



INCIDENCE OF RAPE AS PERCEIVED BY TERTIARY INSTITUTION STUDENTS IN ONDO, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

SOETAN, M.K.

*Department of Educational Psychology and Counselling,
Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo
m.ksoetan@yahoo.com*

and

ADEMIKANRA, A O.

*Department of Educational Psychology and Counselling,
Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo
omoobaadedayo4u@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT

This study investigated incidence of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students. A survey research design was used in the study. The population consisted of all students in Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. A sample of two hundred and fifty students were randomly selected for the study. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The instrument was subjected to pilot test in which Cronbach alpha reliability method was used. A reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained. Data was analysed using mean, ranking and t-test. The results revealed that there is incidence of rape. It was also found that gender, marital status and family type have significant influence on perception of incidence of rape among tertiary institution students ($t = 6.20$; $p < 0.05$; $t = 9.371$, $p < 0.05$ and $t = 4.964$, $p < 0.05$) respectively while religion does not ($t = 1.002$, $p > 0.05$). It was therefore recommended that public attitudes towards rape should be changed through the use of media, theatre, public meetings, religious meetings and debates among others.

Keywords: *Incidence, perception, rape*

INTRODUCTION

Rape is described as a world-wide crime that is posing problem for the criminal justice system of every nation of the world. It has been undoubtedly acknowledged as one of the war crimes at the international level (Orchowski, 2010).

Historically, there are essentially two versions or concepts of rape: one is through war, and the other seen as a criminal offence within individual societies. Although, they are essentially the same violations of the victims, they have been seen in different light throughout human history.

In what we generally think of as ancient history, the rape of women of a conquered city by the victorious army was considered a part of the "spoils of war". The plunder and theft of any valuables or personal effects, along with the rape of women or taking of the surviving population of the defeated city as slaves or the taking of women as concubines, was considered a normal and expected result of victory and the penalty of defeat. It was also a way for generals and governments to "pay" or reward their soldiers for their service. The rape of women of a defeated city or army was not just about the carnal lust of the victorious army or individual soldiers; it was considered as another way to completely humiliate and subjugate the defeated country and society. It was also not unheard of for the male survivors of the defeated army to be sodomized as an additional humiliation to their manhood.

Rape has been treated through history with silence. People find it difficult to talk about and the police and legal system find it equally difficult to deal with. Professionals often avoid rape cases because of the paraphernalia of the judiciary system (Chakraborty, Chaudhary & Bos,



2007). Despite decades of feminist advocacy and awareness contributions, targeting at breaking the silence surrounding sexual victimization, the rapes of girls and women persists as a world-wide public health challenge and unfortunately, the public response to sexual violence often seems too pale in comparison to its prevalence.

There are types of rape that have been identified. These include: stranger rape (in which the offender and the victim do not know each other prior to the incidence); acquaintance rape (both the offender and the victim have a relationship together i.e. boy friend/girl friend or those that are dating each other); intimate-partner rape (both the offender and the victim living together i.e. husband and wife or those cohabitating); gang rape (when many people, usually a group of offenders have the carnal knowledge of a victim); war or armed conflict rape (this exists when women or girls are forced into sexual intercourse with the third party, usually the relatives of the victims or directly by the armed soldiers or rebels) and party rape (this usually takes place in parties) (Porter & Alison 2006; Wood, 2006; Zanni, 2009).

Rape is a global problem with women and children being mostly vulnerable; Nigeria is not exempted from the epidemic of rape. Ajere (2017) also reported incidents of rape in Nigeria. In 2013, The Federal Science and Technical College, a girls' school in Aka Offot Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State sent save our soul to the government on the incessant incidents of rape in the college. A lady at 37 narrated her ordeal of lack of interest in marriage as she had been violated at age 10 and gang-raped twice at 19 by six guys who had satisfactory sex with her through force. A thirty-year old man, a homosexual had anal sex forcefully with a male minor. A girl full of good dreams for her future through her secondary school certificate examination's brilliant result and with a decision to keep herself pure as a young girl, not wanting to be distracted by engaging in sexual activities with opposite sex was gang-raped by three men who truncated her dreams.

