

Community Education for Rape Insulated Women Entrepreneurship in Akoko Land

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Abstract. The study had the desire of advancing whether Community education could assist in building a rape insulated women entrepreneurship in Akoko land. It does this by examining the demographic representation of the rape victims/survivors, the pattern in which the survivors were raped, the effect on them, succor received, the punishment meted on the perpetrators and how community education could assist in curbing the menace. Linear snowball sampling technique was used to select twelve (12) women entrepreneurs that hawk/peddle finished products of their enterprises and who were victims/survivors of rape from the four (4) purposively selected skills (bakery, fishery, poultry and water processing). The study adopted frequency count, percentages and qualitative summaries in analyzing the data received. It was found that, rape is prevalent among peddlers of goods from enterprises, the pattern of exposure to rape among victims differs, excessive trepidation among the victims worked against building confidence to speak out, patriarchy, traditional stereotypes, gender inequalities, inefficiency and ambiguity in laws obstructed the prosecution of perpetrators of rape and growth of entrepreneurship in the study area. It was recommended among others, that a dire need of utilising the potentials in community education through concerted effort of all will assist in dousing the intense heat generated by rape in our society.

Keywords: Community education, women entrepreneurs, rape victims and insulation.

1. Introduction

It is amazing the potentials inherent in lifelong education. Perhaps, it is an upshot of consciousness arousal as stipulated in Paulo Freire's critical thinking ideology. The strength of lifelong education

including one of its components which is community education, builds on a people's capacity with significant outcomes. The beauty of this is in the continuum and the fact that it can be utilized to meet both human and societal needs. Community education provides citizens with the necessary aesthetic, cultural and civic education both, as a process and a programme which is rooted in indigenous culture and tradition with a reflection of time and place. It could also be both formal and informal while exhibiting change from the status quo.

There can be no suitable time as this, for community education to serve as an instrument of change, stemming societal ills and improving the socio-economic status of growth. This is a reason why the researcher utilizes the opportunity of practicum in community development to do outreaches in markets and motor parks to create awareness on germane issues affecting the area. One of such is creating awareness on the ills of rape. The recent crave for overnight wealth, the high rate of immorality and crime among the people is awesome such that indigenous values had been eroded. A recent act of immorality in the society is rape and sexual violence. Globally, thirty-five percent of women and girls are assaulted annually while, eleven per cent are assaulted in twelve months in Nigeria (Channels Television, 8/12/2019). Rape is a form of sexual violence. It is the act of violently forcing someone to have sex. According to Wikipedia, rape is sexual assault, usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person's wish. Rape is thus, a criminal offence.

It is not out of place to find children and adults especially, females peddling food items or finished products made by entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Nigerian women are enterprising, they produce commodities

ranging from food items, ornaments, soap, detergents, textiles and the like, these entrepreneurs are a pool of the informal sector and their productivity is labour intensive. They predominate cottage industries with family members as staff of these micro industries. Many a time, women entrepreneurs walk long distance or travel by vehicles to get raw materials or sell their products. Also, family members, especially, girls and women often peddle goods of these cottage industries. This had been the practice from time immemorial but had been aggravated by an influx of female entrepreneurs who now take entrepreneurship as succor for unemployment.

Although, the world frown at peddling of entrepreneurial finished products especially, when it is done by children. It is seen as child labour and an abuse of the child but it has become a culture in Nigeria, a developing economy as it serves as a way of improving the economy of the family. Before now, girls and women often walk or travel distances to do businesses and peddle their goods unhurt but the trend had changed. Women entrepreneurship is thus, beset with high intensity of heat, ranging from cultural barriers, structural and legal. Cultural and structural barriers include preference of boys' enrolment in schools against girls, child marriage which reduces economic participation and unpaid domestic/ care jobs for women and girls and allotting particular entrepreneurial training/skills to the female. The legal barriers include inequality in inheritance rights, limited or no access to financial structures and failure of apt legal protection from sexual abuse. Females of all ages are being abused and raped at school, homes, on street, when sent on errands, during trips and while peddling goods. Most of these girls and women are bread winners because of the high level of poverty in households and an increase in the representation of women as household heads in Nigeria.

