

**LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF HAZARD ASSOCIATED WITH INDISCRIMINATE
SEXUAL INTERCOURSE AMONG
SECONDARY SCHOOL BIOLOGY STUDENTS IN ENUGU
EDUCATION ZONE OF ENUGU STATE**

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Abstract

The study is aimed at finding the level of awareness of hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary biology school students. To guide the study, three purposes of study and three research questions were formulated. The study was limited to secondary schools in Enugu Education Zone of Enugu State. The population of the study is four thousand two hundred and twenty five (4,225) biology students. Three hundred and ninety three (393) was sampled and used for the study. The instrument for data collection was well structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The instrument was validated by three lecturers (experts); two from the department of biology Education, and one in Measurement and Evaluation. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. A reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained for instrument. Mean score was used for answering the research questions. The findings revealed that there is high level of awareness of physical, emotional and social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students. The researcher recommended among others that; both parents and health educators should try as much as possible to set good examples for the adolescents to follow on sexuality, this they could do by encouraging the development of a set of values in teenagers that will guide their sexual behaviours.

Keywords: Awareness, Hazard, Indiscriminate, Sexual Intercourse, Biology Students.

Introduction

Adolescent has been described by Coleman and Hendry (2012) as a period of

experimentation. According to them, one of those issues' adolescents' experiment is sex. This explains, perhaps, why UNICEF (2014)

noted that adolescents are the most heterosexually active cohort the world over. Similar sentiments Eze (2018) cited in Okoye (2013) maintained that the hazard of adolescent is role confusion/search for personal identity. During these period adolescents encounter such problem like falling in love with opposite sex and changes in their physical features (males and females alike) which may knowingly or unknowingly lead to teenage pregnancy, abortion and its complications, prostitution, sex abuse and sexual violence, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). All of these do affect school programs and sometimes even lead to secondary school students dropping out of school, which by implication influence the development of the nation (David, 2013).

However, the situation in developing countries shows that the diseases occur predominantly in the heterosexual populations, and therefore, heterosexual contact in these areas is considered a major hazard factor of infection (George and Gerald 2013). David (2014) stated that hazard of indiscriminate sexual intercourse can occur with somebody who is neither a spouse nor a cohabitating partner. According to John (2013), factors that predispose to high hazard sexual practices are: early sexual debut, cultural practices, drug abuse and illiteracy. As Mark and David (2012) maintained that the mean age of 15 years for sexual debut has been reported in Nigeria. Religion, government policies, socioeconomic status, place of residence,

family, gender, constitute distant conceptual framework on adolescent sexual hazard taking in Nigeria while the mass media, communication, peer influence, contraception, and early marriage constitute the proximal factors.

Ade (2014) indicated that the mean age of sexual initiation was 15 years with more than a quarter (28.3%) of the respondents having sexual exposure and about 40 percent having more than one sexual partner and over a third had their first sexual exposure the same day they met the partner (37.6%). In order hands, David (2013) suggested that multiple sexes as the sexual intercourse with more than one partner; while homosexuality is romantic behaviour between members of the same sex. According to Ebere (2014), the most common terms for homosexual people are lesbian for women and gay for men. Two percent (2%) to 13% of the world's population are homosexual. As Maxwell (2015) stated that having multiple sex partners is a sexual hazard taking behavior. Izugbara (2016) showed that students were aware that having multiple sex partners was a hazard factor for several negative health outcomes, including contracting, sexually transmitted infections – STIs etc. Besides, the traditional values among Nigerian for sanctity of sex and sex for procreation have been over thrown in favour of liberal sexual behaviors.

There is evidence of high hazard of sexual behaviour and premarital sexual intercourse involvement among Nigerian secondary school students (Nwankwo, 2018). As Greg (2014) maintained that tragedy of the sexual intercourse among secondary school

adolescents or students is that they engage in frequent sexual activities without proper knowledge of what is involved. Achalu (2016), those who engage in high hazard behaviors such as indiscriminate sex with many partners or those who take partners from the streets have increased chance of being infected. Owolabi (2015) emphasized that, sexual practices such as anal intercourse, oral intercourse, homosexuality and deep kisses are associated with high hazards of contacting these diseases especially the Virus that causes AIDS. Furthermore, Owolabi (2015) noted that some of the prevalence of STDS in Nigeria is due to sexual promiscuity, prostitution and homosexuality, lack of sex education, self medication and drug abuse among others.

