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ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS TOWARDS PREMARITAL SEX IN KADUNA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The paper investigated the attitudes of in-school adolescents towards premarital sex and also the influence of selected socio-demographic variables on their attitude to premarital sex. Respondents for this study were drawn from 12 secondary schools spread across the northern and southern parts of Kaduna state. A total of 1,400 students in SSS I, SSS II and SSS III were selected for the study using simple random sampling method. Descriptive statistics and biviriate analysis were employed for the study. The results obtained revealed that an overwhelming majority (87.3) of both male and female students were found to hold negative or unfavourable attitude towards premarital sex. The results of the bivariate analysis did not indicate any significant relationship between attitude towards premarital sex and person responsible for upbringing, location of school, ethnic group and religious affiliation. However age of respondents was found to be associated with attitude towards premarital sex. The study recommends that a comprehensive policy and strategy of delivering reproductive health education to adolescents will help in reducing their vulnerability to reproductive health complications.

KEY WORDS:

Attitude, Perception, Premarital sex, In-School, Adolescents

Introduction

The reproductive health issues of adolescents aged 15-19 years has continued to attract the attention of scholars of reproductive health and other relevant stakeholders. This concern is as a result of the increasing susceptibility of young people to reproductive health challenges such as unsafe sex, unintended pregnancy, and complication arising from induced abortions as well as the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infection (Adegoke, 2014). Although measures have been taken by government and non-governmental organisations to address these concerns, studies have continued to indicate an increase in the sexual activities of adolescents and young adults.

Several studies have documented high and increasing premarital sexual activities in Nigeria. La'ah's (2010) study in Kachia, for instance, reported that 70% of the 862 in-school and out-of school female adolescents indicated that they have had

premarital sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. Similarly, Kaduna State Agency for the Control of AIDs (KADSACA) reported in 2010 that the increasing involvement of adolescents in premarital sex is evident in the high HIV prevalence rate among youths who are less than 24 years of age. It is estimated that more than one third of the HIV positive persons in Nigeria are within the age bracket of 15-24 years. In another national study conducted by Oluyemi, Yinusa, Abdullateef, Kehinde and Adegoke (2017) the maintained that the upsurge in premarital sexual activity in Nigeria is also evidenced by the large number of unintended or unwanted pregnancies, increasing number of girls dropping out of school due to unintended pregnancies as well as the high rate of sexually transmitted infections among the 15-24 year old.

In spite the perceived acceptance and popularity of premarital sex in Nigeria, very little is however known about the feelings, attitude and perception of secondary school students towards premarital sex (Eze, 2014, Abdullahi, Mahmoud, and Akor,). It is therefore in view of this gap in knowledge that this study undertaken. Specifically the study sought to address the following objectives.

i. To examine in-school adolescents attitude towards premarital sex in Kaduna State
ii. To establish if there is a relationship between selected socio-demographic variables and the attitudes of respondents to premarital sex in Kaduna state.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework Attitude towards Premarital sex

Attitude in the context of this study refers to the type of feelings or perception held or expressed towards premarital sex. The perception held could either be favourable (positive) or unfavourable (Negative). For short, it simply implies the admiration or dislike of premarital sex. Although the literature reviewed reveals a dearth of research on attitudes of young people to premarital sex, the few that exist on the subject have however revealed that young people hold different types of attitude towards premarital sex. For instance, Owuamanam and Bankole (2013) study on sexual promiscuity among in Ekiti state, revealed out of the 400 respondents studied, 57.8 % indicated that they have an unfavourable negative attitude towards premarital sex. Those who held a favourable attitude towards premarital sex constituted about 42.2% of the sample. The problem however with Owuamanam and Bankole's study is that it is not a school based research as it was carried out outside of the school environment.

In another study on knowledge, attitude and practices of adolescents towards HIV/AIDS in Kura LGA, of Kano State, Yola (2010) found out that an

overwhelming majority (70.3%) held favourable attitude towards premarital sex, 29.7% had a negative attitude towards it. Just like Owuamanam and Bankole's study in Ekiti, was not school based. It is assumed that a study conducted exclusively among in-school adolescents within their respective school setting might yield a contrary result.