Rape is a defiant behaviour, it could be seen as lack of self-control and foundational etiquette. Rape could be practiced by both sexes and age group. The adolescent may be more prone to indulge in sexual violence because of difficulties in adjusting to adulthood and taking responsibilities, as rape could manifest as a psychological health risk posing difficulties in adolescence which is a period in which they are beset with conflict and confusion in decision-making. According to Mchenry (2008) in Jacob (2014) Adolescents pass through anxiety which could put them under pressure and lead to unhealthy behaviour like substance use, unhealthy sexual behaviour, and crime. However, as earlier indicated,

middle and older adults also engage in sexual misbehaviour. The most demeaning factor in rape cases is that laws to combat rape is filled with gaps and are rather ambiguous Fayemi (2019) especially in developing nations.

One is apt to ask the question; what has gone wrong with the assurance of an egalitarian society of the nation's philosophy? The domestication of eradicating of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and the essence of being a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in which Goal 5 is quite explicit- "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". This is a basic right that has multiplier effect on all other development areas in education, economy, health, decision- making and the like. Nigeria has undervalued her education as it is yet to make full use of the potentials, inherent in it including community education that could be disseminated in the formal form non- formal and informal.

The philosophy of community education include citizen involvement, total community participation and sharing of decision- making (Anyanwu, 1994). It is indicative that, learning will be useful for the individual, community and the global society to improve the present situation and achieve a sustainable better future. There is a growing belief in education, of its major impact on an individual, the community and national development which should be rooted in the culture and traditions of the people (Anyanwu, 1994). The traditional Nigerian society is that of communism where each person is a brother's and sister's keeper with a knot binding immediate, extended families and the community together.

With Western education and colonisation, foreign laws are domesticated. A salient law to check rape in Nigeria is engraved in the criminal code section 357 and 358. Anyone who violates this law by committing rape is liable to imprisonment for life either with canning or not. Why then is raping of women, girls and toddlers on the increase. Those peddling goods are more affected. It is against this background that this study sought to examine community education as an insulator towards protecting women entrepreneurs from rape.

2. Statement of Research Problem

Several barriers militate against women entrepreneurship in Nigeria which may include low education/ training, finance, child marriage and perhaps, the law, the new trend indicates that a major

factor that could impede women entrepreneurship is rape. Women often do businesses under precarious conditions, they lack the right networking, as such hours and days are expended on walking, making trips and peddling of goods from place to place which would have been saved for other productive ventures, these also expose women to a lot of danger including rape and insecurity. Whereas, rape is a criminal offence in Nigeria, carrying heavy penalty, day by day there are reports on raping of women and girls while carrying out their lawful duties such that, these entrepreneurs carry out their functions with fear of being attacked. Is it that the law against rape is not binding, functional or respected? What is happening to the right of free movement of citizens? It is against this background that this study professes that community education is an insulator for stemming rape in the practice of women entrepreneurship.

3. Research Questions

- What is the demographic representation of women entrepreneurs who are victims/survivors of rape in the study area?
- In what pattern were the survivors raped?
- What is the effect of rape on these victims?
- Did these survivors receive succor?
- What is the punishment meted on the arrested rapists?
- Did community education assist in reducing the incidence of rape in the study area?

4. Literature Review

4.1 What is Rape?

The Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary of current English (2010) defines rape as the crime of forcing somebody to have sex with one, especially using violence. Rape is a sexual assault and it is against human rights law. It is the act of using force or violence to have sexual intercourse or harassment against a person.

4.2 Rape and the Law

Rape is a heinous crime in Nigeria. The laws that legally control rape in Nigeria include:

- The criminal code which is applicable in all the Southern States
- The Penal code is applicable in all Northern States.
- The Criminal Laws of Lagos that is applicable only in Lagos State and.
- The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP Act). This Law is a Federal Law

that is domesticated in Lagos, Anambra, Ebonyi and Oyo States.

The Criminal Code section 357 in Olakanmi (2015) reads:

Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or, in the case of a married woman by personating her husband, is guilty of an offence which is called rape p 3 Section 358 further says

Any person who commits the offence of a rape is liable to imprisonment for life, with or without caning (Olakanmi, 2015).

