

Assessment of Survival Sex Health Implications among Female Students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions

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Abstract. Socio-sexuality of students in tertiary institutions tends to pose major threats to life and the future of the country as students involved in reckless sexual activities. Therefore, this study assessed the health implications of survival sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions. A descriptive survey research design was used with 400 female respondents selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure. A self-structured questionnaire titled “Survival Sex Health Implications questionnaire” SSHIQ with reliability index of 0.87 was used to collect for this study. Two (2) research questions formulated were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency count (f), percentage (%), mean, standard deviation and inferential statistics of chi-square (χ^2). From the research findings it was discovered that survival sex health implications were significant in all tertiary institutions, amongst the health implications were unwanted pregnancy and illegal abortion; the health implications were significant in both public and private tertiary institutions. It was therefore recommended that campaign against survival sex should be floated by government and nongovernmental organizations through media.

Keywords: Survival Sex, Sexuality, Health implications, Survival sex health implications

1. Introduction

Public opinion polls have consistently shown that premarital sex is wrong and dangerous to health, resulting in abortions, teenage mothers and sexually transmitted. Sexual activities among students have been reported to be increasing worldwide. Several studies in sub-Saharan Africa have also documented

high and increasing premarital sexual activities among university students (Ashimolowo & Otufale, 2012; Bassuk, 2011). Pre-marital sex is sexual activity practiced by persons who are unmarried and it has been considered taboo in some cultures and sin in numerous religions (Bellis, Hughes, Perkins & Bennett, 2013).

Survival sex is referred to as the trading sex for food and other basic needs. The term is used by sex trade, poverty researchers, and aid workers. It is common throughout the world, among internally displaced people (Dowse, Soldatic, Spangaro & van Toorn, 2016; Flowers, 2010). This has been extensively studied in countries like United States, Canada, and South Africa. Experts observed that people are motivated themselves to engaged in **Survival sex**, some see it as a normal job, and while majority want to get out of the hook owing to the potential for disease and dangerous clients. They further observed that people do not always see survival sex as exploitative; rather, they sometimes characterize it as the beginning of a potential relationship. One of the strongest predictors of engagement in survival sex is a prior experience of sexual abuse. Though, people engage in survival sex when they have no other means of survival (Hope Ditmore, 2010; Howard & Linda, 2015).

Females have viable alternative means of paying for the basic needs of themselves and their loved ones, even when they have job option. It is immoral because it hurt psychologically. The experience for women looking to survive is traumatizing; very few females make the survival sex as a choice freely because it is typically filled with pimps, sadists, psychopaths, drug addicts, violent criminals and disease (Phillips & Vandenbroek, 2014; United Nations, 2010). Female involvement in survival sex

is sometimes linked to the socio economic status of the family, education and incomes of the parents, personal interest, and peer pressure leading to out-of-wedlock birth. The out-of wedlock birth potentially reduce young women education, career and job opportunity, and damage their prospects in marriage (Ashimolowo & Otufale, 2012; Bassuk, 2011).

Survival sex is, quite simply, exchanging one's body for basic subsistence needs, including clothing, food, and shelter. While estimates vary, most figures put the homeless youth population in the U.S. around 1.5 million. These are kids under the age of 18 who were often either kicked out of their homes because of dwindling financial resources or ran away to escape an abusive, volatile environment. Once on the streets, these teens rapidly find that clothing, food, and shelter are far from guaranteed. Without any money or the ability to get a job, many are forced to rely on their bodies as the only commodity they possess (Bellis, Hughes, Perkins & Bennett, 2013; Dowse, Soldatic, Spangaro & Van Toorn, 2016). Survival sex, then, is just one sociological expression of the complete lack of agency among adolescent runaways. It's not a way of life in and of itself, but rather a single permutation of lives almost entirely determined by social and economic powerlessness. Survival sex and teenage prostitution are not autonomous phenomena; they're seamlessly woven into the fabric of a near-invisible world where the human body is the main form of currency. The neglectful parents, rapists, criminals, and rapist-criminal-parents make survival sex possible and unavoidable (Flowers, 2010; Hope Ditmore, 2010). Female students who engage in survival sex are more likely to suffer negatively from long-term physical, emotional, social and moral effects, than students who shun it. Howard & Linda (2015) and Phillips & Vandenbroek, (2014) explained that in contemporary time, Nigeria youths have gained in the sex revolution in Europe and America. The impact of alien ideas and cultures, mass communication and conditions of urban life on the behaviour and attitude of Nigeria adolescents cannot be over emphasized (Howard & Linda, 2015; Phillips & Vandenbroek, 2014 and United Nations (2010). There were extensive interest, inquiry and curiosity in premarital sexual activities. The youths are exposed to sexual stimuli in magazines, television and the movies to a greater extent than before, thereby creating a general trend towards liberated attitude and values that encourage open discussion on sexuality (Dowse, Soldatic, Spangaro & Van Toorn, 2016; Flowers, 2010; and United Nations, 2010).

It is obvious that many females students who are not married are using wedding ring, some are with babes

that are not known at home. Many of them live a dual life, their life at school different to the one at home, unknown to some parents some female students cohabit at school. Despite the government effort to reduce the spread of STIs, the disease still remains a scourge even among young adults, (Ashimolowo & Otufale, 2012; Bassuk, 2011, and Bellis, Hughes, Perkins & Bennett, 2013). In fact, some female students use some things in the school which they cannot used at how. It is on this context that the study assessed the health implications of survival sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions. From the foregoing, it is clear that survival sex is a complex social problem that is further complicated by the host of preconceived ideas, prejudices and attitudes that are deeply ingrained in the public mind. This study was undertaken in Ogun State in order to throw more light on the nature of survival sex and its health implications in Nigeria.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The purpose of the study is to identify health implications of survival sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions.