Similarly, Eze's (2014) study on adolescents' attitude towards premarital sex conducted in Awka North and South LGAs revealed that for every 21 male respondents 20 of them accepted that they have favourable attitudes towards premarital sex. While 19 out of the 21 female respondents indicated that they have positive attitude towards premarital sex. This finding clearly revealed that adolescents nowadays are increasingly accepting premarital sex as a way of life. However, given the socio-cultural and religious differences between the Northern and Southern part of Nigeria, the findings of Eze's study, which was conducted in Southern Nigeria, may not be applicable to Kaduna State which has a heterogeneous population consisting of Christians and Muslims with different ethnic and cultural identities.

In India, a study on knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards premarital sex among unmarried youths from two- city slums of Delhi and Lucknow, was undertaken by Kumar and Tiwari (2003). The findings of the study showed that 31.3% have a favorable attitude towards premarital sex, while 23.0% disapproved of the issue. The study also found that only 19.4 percent of the youth approved of sex before marriage, this is in contrast to 37.3 percent who disapproved of sex outside marital union. Again, a moderately high proportion (43.3 percent) was found to be undecided on the issue.

Socio-demographic determinants of attitudes towards premarital sex

Some studies have shown that the attitude held by adolescents towards premarital sex is influence by a number of socio-demographic and economic factors. Adegoke (2014) study on attitude towards premarital sex among secondary schools adolescents in Ibadan, Metropolis examined the influence of gender, age and religious affiliation on respondent's attitudes towards premarital sex. The study revealed that gender did not significantly influenced respondents attitude towards premarital sex. This implies that the gender of the adolescents has no effect on the type of attitude expressed by respondents towards premarital sex. Furthermore, the study however, revealed that a significant difference between the age and religious affiliation of respondents and their attitude toward premarital sex. This finding suggests that the age and religion of adolescents has a significant influence on their attitude towards premarital sex. The older age group (16-20 years) showed more favorable or liberal attitude towards premarital sex

than the younger age group (10-15 years). Similarly, the Muslim adolescents showed more favorable attitude towards premarital sex than their Christian counterparts.

In Africa, one of such studies on the attitude of in-school adolescents towards premarital sex was conducted in Kenya by Wepukhulu, Mauyo, Poipoi, Achoka et al (2012). Specifically, the study investigated the influence of some socio-economic factors on the attitude of adolescents towards premarital sex. The findings of the study showed that gender had an influence on the attitude of the students towards premarital sex. Girls were more associated with unfavorable attitude to premarital sex than boys. In addition, school type was also found to have influenced the attitude of adolescents towards premarital sex. The analysis indicated that girls only and boys' only schools negatively influenced the youth more than other types of schools.

In Iran Esna-Ashari (2013) investigated the impact of some selected socio-demographic and economic characteristics on the differences in attitudes towards premarital sex. The study found out that youths in Iran generally have a negative attitude towards premarital sex. The result of the bivariate analysis revealed that in terms of gender girls tended to show more disapproval to premarital sex than their male counterparts. With regards to social class, the study found that young people from poorer socio-economic families held more negative attitudes premarital sexual activity than their colleagues from affluent background. Similarly, Esna-Ashari found that exposure to the both social and traditional media also influenced the attitude of youths towards premarital sex. Those who had more frequent access to the media tend to express more favorable attitude towards premarital sex than those who had limited or no access to such media outlets. However, the age of youths and their level of educational attainment did not show any significant relationship with attitude to premarital sex.

Theoretical Frame Work

The social action theory was developed by Max Weber in his book entitled, *Economy and society* which was first published in the 1920. Specifically, the theory suggests a scientific verification of action and reactions among individuals rather than collectives, at a subjective level of meaning and adapting a subjective method of understanding. In other words, Weber proposed the use of subjective methods as a means of understanding causal relationships between actions and reactions. According to him, it is only when the subjective meaning behind an action is understood that an action could be regarded as a social action. This is based on the fact that the human subject is a free being who projects meanings and seeks ends. Such ends (or goals) of social action are defined by values of the

society, while the means to achieve them are prescribed by the norms. Hence, central to the understanding of human behavior is an understanding of the motives that lie in the social and behavioral circumstances of individuals.