The Penal code of Nigeria (Section 282) reiterated:

"A man is said to commit rape, who has sexual intercourse with a woman in any of the following circumstance: against her wish, without her consent; with her consent, when the consent is obtained by putting her in fear of death or hurt"

While the criminal laws of Lagos State Section 258 asserted:

"Any man who has unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman or girl without her consent is guilty of the offence of rape"

Again, the violence Against Persons Prohibition Act Section 1 averred that

"A person commits the offence of rape if he or she intentionally penetrates the vagina of another person, anus with any other part of his/her body or anything else without consent, or the consent is obtained by force" (Guardian, Friday October, 2015)

Seven gaps in rape and sexual laws were identified by Equality Now Report which is indicative of a big lag in providing justice and effectively bringing to book rape and sexual violent criminals. The gaps are:

- Laws allowing the perpetrator reaching some form of "settlement" like marrying the victim.
- Laws framed in terms of moral bodily integrity thereby, perpetrating violence and discrimination.
- Laws that explicitly permit rape even of children.
- Laws permitting judicial discrete charges or define evidence based on assessment of the complainant.
- Laws that fail to recognize true impossible in situation of/or extreme vulnerability.
- Laws or practices inhibiting the prosecution of sexual assault.

- Laws requiring witness/corroborator, over burdensome evidence. (Equality Now Report, p1.)

4.3 Sustainable Development Goal 5

Goal 5 of sustainable development goals declared the equality of gender and empowerment of all women and girls. This goal says achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls involves:

- Ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.
- Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognising and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and development and the Beijing platform for Action and the outcome of their review conferences.
- Undertaking reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Metadata-Goal 5 pdf updated 3/3/2016
 Hppt://wbl.worldbank.org/abouties

Five years after the adoption of these, how far have we gone as a nation?

4.4 Empirical evidences of cases brought to court on rape in Nigeria

To establish rape as a criminal offence in Nigeria is highly cumbersome. The reality is that the law itself is ambiguous. This study attempts to prove this in some of the cases reviewed in Nigeria especially, the act of substantiating corroboration and penetration in rape.

According to Olakanmi (2015) when corroboration is used in relation to a confession:

(i) it may be used to describe evidence of facts which makes it unlikely that a false confession would be made by the prisoner.

(ii) it may denote independent evidence tending to prove the occurrence of facts otherwise appearing from the confessional evidence alone. Although, corroboration may or may not be necessary in supplying hypothesis with confession more or less consistently with innocence. But the circumstances of a given case may be such that it would be quite unsafe to act upon a confession, unless some particular piece of confirmatory evidence is true. It is, therefore, equally impossible to state as a general rule that always a conviction maybe based upon an express voluntary confession of the commission of criminal acts uncorroborated. Pg 20

Regarding corroboration of a retracted confession, the West African Court of Appeal in Kanu V.R (9) (14 W.A.C.A. at 32-33) in Olakanmi (2015) says: *"A voluntary confession of guilt, if it be fully consistence and probably, Is justify regarded as evidence of the highest and most satisfactory Nature wherever there is independent proof that a criminal act has been committed by someone p21*

The evidence of rape between the State V. Olumuyiwa and Ayodele in Olakanmi (2015) is hereby tendered:

Bosede Sobayo, the complainant alleged that, she accompanied Tele Amosun to her house after school because Tele said her brother, Toyin Amosun, would like to see her on May 2, 1980. When they got to Tele's house, She met four boys- Toyin Amosun, Deji Johnson, Aikulola Olumuyiwa, George Ayodele and a girl – Bimbo Ilori. After a while Tele Amosun, Toyin Amosun and Bimbo Ilori left the room. Bosede Sobayo, the complainant wished to follow them but was restrained by the second accused- George Ayodele who pushed her back and locked the door.