Students especially those in secondary schools are among the most sexually active segment of the population (Wilfred, 2013). As Samuel (2014) maintained that students are more likely to engage in physical, emotional and social hazard of indiscriminate sexual practices that increase the chances of infections. Conversely, Maxwell (2011) deposited types of indiscriminate sexual intercourse which involves anal sex, pegging, oral sex, anilingus, fingering and object insertion. Anal sex is sexual acts involving the anus. Pegging is the form of practice whereby the female wears a penis like object and inserts it into the anus of the female partner. Anilingus is oral stimulation of a person's anus. Fingering is the insertion of fingers into the sexual partner's anus/vagina.

The hazards associated with these practices include trauma, anorectic with fissures, rectal prolapsed, infections and anal cancer. Oral sex is any sexual activity involving the stimulation of the genitalia by the use of the mouth and tongue. According to Leo (2015) the terms identified in this form of sexual practice are: cumillingus which is oral sex performed by females, fellatio refers to oral sex performed by males while anilingus refers to oral stimulation of a person's anus. The hazard as Akachukwu and Emeka (2015) stated that transactional sexual relationship is a situation whereby gifts, (monetary/non-monetary) and services are given and collected in exchange for sex. This is common in Nigeria which refereed nowadays as hug up due to the extreme poverty in this region (Ahmed, 2015). As Mark (2013) maintained that the threat of indiscriminate sexual intercourse hazards confronting the students in Nigeria secondary schools should be a focus of research and advocacy. The predicament associated with secondary school students' sexuality, such as unprotected sexual activities and inability to negotiate safe sex become readily apparent. This study is therefore aimed at assessing the level of awareness of hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone of Enugu State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the level of awareness of physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

2. What is the level of awareness of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

3. What is the level of awareness of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

Research Method

The design used for the study is descriptive survey. The research was conducted in the secondary schools in Enugu Education Zone. The population of the study comprised all the secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone of Enugu State with total number of four thousand two hundred and twenty five (4,225), from all thirty one (31) secondary schools in area of study. Sample size for the study is 393. The instrument for data collection was well structured 15 item questionnaire designed by

Results

Research Question One

What is the level of awareness of physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

Table 1

The mean responses on the level of awareness of physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students.

S/N	Items	HA 4	A 3	MA 2	NA 1	N	X Mean	Decision
1	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with unwanted pregnancy?	112	95	101	85	393	2.59	Aware
2	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with abortion?	90	85	107	110	393	2.39	Not Aware

the researcher. The instrument is structured on a 4-point scale as follows; High Aware (HA), Aware (A), Moderately Aware (MA) Not Aware (NA). The instrument was validated by three experts; two from biology Education department, and one in Measurement and Evaluation; all in Enugu State College of Education (Technical) Enugu. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the instrument and reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained for the instrument. Mean was used to answer the research questions. Nominal values were assigned to different scaling statements as follows: Highly Aware 4 points, Aware 3 points, Moderately Aware 2 points, Not Aware -1 point. Any item with a mean response of 2.50 and above was considered as Aware while those below 2.50 were regarded as Not Aware.

3	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with weakness by using substance disorder after sex?	115	107	92	78	393	2.66	Aware
4	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with abuse sex?	91	85	109	107	393	2.41	Not Aware
5	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with sexual transmitted infection (STI)?	105	121	86	81	393	2.64	Aware
Grand mean		2.54						

From table 1, in items 1, 3, and 5, biology students are aware of the physical hazards associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse; while items 2 and 4 revealed that biology students are not aware of the physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse. Generally, the grand mean score of 2.54 confirmed that there is high level of awareness of physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone.

Research Question Two

What is the level of awareness of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

Table 2

The mean responses on the level of awareness of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students.

S/N	Items	HA 4	A 3	MA 2	NA 1	N	X Mean	Decision
6	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with depression?	114	110	88	81	393	2.66	Aware
7	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with anxiety?	94	86	110	103	393	2.44	Not Aware
8	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with their sexual life?	120	106	90	77	393	2.69	Aware

9	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with low self-esteem?	92	83	112	105	393	2.41	Not Aware
10	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with participation sexual intercourse?	115	106	92	80	392	2.66	Aware
Grand mean						2.57		

From table 2, in items 6, 8 and 10, biology students are aware of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse; but in items 7 and 9, biology students are not aware of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse. Generally, the grand mean of 2.57 further revealed that there is high level of awareness of emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone.

Research Question Three

What is the level of awareness of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone?

Table 3

The mean responses on the level of awareness of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students.