Weber's conception of social action is useful in understanding and explaining the feelings or attitudes of individuals towards premarital sex. It is important to note that the type of attitude and perception held towards premarital sex are embedded in the socio-cultural and believe systems. Adolescent attitude is a complex interaction of individual and socio-economic factors. These elements act in collaboration with cultural factors to influence how individuals perceive premarital sex. For instance, in some Africa countries like Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, South-Western Sudan and South-Western Nigeria the motivation for young adolescent girls to engage in premarital sexual intercourse may stem from the high value placed on their ability to conceive and bear children (Caldwell, Orubuloye and Caldwell,1992) In such societies which approve of premarital pregnancy individuals are likely to develop favorable attitude towards premarital sex (Preston-Whyte, 1994).

Methodology Research Design

The study adopted for this study is the descriptive survey design. This research design was chosen because the research sought information on incidence and attitude of the respondents. Both qualitative and quantitative cross-sectional data were collected from the sampled respondents. The questionnaire which was the main instrument used for data collection was self administered. The qualitative data was obtained from focus group discussion (FGD) conducted in each of the 12 schools where the study were conducted.

Population of the study

The key elements of this study are Senior Secondary Schools (SSS) students. Information obtained from the Ministry of Education indicated that there are a total of 533 (262 public and 271private) senior secondary schools spread across the 23 LGAs in Kaduna State as at 2009-2010 academic session (MoE, 2010). It was estimated that 154,964 students were enrolled in the three levels of SSSI, SSSII and SSSIII in both public and private schools.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A total number of 1,400 students selected from 12 secondary schools spread across Kaduna State were selected for the study. The 12 schools where the study took place were purposively selected from the 3 senatorial zones. The secondary schools selected for the study were chosen based on their location (whether urban

or rural), type of school, (day or boarding), single sex or mixed and private or public. In all the 12 selected secondary schools, except one, a total number of 120 respondents were selected for the study from each of the schools. This implies that in each school, a total number of 40 students each were selected from SSSI, SSSII and SSS III. Using the respective class attendance record respondents were systematically selected from each year group.

Method of Data Analysis: The qualitative data derived from the FGDs were first of all transcribed and translated. The transcriptions were then reviewed and relevant quotations that captured the themes and ideas being expressed in each question were noted and compiled.

The quantitative data generated from the questionnaire survey were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science [SPSS] version 17.0. The univariate and bivariate analytical techniques were mainly employed for data analysis.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

In terms of age and sex composition of the respondents, the result in Table 1 shows that more than 25% of all respondents are 15 years or less while about 75% are 16 years or more. The result also reveals that the bulk of the entire respondents (62.9%) are aged 16-18 years. The average age of male and female respondents is 17and 16.2 years respectively. The age distribution of the respondents by sex indicates that there were more female (46.9%) than male (53.1%)Table 1 also shows that there are more Christians (64.2%) than Muslim (35.5%) in the sample. The traditionalist constituted only 0.4% of the sample. The data in Table 1 shows that there were slightly more respondents in SSS 1(34.2%) than in SSSII (33.6%) and SSS III (32.2 percent).