Aikulola Olumuyiwa alleged that Bosede Sobayo stole money and chains from him, he searched her bag. Her denial made Deji Johnson to struck her with his belt, she was ordered to undress, but she refused, then, they forcibly removed her clothes and threatened her with a knife, a candle and a cutlass. The trio Olumuyiwa, Ayodele and Deji Johnson all had intercourse with her. Toyin Amosun who was outside the room and through the window told the three to beat her up if she did not stop shouting. After she was released, she went home and reported to her mother who took her to the police. The complainants' mother confirmed this. p 23

A medical Doctor, Dr A. Majekodunmi examined the complainant on May 3rd 1980 and confirmed that she had injuries that suggested that she has been forcibly sexually assaulted within 24hours of the examination. The accused person admitted that it was true that they gathered at the Amosu's house, that three of those present left. But, the first accused said he was at the Amosu's to assist the second accused in solving mathematical problems, that Deji Johnson who was at large detained the complainant. He denied having sexual intercourse with her. The learned Judge held that, requesting the complainant to come to the house, the presence of those concerned and locking of the door suggested some arrangement between the accused- Toyin Amosun and Deji Johnson to bring the complainant to the house for illicit sexual purposes.

The learned Judge concluded by saying that, the relevant fact of the case constitute those issue that have been shown to be corroborated and other fact which have been shown from the evidence to complement the complainant's evidence and make the overall picture of each participant conduct emerge more clearly to the court. He also warned himself about Toyin Amosu's part of the evidence which was accepted and applied as being corroborative of that of the complainant more needful, and recorded that in spite of his being held as an accomplice, the court on an overall view of all evidences feel safe in acting on his evidence (were he to himself uncorroborated) because the other fact proved by other witnesses' evidence completes the picture given by him. Having regard to all submissions of law and the facts found, he held that the charge of rape under S. 298 of the Criminal Code has been proved against Aikulola Olumuyiwa and George Ayodele. They were then convicted of the offence. Pg34

Again, is a similar case of Julius V. STATE which was also reported in the Guardian Tuesday, October 1, 2019 tagged "Effect of failure to establish the

element of penetration in a rape charge in retrospect. The vicissitudes of third arms of government in last 59 years was an appeal case of rape between John Julius – the Appellant and State as respondent. John Julius was arraigned on a two count charge of rape and assault contrary to section 358 and 352 of the Criminal Code Law, C16 Laws of Ekiti State of Nigeria, 2012. John Julius pleaded not guilty to the two charges.

At the trial, the appellant was said to have raped and assaulted one Alice Ozar, a 40years old woman at Oke-Imesin Road, Efon Alaaye, Ekiti on July 16, 2016. In his defence, the appellant denied and alleged that he was set up by Alice Ozar. John Julius who was seventeen years old then, was in search of a job to raise his school fees, he was engaged by Alice Ozar to work on her farm. After working on the prosecutor's farm, she refused to pay him instead, he was accused of raping and assaulting her. Initially, the case was reported to Urhobo Progressive Union at Efon Alaaye where the appellant seek to swear by the 'AYELALA' deity in which the prosecutor declined. A few days later Alice Ozar (prosecutrix) reported to the Police at Efon Alaaye where the appellant (John Julius) was charged to court.

Hon Justice J.O Adeleye convicted and sentence the appellant to life imprisonment on the offence of rape but discharged and acquitted him on assault.

However, in his appeal, the appellant want the court to:

- determine whether the trial court was right in convicting and sentencing the defendant/appellant to life imprisonment when the element of penetration was not proved.
- whether the trial court was right in convicting and sentencing the defendant/appellant to life imprisonment without an option of fine where the evidence placed before the court were not properly evaluated which made the judgment of the court to be perverse.

Appellants counsel submitted that the respondent failed to prove the essential ingredient of the offence of rape therefore, the trial judge was wrong in convicting and sentencing the appellant to life imprisonment on the offence.

The appellant counsel relied on the case of ADONIKE V THE STATE (2005) ALL FWLR (Pt 772) 1631; (2005) LPELR-24281(SC) that the prosecution must prove:

- That the accused person had sexual intercourse with the prosecutrix.
- That the act of sexual intercourse was done without her consent or obtained by fraud, force, threat, intimidation, deceit or impersonation.
- That the prosecutrix was not his wife.
- That the accused has the mens rea, the intention to have intercourse with prosecutrix without her consent or that the accused acted reckless, not caring whether the prosecutrix consented or not.
- That there was penetration.