According to Chiedu (2012), the baffling prevalent upsurge of rape is reported to have gone up in recent past from 12.5 percent to 80 percent in Nigeria. There are several cases, which are very irritating. Now and then, it is reported that a teacher has raped a student. A religious leader has raped his flock. Robbers have raped a victim. A man has raped a sister-in-law or daughter-in-law. A master has raped a housemaid. A security man has raped a master's wife. A boss has raped his staff. A father has raped his daughter. A young man has raped a grandmother. A minor has raped a fellow minor.. 80-years old man has raped a 8-year old girl. Hence, this study aims at investigating incidence of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students. To guide the conduct of the study, research question was raised and hypotheses postulated.

Research Question

What is the incidence of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students?

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on marital status
3. There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on family type.
4. There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on religion.

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for this study is descriptive survey. Population for the study consisted of all students in Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. The sample comprised two hundred and fifty (250) students randomly selected from all the schools in the college. The schools are Arts and Social Sciences, Education, Languages, Sciences and Vocational and Technical

Education. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The questionnaire was divided into sections (A & B), Section A was on demographic data of the respondents while Section B consisted of items on incidence of rape with four Likert type scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). The instrument was subjected to pilot test in which Cronbach alpha reliability method was used. An index or reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained i.e. ($r = .85$). Data collected was analysed using mean, ranking and t-test.

RESULTS

Research Question: What is the incidence of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students?

In analysing the data on the research question, mean and ranking were used. Table 1 represents the result.

Table1: Mean and Rank Order table showing the incidence of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students

S/N	Incidence of Rape: There are cases of rape between	Mean	Rank
1	Two people who did not know each other prior to the incident	4.15	2 nd
2	Two people who are in relationship or dating each other	3.92	5 th
3	Husband and wife or those cohabitating	4.08	3 rd
4	A group of people forcing a victim into intercourse (gang rape)	4.20	1 st
5	Females having carnal knowledge of males without their consent	4.02	4 th
6	Armed soldiers or rebels and women or girls	3.75	7 th
7	Males and females in parties	3.78	6 th

Table 1 shows that item 4 which states that there are cases of a group of people forcing a victim into intercourse (gang rape) ranked 1st with mean value of 4.20, item 1 ranked 2nd with mean value of 4.15, item 3 ranked 3rd with mean value of 4.08, item 5 ranked 4th with mean value of 4.02, item 2 ranked 5th with mean value of 3.92 while item 7 and 6 ranked 6th and 7th with mean value of 3.78 and 3.75 respectively. This means that cases of a group of people forcing a victim into intercourse (gang rape) top the list while cases of rape between armed soldiers or rebels and women or girls was last.

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is no significance difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on gender. In testing this hypothesis, the respondents were classified into two groups based on their gender (i.e. male and female) and scores on incidence of rape were analysed using t-test. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Independent t-test summary showing the difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on gender.

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	St.D	df	T	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the incidence of rape	Male	103	33.04	4.180	248	6.207	.000	<.05	0.134
	Female	147	37.92	2.442					

Source: Field, (2023)

As shown in Table 2, male subjects have a mean score of 33.04 and a standard deviation of 4.180 while female subjects have a mean score of 37.92 and a standard deviation of 2.442. A t-test analysis of these values yielded a t-value of 6.207 which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that there is a significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on gender. Size of effects ($\eta^2 = 0.134$) reveals that gender had moderate effect (according to Cohen 1988

and Field 2000 rule of thumb for size of effect) on the perception of incidence of rape; that is, gender accounted for 13.4% change in the perception of students towards the incidence of rape.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on marital status. In testing this hypothesis, the respondents were classified into two groups based on their marital status (i.e. single or married) and scores on incidence of rape were analysed using t-test. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Independent t-test summary showing the difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on marital status

Variable	Marital status	N	Mean	St.D	df	t	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the incidence of rape	Single	183	23.55	3.518	248	9.371	.000	<.05	0.372
	Married	67	18.37	6.020					

Source: Field, (2023)

From Table 3, when the mean score of single students ($\bar{x} = 23.55$, $SD = 3.518$) were compared with those of married students ($\bar{x} = 18.37$, $SD = 6.020$) using the t-test statistical analysis, a t-value of 9.371 was obtained. This value is significant at 0.05 level. Size of effect ($\eta^2 = 0.372$) reveals that marital status had large effect (according to Cohen 1988 and Field 2000 rule of thumb for size of effect) on the perception of rape; that is, marital status accounted for 37.2% change in the perception of students towards the incidence of rape.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in the perception of rape based on family type. In testing this hypothesis, the respondents were classified into two groups based on their family type (i.e. monogamy or polygamy) and scores on incidence of rape analysed using t-test. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Independent t-test summary showing the difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on family type