With regards to the persons with whom respondents lived, Table 1, revealed that majority (70.9%) of the respondents were brought up by both parents. More than 9.0% of both male and female respondent indicated that they are brought up and cared for by their fathers only and almost the same proportion of both respondents revealed that they were solely nurtured by only their mothers. A very marginal proportion of male (1.5%) and female (0.8%) respondents indicated that they are living alone.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Age Composition						
12 years and below	13	2.0	12	1.6	25	1.8
13- 15 years	91	13.9	237	31.9	328	23.4
16-18 years	440	67.1	440	59.1	880	62.9
19 years and above	112	17.0	55	7.4	167	11.9
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**
Religious Affiliation						
Christianity	429	65.4	478	64.2	907	64.2
Muslim	227	34.6	263	35.3	490	35.3
Traditional	-	-	3	0.5	3	0.4
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**
Class/Form						
SSS I	222	33.9	257	34.5	479	34.2
SSS II	227	34.5	244	32.8	471	33.6
SSS III	207	31.6	243	32.7	450	32.2
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**
Person responsible for upbringing of respondents						
Both Parents	445	67.8	547	73.5	992	70.9
Father	67	10.2	60	8.1	127	9.1
Mother	63	9.6	66	8.9	129	9.2
Guardian	44	6.7	40	5.4	84	6.0
Uncle	20	3.0	11	1.4	31	2.2
Auntie	7	1.1	14	1.9	21	1.6
Alone	10	1.5	6	0.8	16	1.1
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**
Ethnic groups of respondents						
Hausa/Fulani	249	38.0	259	34.8	508	36.3
Jaba	59	9.0	65	8.7	124	8.9
Atyap	47	7.2	33	4.4	80	5.7
Bajju	41	6.3	34	4.6	75	5.3
Ethnic groups in Southern Kaduna	122	18.6	167	22.4	289	20.6
Non-State Indigenes	138	21.0	186	25.0	342	23.1
Total	656	100	744	100	1,400	100
Location of School						
Urban	311	47.4	314	42.2	625	44.6
Rural	345	52.6	430	57.8	775	55.4
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

As indicated in Table 1 the respondents came from different ethnic background. The major ethnic groups indentified include (36.3%), Jaba (8.9%), Atyap (5.7%) and Bajju (5.3%) . In addition, Table 1 indicates that 52.6% of male and 57.8% of female respondents attend schools located in areas designated as rural locations. On the other hand 47.4% of male and 42.2% of female respondents attend schools in locations classified as urban. It can also be observed from the data that a slight majority of the respondents (55.4 percent) come from schools located in areas classified as rural while about 44.6 percent are from urban schools.

Attitude of Respondents towards premarital sexual intercourse

Respondents' attitude towards premarital sex was measured by their response to a question which sought to find out how they would regard or perceive their friends who they know have had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. The responses obtained are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: The attitude of respondent towards sexual experienced adolescents

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	Per.%
No response	12	1.8	16	2.2	28	2.0
Very Favourable	93	14.2	57	7.7	150	10.7
Favourable	232	35.4	338	45.4	570	40.7
Unfavourable	319	48.6	333	44.8	652	46.6
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The data in Table2 revealed that 35.4% of male and 45.4% of female respondents indicated that they have favorable attitude towards their colleagues who are sexually experienced. In the same vein 48.6% of male and 44.8% of female said they have unfavorable attitude towards their friends or class mates who have had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. On the basis of gender, the result show that more female (90.2%) than male (84.0%) disapproved of premarital sex. The very favorable and unfavorable responses expressed against sexually experienced friends, is an indication that majority (87.3 %) of the respondents are not supportive of premarital sexual intercourse and generally have a negative attitude towards it.

An explanation of the negative or unfavorable attitude held by mostly female respondents towards premarital sex and those who engage in it was provided by some female discussants who participated in some of the FGDs conducted. Some of the discussants attributed the negative view held towards premarital sex to the regular counseling they receive from their parents and significant others concerning the dangers and consequences associated with premarital sex. During one of the FGD session a female discussant in SSS III from a day public school in Sabon-Gari explained why more females tend to dislike premarital sexual intercourse and their friends or mates known to have had sexual intercourse in the following manner.

> *As you know the consequences of premarital sex is more devastating on girls than boys. Due to this reason most parents especially mothers, often make it a point of duty to counsel their female children on the dangers associated with premarital sex. In my view the knowledge of the consequences of premarital sex*

> *received from parents has made most female students to develop some sort of fear about sex and dislike for some boyfriends who persistently demand for sex when you are in a relationship with them. For me I strongly believe that the pieces of advice received from parents seem to have encouraged many females to develop a negative attitude towards premarital sex and those who indulge in the practice as compared to their male counterpart.*

The opinion of this discussant indicate that some respondents tend to receive some form of sex education from their parents and that the knowledge received from this source tend to have an influence on the attitude they hold towards premarital sex and those engage in such behaviour. Another reason why many female respondents dislike premarital sex and those who engage in the practice more than their male counterparts is because of the attitude which some female students hold towards such behaviour. Some of the discussants stated that many female students tended to have unfavorable attitude towards their friends or mates known to have initiated sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. In another FGD an SSS II female discussant from a girl's only public boarding school from Giwa stated that:

> *Sexually experienced students, especially females are seen by others as spoilt brats. Her class mates or friends usually gossip about her exploits in her absence. Whenever, she picks up a quarrel with her friends those who know about her 'secret' do not hesitate to call her a prostitute. She is often disliked and looked down upon by many. On religious and health grounds I think it is very wrong for young unmarried persons to initiate sexual intercourse.*

This view expressed by the discussant indicates that students do have knowledge of the sexual exploits of some of their friends which they discuss among themselves. This discussions which are usually referred to as gossips tend to prevent other students from engaging in sexual relationships essentially because they are scared that their friends and mates will also gossip about them . It can also be seen in Table 2 that 14.2 % of male and 7.7% of female respondents reported that they have very favorable attitude towards their friends, school and class mates who have had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. Although the proportions of students who held this view are small, the result is an indication that there are some few secondary school students who are not only supportive of premarital sex but are likely to have initiated sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. These categories of students are therefore likely to hold a positive or a favorable view about premarital sex and would therefore not see anything wrong with it.

A very small proportion of discussants who took part in the FGDs indicated that they have a lot of admiration for their friends who have had penetrative sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. Some of these discussants maintained that it is normal for young people who are in love with one another to have sexual intercourse. According to them periodic sexual intercourse with your loved one tends to make the relationship stronger and durable. This view is shared by a male discussant in SSS III from a private, mixed boarding secondary school in Kafanchan. He stated that:

> *It is cool for a boy and a girl who are involved in an intimate romantic relationship to have sexual intercourse. Having sex from time-to-time with your lover brings the two of you closer and the relationship can last for a longer period of time. In fact if the relationship is so intimate it could result in marriage some times in the future. Even before I had my first girlfriend I use to admire my seniors in school and at home including my close friends who have had sexual intercourse with their girlfriends. Ever since I use to admire and also wanted to do the things they do. Personally I do not think that having sex with one's girlfriend is bad provided if you use protection (condom).*

This statement shows that a few students have favorable attitude towards premarital sex and those who engage in the practice. What this means is that a few students are waiting for the opportunity to initiate sexual intercourse.

The study also investigated the respondents' opinion on the prevalent type of attitude commonly expressed by adolescents towards premarital sex in recent times. The opinion of the respondent on this issue is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Respondents opinion on the prevalent type of attitude held towards premarital sex

Opinion on the prevalent type of attitude expressed towards premarital sex	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	Per.%
Very favourable	131	20.0	316	42.5	447	31.9
Favourable	283	43.1	399	53.6	682	48.7
Marginally favourable	139	21.2	11	1.5	150	10.7
Not favourable at all	103	15.7	18	2.4	121	8.6
Total	**656**	**100**	**744**	**100**	**1,400**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The finding in Table 3 reveals that 31.9% and 48.7% of the respondents, who constituted an overwhelming 80.6% of the sample, are of the view that very favorable or favorable attitude towards premarital are the dominant type of attitude prevalent in the study. Those who think that attitude towards premarital sex is not very popular (or marginally favorable) constituted about10.7%. While only 8.6% of the respondents said that the expression of favorable attitude towards premarital sex is not that prevalent or common in the study. The data also revealed that more female respondents (96.1%) compared to 63.1% of their male counterparts opined that the favorable attitude expressed towards premarital sex is wide spread. This finding clearly suggests that favorable attitude towards premarital sex is the dominant and most popular form of attitude prevalent in the study area.

The relationship between respondents' attitudes towards non-marital sex and selected socio-demographic characteristics'

The study also cross tabulated attitude towards premarital sex and some selected socio-demographic characteristics. Cross-tabulation analyses were conducted to determine the existence of relationship or association between attitude towards premarital sex and variables such as age, religious affiliation, ethnic groups, person responsible for upbringing and location of school. The results of the cross-tabulation are presented in Table 4 to 8.