The appellant's counsel submitted that the respondent failed to prove penetration. That Alice Ozar (respondent) said: *"As I was going, the defendant gripped me from behind and pushed me on the ground, I started to struggle with him. The defendant tore my pant and had sexual intercourse with me"* *"This evidence was insufficient to establish an essential ingredient of rape which is penetration"*.

Also, the respondent did not tender any medical evidence or stained clothes with semen, which was fatal to the case. The learned counsel for the appellant also submitted that the trial court was wrong in convicting the appellant to life imprisonment without an option of fine because the decision of the trial court was based on improper evaluation of evidence before it which ought to be reviewed and set aside. That the trial court relied on inconsistent evidence of PW I as regards penetration, hearsay evidence of PW2 and PW3 with respect to the scene of the crime and failed to consider the oral and documentary evidence of the appellant (Exhibit B) where the trial court would have come to a different conclusion.

The Court of Appeal was urged to exercise its power under Section 15 of the Court of Appeal Act and review the entire evidence to set aside the judgment of the trial court. The appellant's counsel also submitted that where the appellant is found guilty of the offence, the trial court was still wrong not to have granted an option of fine to the appellant. That the trial court under Section 316, (i) of the Ekiti State Administration of Criminal Justice Law has the discretionary power to impose fine in lieu of imprisonment referring to section 357 and 358 of the Criminal Code Law, Cap C16, Laws of Ekiti State of Nigeria, 2012.

The learned counsel for the respondent however, submitted that:

the trial court was right in convicting the appellant for the offence of rape as the respondent proved beyond reasonable doubt the offence of rape against the appellant on penetration, he held that penetration was proved by the respondent through the evidence of PW1 when she stated that

"The defendant tore my pant and had sexual intercourse with me....."

Which to him, was enough to establish penetration. He stated that it is not in all cases that medical evidence is required more so, that rape was not denied. Relying on POPOOLA V THE STATE (2012) ALL FWLR (Pt 617) 763; (2013) LPELR-20973 (SC). He added that the trial court has no discretion to convert the mandatory life imprisonment into an option of fine, but that the trial court only has the discretion to decide whether to add caning or not to the life imprisonment. That the Criminal Code Law of Ekiti State under which the appellant was tried and convicted is a Substantive Law while the ACJL is purely procedural. And that, the punishment prescribed under Section 358 of the Criminal Code Law is specific and definite and by virtue of Section 316 (s) of the ACJL, the ACJL will not apply.

Resolving the issues put forward by the counsels for the appellant and respondent, the Court of Appeal, relying on the cases of LUCKY V THE STATE (2016) LPELR-4054 (SC); AFOLABI VS COP (1961) LPELR-25028(SC); MUSA VS STATE (2018) LPELR-43846(SC); EZIGBO VS STATE (2012) LPELR-7855 (SC), outlined the salient proofs in prosecuting rape as earlier outlined by the appellants counsel to see whether they were proved by the prosecution.

The prosecutrix only stated that the appellant had sexual intercourse with her without prove and which the appellant denied. And the respondent failed to state categorically that it was without her consent.

It also added that there was no clear evidence of penetration of the male organ of the appellant into the organ of the respondent. The prosecution thus failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt the essential elements in rape.

Unanimously, the appeal was found meritoriously and allowed, setting out the trial court judgment, the accused was discharged and acquitted.⁴¹ Compiled by Law Pavilion (The Guardian October 1 Tuesday, 2019)

4.5 Rape on the Rise

The incidence of rape and sexual violence is growing at an unprecedented rate to the extent that this is being felt in almost all segments of the society. For

instance, the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) condemn the persistent occurrence of sexual harassment against women which is not unique to the universities but also prevalent in the society including religious settings. According to Adelaja (2019) in Jeariogbe (The Guardian Friday 25, 2019) sexual harassment against students was totally condemned, affirming that it was unacceptable and hindering development. It will be recalled that in 2019, a Professor of the Obafemi Awolowo University was dismissed for involving himself in sexual assault of one of his students. Also, on February 20 2020, a part time lecturer of the University of Lagos was jailed twenty-one years for involving in a similar offence.