S/N	Items	HA 4	A 3	MA 2	NA 1	N	X Mean	Decision
11	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with decline in academic performance?	111	59	110	87	393	2.37	Not Aware
12	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with low grades?	113	86	96	97	393	2.55	Aware
13	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with dropping from school?	117	80	109	86	393	2.58	Aware
14	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with failure in Exams?	120	109	86	77	393	2.76	Aware
15	What is the level of students awareness of hazard associated with frequent sexual activities?	115	107	92	78	393	2.66	Aware
Grand mean						2.58		

In table 3, in items 12, 13, 14 and 15, biology students are aware of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse; while in item 11, biology students are not aware of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse. Generally, the grand mean score of 2.58 confirmed that there is high level of awareness of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse.

Discussion

In table 1, the grand mean score is 2.67 showing that biology students have high level of awareness of physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse. Thus majority of respondents are in agreement that unwanted pregnancy, weakness by using substance disorder after sex and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are the physical hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school students. This finding is in agreement with the view of Mark (2015) who maintained that students are in comparison to adults particularly at higher hazard of developing sexually transmitted diseases, such as [chlamydia](#), [gonorrhea](#), [syphilis](#) and [herpes](#). It is accepted that adolescent females are especially at risk to unwanted pregnancy and development of sexual-transmitted infections. This is claimed to be due to the increased cervical ectopy, which is more susceptible to infection. Again, Olivia (2014) maintained that students who decide not to engage in indiscriminate sexual intercourse have the satisfaction of being in control and are free to be more helpful to others, while those who engaged tend to turn inward and think about their own needs and wants.

Table 2 has its grand mean score as 2.61 revealing that there is high level of awareness of emotional hazard associated

with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone. Thus majority of respondents are in agreement that depression, level of sexual life and participation of sexual intercourse are the emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse. While minority respondents are in disagreement that anxiety; and low self-esteem are the emotional hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school students. This finding also in agreement with the view of Wilfred (2012) who stated that sexual risks include multiple sexual partners, lack of protection use, and sexual intercourse at a young age. The emotion hazards that are associated with these include cognitive disorders such as [anxiety](#), [depression](#), and a [substance use disorder](#). It is also found that sexual indiscriminate in teens can be a result of substance misuse and pre-existing mental health conditions such as [clinical depression](#). Chukwu (2014) also noted that emotional hazard in sexual intercourse is the ability to not cope with the anxiety and depression due to frustrating circumstances such as being associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse.

Table 3 has its grand mean score as 2.53 revealing that there is level of awareness of social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among

secondary school biology students in Enugu Education Zone. Therefore, majority of respondents are in agreement that low grades, dropping out from school, failure in Exams and frequent sexual activities are the social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school students. But minority respondents are in disagreement only one item statement that decline in academic performance is the social hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse among secondary school students. This finding is in corroboration with the view of James (2018) who stated that the social hazard for having multiple sexual partners frequently adversely affects educational opportunities for students, which can affect their careers and opportunities as teenagers; the frequency of multiple sexual partners have negative long-term economic effects for students as a result of a loss of schooling. Chima and Onuh (2018) also stated social hazard is the ability of risk to sustain cordial relationship with two or more persons which conform to the social order. It is the ability to still sustain a public face in the midst of adversity.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that sexual hazard behaviour could be reduced by increasing awareness to the deadly infection, encouragement of disease screening and voluntary confidential counseling and testing, reproductive health education in schools and parents modeling adolescents at hope and predisposing them to better sexual orientation, quality information on sex and its implications.

It also concluded that hazard associated with indiscriminate sexual intercourse activities, in regards to the students can lead to many social and economic risks. In Nigerian, for example, research has found that teenage pregnancy poses significant physical, emotion and social with economic hazards, as it forces female adolescents, particularly those from extremely low-income families, to leave school to pursue child bearing. These disruptions in basic education pose life-long and generational risks to those involved. Social condemnation also prevents these students from seeking help and as a result is at a higher hazard for developing other physical and emotional hazards, which can later result in physical health hazards and substance use.

Recommendations

Based on the major findings, the researcher recommends as follows:

1. Both parents and health educators should try as much as possible to set good examples for the adolescents to follow on sexuality, this they could do by encouraging the development of a set of values in teenagers that will guide their sexual behaviours.
2. Since sex is a powerful force, its true meaning has to be exposed to teenagers both at home and in schools to enable them make wise decisions based on self-control and personal code of conduct that will encourage positive attitudes and desirable behaviours.
3. Parents should know the important of communication in the home. They should disabuse their mind on the tradition of not discussing sex with their children and realize the danger of lack of discussion which is

that the adolescents will seek wrong information from their peers.

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