Variable	Family type	N	Mean	St.D	df	T	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the incidence of rape	Monogamy	96	24.27	2.132	248	4.964	.000	<.05	0.090
	Polygamy	154	29.93	2.864					

Source: Field, (2023)

As shown in Table 4, subjects from monogamous home have a mean score of 24.27 and a standard deviation of 2.132 while subjects from polygamous home have a mean score of 29.93 and a standard deviation of 2.864. A t-test analysis of these values yielded a t-value of 4.964 which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that there is a significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on family type. Size of effects ($\eta^2 = 0.09$) reveals that family type has moderate effect (according to Cohen 1988 and Field 2000 rule of thumb for size of effect) on the perception of incidence of rape; that is type of family accounted for 9% change in the perception of students towards the incidence of rape.

Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on religion. In testing this hypothesis, the respondents were classified into two groups based on their religion (i.e. Christianity and Islam) and scores on incidence of rape were analysed using t-test. The results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Independent t-test summary showing the difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on religion

Variable	Religion	N	Mean	St.D	df	t	Sig	P
Perception on the incidence of rape	Christianity	148	33.04	2.132	248	1.002	.815	>.05
	Islam	102	32.62	2.864				

Source: Field, (2023)

From Table 5, when the mean score of Christian students (\bar{x} = 33.04, SD = 2.132) were compared with those of Islamic students (\bar{x} = 32.62, SD = 2.864) using the t-test statistical analysis, a t-value of 1.002 was obtained. This value is not significant at 0.05 level. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that religion does not influence the perception of incidence of rape among tertiary institution students.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study revealed that there is incidence of rape in which group of people forcing a victim into intercourse (gang rape) ranked 1st while cases of rape between armed soldiers or rebels and women or girls ranked last. This is corroborated by Chiedu (2012) who stated that the baffling prevalent upsurge of rape is reported to have gone up in recent past from 12.5 percent to 80 percent in Nigeria. Orchowski (2010) also noted that rape is a world-wide crime that is posing problem for the criminal justice system of every nation of the world. Ajere (2017) also reported incidents of rape in Nigeria.

The study showed that there is a significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on gender and gender had moderate effect on the perception of incidence of rape. This may be attributed to the fact that women and children are the most vulnerable when cases of rape are considered. Brownmiller (1975) stated that from prehistoric times, rape has played a conscious process of intimidation by which men keep women in fear.

It was also found in this study that marital status has significant influence on the perception of incidence of rape among tertiary institution students and that marital status had large effect on the perception of incidence of rape. This is corroborated by Koss, Gidycz and Wusniewski (1987), who found in their survey that three-quarters of the women raped were between ages 15 and 21; the average age time of the rape was 18. This indicates that majority of the women raped were single, when their age is considered.

The results of the study revealed that there is a significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on family type and that family type had moderate effect. This is in line with the view of Achunike and Kitause (2014) who stated that childhood environments that are physically violent, emotionally unsupportive and characterized by competition for scarce resources have been associated with sexual violence.

The study also showed that there is no significant difference in the perception of incidence of rape based on religion. This implies that religion has no significant influence on the perception of incidence of rape. This is understandable since rape has been declared a world-wide crime, no religion would endorse its prevalence. Every religion is against violence or sexual assault.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It was concluded from this study that there is incidence of rape. It was also found that gender, marital status and family type have influence on the perception of incidence of rape among tertiary institution students while religion does not. Based on these findings, the following recommendations were made:

- There should be more sensitization on the incidence of rape in the society.
- Public attitudes towards rape could be changed through the use of media, theatre, public meetings, religious meetings and debates.



- There should be men's groups against rape in which their actions are frequently conducted in collaboration with women's organisations that are involved in preventing rape and providing services to abused women.
- Policies against sexual harassment in schools should be introduced and implemented. There should also be a wider range of actions including changes to teacher training and recruitment and reforms of curricula, so as to transform gender relation in schools.
- Nurturing with better and more gender-balanced parenting to prevent sexual violence should be encouraged. There should be a prevention model that adopts a developmental approach with intervention before birth, during childhood and in adolescence and young adulthood.
- Females especially girls should be enlightened on how to avoid or resist being raped.
- Husbands and wives should be encouraged to live together so as to be source of defence for their children.
- Single ladies should be wary of how they relate with opposite sex so as to avoid being a victim of rape.



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