Again, Ashiru, the Chairperson Academic Staff Union of Universities in (The Guardian, Wednesday October 9, 2019) reacted to a viral British Broadcasting Corporation investigative video which showed some lecturers of the University of Lagos and Ghana who were sexually harassing female students. He called for investigation and sanctioning of erring lecturers as ASUU is a union against unethical practices among colleagues. Furthermore, in a report captioned “Court remands 52 year old man over defilement in Olatunji (The Guardian Friday October, 11 2019) a 52 year old man defiled a 10 year old girl by calling her to his room on September 17, 2019 on the false pretense of sending her on an errand. This falls during the period of marking the International Day of the Girl Child. The United Nations expert applauded girls and young women for being courageous to confront gender equality, poverty and violence.

Similarly, a report captioned “Police nab man for allegedly defiling 12-years-old daughter in Sunday (The Guardian.... saw a 30 years old man defiling his own 12-years-old daughter. The victim, a pupil confided in her teacher that her father has been having carnal knowledge of her, threatening that he will kill her if she tells anyone. Again, a forty seven years old School Supervisor was sentenced to sixty years imprisonment by defiling a two years old toddler under the pretext of teaching her sex education.

Also, a report captioned ‘Police nab man for allegedly defiling seven-year-old girl in Ogun (The Guardian.....) held that the suspect was arrested on October 4, when the father of the victim said she told him on arrival that the man who lives in the next building lured her into his room and sexually abused her. A good corroborating incident was that the part of the victim was stained with blood. These

incidences call for serious attention. Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF).

The researcher further interviewed medical Doctors to ascertain the incidences of rape and what medical proof they look for as signs of corroborating rape incidences. All the five medical Doctors that were interviewed affirmed that rape is on the increase. They said that when a rape victim is brought to the hospital, the clinical evaluation before proceeding to court include, detailed history of the victim, physical examination and laboratory investigations. They said that unfortunately, signs to corroborate rape would have been eroded before most of the victims arrive at the hospital. In cases where the DNA needs to be proofed in order to confirm fingers prints of perpetrators, Nigeria lacks the amenities to confirm such. In most cases, perpetrators go unpunished.

4.6 Reducing Incidences of Rape through Community Education.

According to Abiona (2012), Community education addresses the multiple needs of individual, families, organizations and communities; providing an array of academic recreation, health services, using the thread of learning, to prepare people of all ages for active and healthy community life. It is problem centered, basically to satisfy the multifarious needs of the community. Pg 67 Further, Omolewa (1981) averred that traditional education promotes lifelong learning such as community education which strengthened the society while promoting cognitive, affective and psycho-motor domains of learners without being compartmentalized. The potentials in traditional community education are quite relevant to modern day issues and communities such that weaknesses in the formal education system/schooling could be amended to have a new outlook combining the formal, informal and the non-formal to move towards conflict resolution and better leaving for all. Community education could be both governmental and non-governmental. For instance, Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF) is a foundation of change agent that seeks to educate, motivate and encourage discussion on all issues surrounding gender based violence. It says everyone has the right and free will to make informed decision about their sexual conduct and also respect the right and dignity of others. Pg 11

Affirming the importance of community education, it asserts that “We also have collective responsibility to protect the right, safety and wellbeing of all children at risk of rape and sexual assault”.

The prosecution and conviction of sexual offenders, the laws that exist to govern rape are extremely low despite the prevalence of rape in our society (Dasilva-Ibru, 2019). She continued that established data is lacking while unconfirmed report of eighteen reported conviction in Nigeria is only seen in one publication. The CEO of WARIF, Dr Dasilva- Ibru affirmed that this will encourage perpetrators to continue with impurity while survivors will hide in guilt and shame because of some patriarchal attitude like ‘victim blaming’ and fear of reprisals from the perpetrators’ family and community members (Dasilva-Ibru, 2019).

Again, Mrs. Buhari, the wife of the President of Nigeria called for the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual harassment and violence against girls in Nigeria. She urged the public to speak up against sexual harassment both in higher institutions and the society. And that it is high time the malaise is given the urgency it deserves (Nwannekanma and Diamond, 2019 in the Gaurdian, Wednesday October 9, 2019).