The results of the cross-tabulation between the attitude of respondents to sexually experienced adolescents and age is presented in Table 4. It is evident from the results in Table 4 that a higher proportion of respondents aged 19 years and above (45.5%) compared to their counterparts aged 18 years and below showed that they have very favorable attitude towards to sexually experienced adolescents. Thus, it can be deduced from this findings that age of adolescent has significant influence on attitude towards premarital sex

Table 4: The relationship between respondents' attitude towards sexually experienced adolescents and age

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Ages of respondents 12yrs &below		13-15 yrs		16-`18 yrs		19yrs&above	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per. %	Freq.	Per. %	Freq.	Per. %
No response	4	16.0	86	26.2	140	15.9	11	6.6
Very favourable	3	12.0	71	21.6	96	10.9	76	45.5
Favourable	7	28.0	58	17.7	287	32.6	55	32.9
Unfavourable	11	44.0	113	34.4	357	40.6	28	16.8
Total	25	100	328	100	880	100	167	100

The attitude towards sexual experienced adolescents also was cross-tabulated with religious affiliation in order to determine whether a relationship exist between the two variables. The result obtained is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: The relationship between respondents' attitude towards sexually experienced adolescents and religious affiliation

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Religious Affiliation Christianity		Islam		Traditionalist	
	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	**Per.%**	**Freq.**	**Per.%**
No response	15	1.7	12	2.4	1	33.3
Very favourable	111	12.2	38	7.6	1	33.3
Favourable	351	38.7	219	44.7	-	-
Unfavourable	430	47.4	221	45.1	1	33.3
Total	**907**	**100**	**490**	**100**	**3**	**100**

The results in Table 5 shows that a slightly higher proportion of Christian students (47.4 %) compared to 45.1% of Muslim students indicated that they have unfavorable attitude towards premarital sex. The Christians respondents showed more favorable attitude premarital sex than their Muslim countered. Further cross-tabulation was conducted to find out the relationship between attitude toward adolescents who have initiated premarital sex and ethnic groups. The result of the finding in Table 5 showed that religious affiliation has no significant influence on attitude towards premarital sex.

Attitude towards adolescents who have initiated premarital sex was also cross-tabulated with ethnic group. The result obtained is displayed in Table 6

Table 6: The relationship between respondents' attitudes towards sexually experienced adolescents and ethnic group

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Ethnic Groups Huasa/ Fulani		Jaba		Atyap		Bajju		Southern Kaduna Minorities		Other States	
	Freq	**Per.%**	**Freq**	**Per.%**	**Freq**	**Per.%**	**Freq**	**Per. %**	**Freq**	**Per %**	**Freq**	**Per %**
No response	11	2.1	3	2.4	1	1.2	1	0.7	2	1.0	10	3.0
Very favourable	46	8.7	17	13.8	10	12.1	22	15.9	22	11.2	33	10.0
Favourable	218	41.1	48	39.0	30	36.6	55	39.9	76	38.6	143	43.5
Unfavourable	255	48.1	55	44.7	41	50.0	60	43.5	97	49.2	143	43.5
Total	**530**	**100**	**123**	**100**	**82**	**100**	**138**	**100**	**197**	**100**	**329**	**100**

The data in Table 6 shows that a larger proportion of students across the various ethnic groups indicated that they have an unfavourable attitude toward sadolescents' who have had premarital sex. This implies that most adolescents have a very strong dislike towards premarital sex including those who indulge in the practice. The result of the cross-tabulation revealed that there is no significant relationship between ethnic group and the attitude towards students who have initiated premarital sex.

The attitude towards sexually experienced adolescents and the person responsible for upbringing was also cross-tabulated. The result obtained is presented in Table 6. The results shows that majority of respondents brought up by both parents, single parents and significant others have all indicated their dislike for adolescents who have initiated penetrative sexual intercourse. The unfavorable attitude held by most respondents shows a general resentment toward premarital sex irrespective of persons responsible for upbringing. The results of the cross-tabulation showed that there is no significant association between person responsible for upbringing and attitude towards adolescents who have initiated premarital sex.