1.3 Research Questions

- What are the health implications of Survival Sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions?
- Is Survival Sex health implications significant among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions?

2. Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study. The population of this study comprised all females in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions, 20 institutions were identified based on 2017 JAMB. The simple random sample techniques was used to select eight (8) institutions out of twenty (20) institutions, while accidental sampling techniques was used to select 50 students from each tertiary institution. 400 sample size was used was selected through a multi stage sampling procedure. In order to have a standardized instrument for this study, a self-structured questionnaire was designed in line with the identified variables. The instrument with title "*Survival Sex Health Implications questionnaire*" SSHIQ has reliability index of 0.87 was used to collect data for this study. Two (2) research questions formulated were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentage (%), mean, standard deviation and inferential statistics of chi-square (χ^2).

3. Results

Question 1: What are the health implications of Survival Sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions?

Table 1: The health implications of Survival Sex.

Implication of survival sex	Mean	SD	Remark
Unwanted pregnancy	26.43	8.22	Sig
Illegal Abortion	25.89	8.75	Sig
STIs	26.42	8.22	Sig
Harmful Use of Alcohol and substance	25.89	8.75	Sig
Depression	26.34	8.22	Sig
Multiple sexual Partner	26.33	8.75	Sig
Victim of Ritual	25.89	8.22	Sig
Victim of kidnapping	24.78	8.75	Sig
Self harm	26.44	8.22	Sig

The result in Table 1 shows the mean score of the sampled with 2.00 criterion score. The mean opinion scores recorded ranges from 24.78 (S.D. = 8.75) to 26.44 (S.D. = 8.22). This implies that there are health implications of Survival Sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions. The health implications of Survival Sex among female students are unwanted pregnancy, Illegal Abortion, STIs, Harmful Use of Alcohol and substance, Depression, Multiple sexual Partner, Victim of Ritual, Victim of kidnapping, and Self harm.

Question 2: Is Survival Sex health implications significant among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions?

Table 2: Chi Square Analysis of Survival Sex health implications significant.

Response	Frequency	%	df	X ²	x ²
Yes	31	7.8	2	5.99	375.58
No	311	77.8			
Undecided	58	14.4			

Table 2 shows that the degree of freedom, which is 2. Table value is 5.99 while X² value is 375.58. Therefore, since calculated X² value of 48.9 is statistically significant when compared with the table value of 5.99; therefore. Survival Sex health implications are significant among females in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions.

4. Discussion

The result in Table 1 shows that there are significant Survival Sex health implications among female students. This is in line with the observation of Flowers, (2010) and Hope Ditmore, (2010) that survival sex has health consequences on people that engaged on it, which also corroborates with the assertion of Kelly & Julia, (2010) and Neinstein, Catherine, Debra and David (2007) that survival sex post health problems on people irrespective of age. The health problems as stated by Bassuk, (2011), Urbina, (2009) and National Alliance to End Homelessness (2009) could be physical, social and mental crisis. This is also supported by Hope Ditmore, 2010 and Bassuk, (2011) assertion that survival sex is not just a crucial vice but constitutes

moral, social and medical threats to the well being of the society and the people involved.

The result in Table 2 shows that the significant Survival Sex health implications among female students include unwanted pregnancy, Illegal Abortion, STIs, Harmful Use of Alcohol and substance, Depression, Multiple sexual Partner, Victim of Ritual, Victim of kidnapping, and Self harm. This findings support the assertion of Hope Ditmore, (2010), Kelly & Julia, (2010), and Bassuk, (2011), that the consequences of survival sex are crimes, deviant behaviours, pregnancy, Illegal Abortion, STIs, Harmful Use of Alcohol and substance, Depression, and Multiple sexual Partner. This is also in with McCluskey, (2010) and Bassuk, (2011), position that most of females that involve in survival sex are victim of kidnapping, and ritual while most inflict self harm on themselves.

5. Conclusion

The study provides meaningful insight into the health implications of Survival Sex among female students in Ogun State Tertiary Institutions. The major conclusions drawn from the findings in this study

were that female students involved in survival sex and their involvement in survival sex post health problems like unwanted pregnancy, Illegal Abortion, STIs, Harmful Use of Alcohol and substance, Depression, Multiple sexual Partner, Victim of Ritual, Victim of kidnapping, and Self harm, which are social, mental and physical problems that could inflict an eternal dent their life.

6. Recommendations

Based on the outcome of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- Governments, NGOs, and religious communities should focus on sexual education to reduce the rate at which female students supply sex to aid their survival.
- The institution authority should enforce the expulsion order on female students that involved in survival sex.
- Rehabilitation and reformation of the survival sex victims should be a critical step to be examined first by the government and relevant agencies when proposing of strategies to combat survival sex among female students.
- Government should abolish the legitimization of survival sex and its promotion as an employment alternative among female students by putting age and institution barrier on it.
- The institution authority should not tolerate survival sex within and outside school settings any convicted students that buy or sell sex either skillfully or not should be sanction.

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