Supporting this, Mrs Fayemi, the wife of Ekiti State Governor and Chairperson, wives of Governors, lamented lack of political will in persecution of perpetrators of sexual harassment and violence against women. As a victim of sexual harassment while in the university, she called for enactment of unambiguous policy on sexual harassment and the creation of register for perpetrators’ to avoid recycling them in the society (Nwannekanma and Diamond 2019).

5. Methodology

The study employed stratified purposive sampling technique to select four big markets in the four local Government areas of Akoko land namely Ikare-Akoko main market, representing Akoko North-East, Oke- Agbe market representing Akoko North-West, Oba-Akoko market representing Akoko South-West and Isua market representing Akoko South-West. Female entrepreneurs who engage in poultry, fishery, bakery and processed water were captured. The study went further to select female children and wards who serve as staff, peddling\ hawking, finished products of these enterprises as the real target of this study. Finally, the study proceeded to utilize linear snow ball sampling techniques to pick three participants each among these female ‘staff’ hawking/peddling goods in each market. Once a participant was willing to speak out that she was a victim/survivor of rape, she further introduces another survivor whom they had earlier shared experiences together or was rescued. The participants make a total of twelve.

Fifteen interview questions that were relevant to the variables were drawn. These questions were analysed using simple frequency counts, percentages and qualitative interpretation. Face to face in-depth interview was conducted with these participants. Each interview lasted about thirty minutes.

6. Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: Demographic representation of respondents

Age

Of the twelve participants in the study 3 (25%) were between the ages of 14 and 18, 4(33.3%) were between the ages of 20 and 24, 3(25%) were between the age of 26 and 30 while 2(16.7%) were between the age of 32 and 40. This is an indication that rape cuts across productive and reproductive ages of women. This agrees with (Adegoke 2019).

Occupation/ Skills

2(16.7%) are bakers, they hawk bread 3(25%) work in the poultry, they hawk eggs. 4(33.3%) belongs to fishery skill, they hawk eggs while 3(25%) are skilled in water processing, these hawk sachet water also known as pure water.

Marital Status

8(66.7%) are married while 4 (33.3) are not. Of the eight that are married 6(50%) had four children, 2(16.7%) had three children, 1(8.3%)is not married while 3(25%) are widows.

Education

5(41.7%) are in the primary school, 3 (25%) are in the Secondary School while 4(33.3%) are early school leavers. This implies the rate at which girls drop out of school in the study area. This is in compliance with Alese(2011) that a significant proportion of entrepreneurs in developing economies are illiterates and early school leavers which made them to have skewed knowledge of entrepreneurship in which they were able to practice subsistence entrepreneurial activities

7. Discussion of Findings

Interview sessions were qualitatively done, as such they were captured as summaries

Research Question 2: The pattern of rape among these survivors?

All of the survivors said they were raped while hawking/peddling their products. They were teased in one way or the other. Some were asked to bring their products to uncompleted buildings, while some were told to drop their products and calculate the amount

that they would pay for everything, the victims were happy that they have finished selling their products for the day. They became friendly with the perpetrators, until they were left with them alone and were gang raped. This supports Adeoke (2019) that what led to the rape of victims are never the same. These hawkers believe so much in selling their products. In fact, often times, their parents/bosses would have intimidated them that they should make sure that they finish selling their products before coming back home. So, coming in contact with a customer, who is ready to pay for all the stuff is like a jackpot. This is in agreement with the high level of poverty in the study area and the nation at large (Alese, 2010).

They were also asked whether they reported the act and whether the culprits were brought to book. In their response, only fifty percent of them reported the incidence. They were too shy to report. They were not sure what people of the community will say. This agrees with Da Silva Ibru (2019) that majority of rape perpetrators were not brought to book. Often, the victims were afraid to speak out because of a patriarchal society that they live in whereas, community education will build strength in these weaklings.

Field Survey, January, 2019. Bread, fish, eggs and sachet water hawkers.

Research Question 3: The effect of rape on the Victims/Survivors, Stigmatization.

All of them said the experience was a big trauma on them. They lamented that there is no time they recount the ordeal that they are happy. Sixty percent said since it happened, they were withdrawn from friends and families. They feel ashamed and believe everybody knows their secret. More so, that those that raped them walk about with impunity. Thirty percent said, they had the intention of expanding their business but do not have the courage any longer because they now live in fear of another attack. The remaining ten percent said they still hawk for their masters because there is nothing they could do to earn a living. These supports (Buhari, Fayemi and Da Silva-Ibru 2019).