Table 7: The relationship between respondents' attitude towards sexually experienced adolescents and respondent living arrangement

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Person Responsible for upbringing											
	Both parents		Father		Mother		Guardian		Uncle/ Auntie		Alone	
	Freq	Per.%	Freq	Per.%	Freq	Per.%	Freq	Per. %	Freq	Per %	Freq	Per %
No response	22	2.4	2	1.6	2	1.6	1	1.2	1	2.0	-	-
Very favourable	100	10.8	19	15.0	14	10.8	13	15.4	3	5.4	1	6.3
Favourable	432	46.9	33	26.0	43	33.3	33	39.3	21	41.2	8	50.0
Unfavourable	438	47.5	73	57.5	70	54.3	37	44.0	27	52.9	7	43.3
Total	**922**	**100**	**127**	**100**	**129**	**100**	**84**	**100**	**51**	**100**	**16**	**100**

Table 8 presents the cross-tabulated results between respondents' attitude towards sexually experienced students and the location of school.

Table 8: The relationship between respondents' attitude towards sexually experienced adolescents and the location of their school

Attitude towards the sexually experienced adolescents	Location of School			
	Urban		Rural	
	Freq.	Per%	Freq.	Per%
No response	12	1.5	16	2.6
Very favourable	85	10.9	65	10.4
Favourable	317	40.9	253	40.5
Unfavourable	361	46.6	291	46.6
Total	**775**	**100**	**625**	**100**

The data in Table 8 reveals that an almost equal proportion of students in rural (10.4 %) and urban (10.9%) locations have no respect for sexually experienced adolescents. Those who held this view constitute the majority. The implication of this result is that the negative attitude expressed towards those who have initiated sexual intercourse might not relate to the location of their school. The results of the cross-tabulation showed that no significant difference was found between location of school and attitude towards adolescent who have had premarital sex.

On the whole the results of the bivariate analysis executed in Tables, 4, 5,6,7 and 8 show that with the exception of age , no significant relationship was found between religious affiliation, ethnic group, person responsible for upbringing and location and attitude towards adolescents who had initiated premarital sex. What this suggests is that none of these variables are significantly related to the unfavorable attitude held by most respondents towards sexually experienced respondents. Only age was found to be related. It was also observed from the data in all the tables that respondents had negative attitude towards premarital sex as well as those who indulge in the practice.

Discussion of Findings

With regards to the first research objective which sought to find out the attitude of the respondents towards premarital sex, it was discovered that an overwhelming 87.3% of the respondents expressed a negative attitude towards premarital sex. Although the finding of this study is similar to that of Owuamanam and Bankole (2013) the proportion of respondents who held negative attitude towards premarital sex tends to differ. While, only 57.8% of respondents in Owuamanam and Bankole's study expressed negative attitudes towards premarital sex, this study reported that 87.5% of respondents share similar view. The socio-cultural and religious conditions in the southern part of Nigeria where Owuamanam and Bankole's studies was conducted and the northern region of Nigeria where the present study was under taken most likely explain the degree of variation of the attitude among the respondents in both studies.

In addition this study also agreed that the western conception of romantic love among adolescents has significantly contributed to the favorable sexual attitude which has popularized premarital sex. This finding is similar to that of Eze (2014) who reported that the adolescents in the present generation are increasingly becoming more liberal and permissive to all forms of sexual behaviours. Although the context and location of Eze's study differs from this, the findings are however in agreement.

A non-significant relationship was found between attitude towards premarital sex and religious affiliation, person responsible for upbringing, location and ethnic group. However age of respondents and their attitude to premarital sex was found to have significantly influence their attitude towards premarital sex. This finding implies that the older the respondents tended to have more liberal or permissive attitude towards premarital sex than their juniors. Adegoke's (2014) study also reported an association between age and positive attitude towards premarital sex.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Findings from several studies have clearly indicated an upsurge in premarital sexual activities and an increasing positive or permissive attitude towards sexuality. The increasing prevalence of permissive sexual attitude in African societies today can be attributed to the influx of western culture and civilization. This situation has therefore increased the vulnerability of adolescents to severe reproductive health challenges. Given the consequences associated with premarital sexual relationships, it has become imperative to educate the adolescents about the potential consequences of initiating non-marital sexual activities. In addition, stakeholders in the educational sector should work in collaboration with curriculum designers in secondary schools to develop a comprehensive reproductive health policy for adolescents. Such a policy should outline plausible strategy through which reproductive health education will be delivered to adolescents prior to the onset of sexual relationships.

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