = 2.45						
9	I have been shown sexual pictures or photographs in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	104 (19.9)	214 (40.9)	143 (27.3)	62 (11.9)	2.55*
10	I have been shown pornography vides in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	103 (19.7)	182 (34.8)	154 (29.4)	84 (16.1)	2.53*
11	I have heard student reading an untrue sex story about me in	76	249	132	38	2.42



Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(22.6)	(40.5)	(29.6)	(7.3)
12 I have read a false sexual comment about me on social media in	86	174	183	80	2.53*
Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(16.4)	(33.3)	(35.0)	(15.3)

Visual Harassment (X) = 2.48

13 I have received unwanted social invitations to a secret place at night	57	189	159	118	2.30
In Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(10.9)	(36.1)	(30.4)	(22.6)
14 I have received suggestive gifts such as pants and under wears from	78	191	192	62	2.55*
the opposite sex in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(14.9)	(36.5)	(36.7)	(11.9)
15 I have received unwelcomed late night calls from the opposite sex	95	178	194	56	2.63*
in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(18.2)	(34.0)	(37.1)	(10.7)
16 I have received flirtatious text messages from guys for a date in	76	233	147	67	2.44
Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(14.5)	(44.6)	(28.1)	(12.8)

Psychological Harassment (X) = 2.48

17 I have been spanked, touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual	114	154	212	43	2.76*
manner in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma		(21.8)	(29.4)	(40.5)	(8.2)
18 I have experienced pulling off or down of my clothes in Ambrose	95	178	194	56	2.63*
Alli University, Ekpoma		(18.2)	(34.0)	(37.1)	(10.7)
19 I have been blocked or cornered in a sexual way in in Ambrose Alli	75	229	151	68	2.45
University, Ekpoma		(14.3)	(43.8)	(28.9)	913.0)
20 I have being intentionally brushed in a sexual way in Ambrose	116	154	202	51	2.73*
Alli University, Ekpoma		(22.2)	(29.4)	(38.6)	(9.8)

Physical Harassment (X) = 2.64*

*Significant mean ($X \geq 2.50$) $\bar{N}=523$ Percentages below frequency values in bracket Several times per day (SPD) More than once a week (MOK) Once a day (OD) Once a week (OW) The result in Table 3 on items 1,2,3 and 4 respectively showed that respondents showed that majority of the respondents (N=212, 40.5%) heard offensive sexual comment or jokes about themselves more than once a week, 242 (46.3%) were called names with derogatory terms, such as Ashewo, prostitute, whore, or lesbian once a day; 215 (41.1%) heard the spread of sexual rumour(s) about them once a day, while 220 (42.1%) heard suggestive Sexual remarks about their dressing more than once a week. The overall mean score on prevalence of items 1 to 4 on verbal harassment was 2.55.

The result from the same Table on items 5,6,7 and 8 respectively showed that majority of the respondents (N=197, 37.7%) saw people leer at them with suggestive overtones once a day, 189 (36.1%) saw people look in the direction of their breast or cleavage more than once a week; 214 (40.9%) saw guys gaze at their buttocks more than once a day, while 193 (36.9%) of the respondents saw at least a lady gazed at their buttocks with admiration more than once a week. The overall mean score on prevalence of items 5 to 6 on non-verbal harassment was 2.45.

The data on items 9,10,11 and 12 respectively showed that majority of the respondents (N=214, 40.9%) saw people showing sexual pictures or photographs of them more than once a week, 182 (34.8%) saw people showing pornographic videos of them more than



once a week; 249 (40.5%) see people reading an untrue sex story about them in a school more than once a week, while 183 (35.0%) of the respondents saw people reading false sexual comment about them on social media once a day. The overall mean score on prevalence of items 9 to 12 on visual harassment is 2.48.

The data on items 13,14,15 and 16 respectively showed that majority of the respondents (N=189, 36.1%) received unwanted social invitations to a secret place at night more than once a week, 192 (36.7%) received suggestive gifts such as pants and under wears from the opposite sex once a day; 194 (37.1%) received unwelcomed last night calls from the opposite sex once a day, while 233 (44.6%) of the respondents received flirtatious text messages from guys for a date more than once a week. The overall mean score on prevalence of items 13 to 16 on psychological harassment was 2.48.