Field Survey, January, 2019. Bread, fish, eggs and sachet water hawkers

Research Question 4: Succor for the Victims/Survivors

All the victims/survivors interviewed said they noticed connivance between the perpetrators, the elders they reported to, and the police. The

perpetrators settle police officers and they were always asked to settle amicably in which the cases were brought to a close. Victims were given meagre amount inform of ‘settlement’, provisions in form of beverages. One out of the twelve victims became a wife (the third wife) to the perpetrator when the parents discovered that she was pregnant. This affirms (Da Silva-Ibru, 2019) Buhari and Fayemi in Nwannekanma & Diamond, 2019). The victims did not receive succor from government since the cases were swept under the carpet.

Research Question 5: Punishment meted on the arrested rapists

All the survivors that reported said that, they reported the cases to their parents/bosses who later reported to elders in the community and later taken to the police station. Unfortunately, they were asked to settle amicably. They were afraid of a reprisal in the community and the stigma it will earn the family. One of them even explained in their dialect by saying “I was advised to allow sleeping dogs to lie” because “omin adugbo kii ru” meaning “people of a community should live in peace”.

Unfortunately, this is awkward as elders of the community should actually learn that rape is capable of setting a community on fire. This agrees with (Equality Report Now 2002-2020 & Da Silva-Ibru, 2019).

Field Survey January, 2019. Bread, fish, eggs and sachet water hawkers.

Research Question 6: Community education assisted in reducing incidences of rape in the study area.

The survivors testified that they came across awareness programmes of the researcher in garages and market places where people are sensitized on the need of reporting rape cases promptly and some self defense mechanisms like taekwendo and judo. They said if the awareness is spread to the community at their free and convenient time they will participate. This agrees with Anyanwu and Abiona.

Field Survey January, 2019. Bread, fish, eggs and sachet water hawkers

8. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it is important to make the following recommendations in order to nib in the bud incidences of rape:

- Indigenous education need to be prioritized and added to the curriculum in all the tiers

of our education system. This will bring back the eroded culture and moral values of our society which westernization and crave for overnight wealth had dented. Government need to give education priority in its annual budget to meet the UNESCO's standard as the present situation is appalling. While other E-9 Countries are making significant progress on their literacy level, Nigeria has continued to retrogress whereas education has increasingly been recognized as a tool for national development.

- There is the need to exploit all inherent potentials in all forms of education as formal education alone cannot meet the desired result of a nation. Public enlightenment, awareness creation, confidence building and early intervention could be woven into community education to prevent stem the tide of rape.
- This is the time to address all forms of gender stereotypes, patriarchal tendencies and culture that promotes inequality in our nation.
- Self defense mechanisms like taekwondo and judo being taught in communities to females will assist in insulating the heat generated by rape.
- Government need to review the Laws on rape and make the penalties stiffer.
- All necessary medical apparatus to establish rape incidences should be provided in hospitals.
- Government must as a matter of urgency reduce unemployment and poverty among its citizenry.
- It is high time Government provide welfare packages to its people.
- Communities should be able bring to bear resources for quality education as recipients and co contributors to the development of their nation as the responsibility of quality education should not be the sole responsibility of the government.
- The fight against rape should be the responsibility of all, for this reason, communities should be able to harness the strength of civil society organisations towards building institutional framework by providing services that will make victims of rape to speak out and prosecute culprits maximally.

9. Conclusion

From the foregoing discourse, it is instructive that the society is undergoing a lapse in social behaviour, preponderance of patriarchy, inequalities, gender violence and sordid relationship among peers which could not be handled by the present state of formal education in our society, and also obstructing entrepreneurship growth which would have assisted in reducing poverty among the people. Whereas, community education, a component of adult and lifelong education will provide the necessary impetus for community members to learn, be able to work together by bringing resources to bear through an integrated participation of people of all ages to enhance desirable social change such as stemming the menace of rape to create a sane and better world for ultimate living.

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