The results on items 17 to 20 respectively showed that majority of the respondents (N=212, 40.5%) experienced spanking, touching, grabbing, or pinching in a sexual manner once a day, 194 (37.1%) experienced the pulling off or down of their clothes once a day; 229 (43.8%) experienced blocking or cornering in a sexual way more than once a week, while 202 (38.6%) of the respondents experienced being intentionally brushed in a sexual way once a day. The overall mean score on prevalence of items 17 to 20 on physical harassment was 2.45.

The overall mean score on the prevalence of verbal ($\bar{X} = 2.55$) and physical sexual harassment ($\bar{X} = 2.55$) were greater than the criterion mean ($\bar{X} = 2.50$) while the other dimensions of sexual harassment had lower prevalence mean score. Therefore, result showed that verbal and physical sexual harassment were the most prevalent dimensions of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

Discussion

Result showed that verbal and physical sexual harassments were the two dimensions of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. This corroborates the findings of Imonikhe, Idoghoand Aluede (2012) who found that verbal and physical sexual harassments were dimension sexual harassment experienced among students in tertiary institutions in Edo State of Nigeria. This is also in line with the findings of Mohd, Lee & Chan (2007) who found that the dimensions of sexual harassment experienced by students were: verbal (e.g. offensive or suggestive remarks); non-verbal or gestural (e.g. leering or ogling with suggestive overtones); visual (e.g. Showing pornographic materials); psychological (e.g. unwanted social invitations) and physical harassment (e.g. Inappropriate touching). According to Stanko (2008), the followings behaviours were regarded as sexual harassment (sexual teasing, jokes, comments or questions); unwanted pressures for sexual favour or date; unwanted touching or pinching: with implied threats of job-related consequences for non-cooperation; physical assault, sexual assault; rape.

Results showed that verbal and physical sexual harassments were the most prevalent dimensions of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose



Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The result corroborates with that of Taiwo, Omole and Omole (2014) who found that sexual harassment is more prevalent among female students aged 22 years and below. The result is in line with that of Dastile (2004) who found that the dimensions of sexual harassment are somewhat different with respect to study programme.

Jaffe (2009) also confirmed the findings that sexual harassment victimization in the preceding three months was similar between boys (12%) and girls (44%) in grade 9. They noted that girls received more sexual jokes, comments, and unwanted touch than boys did, whereas boys reported more homosexual slurs or receiving unwanted sexual content.

The findings disagree with O'Connell and Korabik (2000) that sexual harassment was not related to age in that both the youngest and the middle aged were particularly vulnerable. Furthermore, findings disagree with Stedham & Mitchell (1998) that sexually harassed employees tend to be younger. The outcome of the study which reveals age differences on prevalence of sexual harassment among students is in line with previous expectations. This is probably due to differences in people's perception of maturity and age of sexual initiation.

The results showed that there were no significant age differences on dimensions of sexual harassment experienced among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Edo State. This is in line with findings of Fayankinnu (2012) that age among other demographic characteristics of the respondents (religion and marital status) showed no significant correlation with dimension of sexual harassment experienced. The result disagrees with the findings of Okoro & Obozokhai (2005) that more females below the age of 23 years experienced sexual harassments in the form of flirtatious text messages, calls, and videos from the opposite sex of the same age group compared to the older ones (females above age 23 years). Furthermore, the finding also corroborates the result of Lee (1999) that 34% of female students below 21 years of age had experienced of sexual harassment and sexual violence. About a half of the male students admitted that they had sexually harassed the other gender.

Implications for Counselling

Results from this study have implications for Guidance and Counselling in the following ways:

1) The result suggests that the Guidance Counsellors have a role to play in ensuring that students are well informed on various sexual jokes, comments, actions and behaviours that constitute sexual harassment. Hence, the result of this study informed the need for information and orientation services as part of student support services in schools. Furthermore, counseling services are needed for victims of sexual harassment to enable them recover from possible hurt and emotional pain that sexual harassment may have caused them.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that verbal and physical sexual harassment were the dimensions of sexual harassment experienced and were also the most prevalent



forms of sexual harassment experienced among female undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma Edo State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. The university management should institute legislations or anti-sexual harassment policies that would help protect female undergraduates against all dimensions of sexual harassment from others.
2. The Students Union Government (SUG) and members of various students' departmental associations should ensure that necessary guidelines on behavioural conduct and acceptable social behaviours among students of the opposite sex are well communicated in the institution through bulletins, departmental notice boards and other students forum in faculties.
3. A special guidance and counselling unit should be created in the institution to equip victims of verbal and physical sexual harassment with coping strategies needed to resist the emotional trauma associated with harassment.
4. There should be proper specification of dress codes in school and public places.

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