

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

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Abstract

This study examined prevention of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students. A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population consisted of all students of Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. Two hundred and fifty (250) students were randomly selected for the study. The instrument used to collect data for the study was a self-designed structured questionnaire. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained using Cronbach's alpha statistics which yielded a co-efficient of 0.85. Data was analysed using mean, ranking and t-test. The results showed ways of preventing rape as avoiding places, times and circumstances that create a risk situation which ranked 1st, avoiding walking or studying alone (2nd), avoiding skimpy dresses (3rd), making a lot of noise when attacked (5th), organising life skills and other educational programmes to prevent rape (6th), introducing and implementing policies against sexual harassment in schools (7th) and some other ones. It was also found that gender, family type and marital status have significant influence on prevention of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students ($t = 5.304$; $p < 0.05$; $t = 6.205$, $p < 0.05$ and $t = 4.173$, $p < 0.05$) respectively while religion does not ($t = 3.114$, $p > 0.05$). It was therefore recommended that tertiary institution students should be sensitized on avoiding places, times and circumstances that create a risk situation, avoid waking or staying alone and avoiding putting on skimpy dresses.

Keywords: Rape, tertiary institution students, prevention.

Introduction

Rape has been 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). It is treated through history with silence. People find it difficult to talk about it and the police and legal system find it equally difficult to deal with.

According to Williams and Walfield (2016), rape is most likely to be perpetrated by a man known to be victim in an acquaintance, friend, classmate, employer, or partner, Koss, Gidycz and Wisniewski (1987) carried a survey among College students. The survey was administered at 32 different universities and colleges across the United States, to a national sample of 6.159 male and female college students who actually participated. The survey questions were designed to determine the actual instances of rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion, or other unwanted sexual contact ranging from age 14. Some of the more important findings reported included:

- ◆ One quarter of women in college were victims of rape or attempted rape, and the vast majority knew their assailants.
- ◆ Fifty-two percent of all the women surveyed have experienced some form of sexual victimization.
- ◆ One in every male respondent admitted to having fulfilled the prevailing definition of rape or attempted rape.
- ◆ Of the women who were raped, almost three-quarters did not identify their experience as rape.
- ◆ Three-quarters of the women raped were between ages 15 and 21; the average age at the time of the rape was 18.
- ◆ Forty-seven percent of the rapes were by first or casual dates, or by romantic acquaintances.
- ◆ The majority of instances took place off campus with nearly 50% taking place at the males' house or car or another location.
- ◆ One-third of the women had never discussed what happened to them to anyone.
- ◆ More than 90% never reported incidents to the police.

Rape is a global problem with women and children being mostly vulnerable. Nigeria is not exempted from the epidemic of rape. 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 had been cases of rape among different categories of people. Sometimes between teacher and student, religion leader and member, master and housemaid, father and daughter and so on.

Rape has physical, psychological and social consequences on the victim. It leaves painful

memories and a lifelong effect on the victim. Considering this fact, there is a need to look for ways of preventing this global problem. Hence, this study aims at investigating prevention of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students. To guide the conduct of the study, the following research question was raised and hypotheses were postulated.

Research Question

What are the ways of preventing rape as perceived by tertiary institution students?

Research Hypotheses

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

Methodology

The survey research design was adopted to investigate perception of prevention of rape among tertiary institution students. The population for the study consisted of all students in Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. Two hundred and fifty (250) students were randomly selected for the study. Structured questionnaire was used as instrument to collect data for the study. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained using Cronbach's Alpha statistics which yielded a coefficient of 0.85. Data collected was analysed using mean, ranking and t-test.

Results

Research Question: What are the ways of preventing rape as perceived by tertiary institution students?

Table 1: Mean and rank order table showing the prevention of rape as perceived by tertiary institution students

S/N	Prevention of Rape	\bar{X}	Rank
1	Avoiding places, times and circumstances that create a risk situation	3.52	1 st
2	Making a lot of noise when attacked	3.37	4 th
3	Running to safety when attacked	3.35	5 th
4	Avoiding skimpy dresses	3.44	3 rd
5	Avoiding walking or staying alone	3.51	2 nd
6	Organizing life skills and other educational programmes to prevent rape	3.26	6 th
7	Encouraging gender-balanced parenting to prevent sexual violence	3.10	9 th
8	Training health care professionals in order to have greater knowledge and awareness of rape for effective intervention	3.13	8 th
9	Organizing prevention campaigns through media, religious meetings, public meetings etc.	3.04	10 th
10	Introducing and implementing policies against sexual harassment in schools	3.26	6 th

Source: Field, 2023

From Table 1, avoiding places, times and circumstances that create a risk situation with mean value of 3.52 ranked 1st, avoiding walking and staying alone with mean value of 3.51 ranked 2nd, avoiding skimpy dresses with mean value of 3.44 ranked 3rd, making a lot of noise when attacked with mean value of 3.37 ranked 4th, running to safety when attacked with mean value of 3.35 ranked 5th, organising life skills and other educational programmes to prevent rape and introducing and implementing policies against sexual harassment in schools with mean value of 3.26 ranked 6th. Also, item 8 and 7 are ranked 8th and 9th respectively while organising prevention campaigns through media, religious meetings, public meetings etc. with mean value of 3.04 ranked 10th and last as ways of preventing rape.

Research Hypotheses

Research Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in perception of prevention of rape based on gender. In testing this hypothesis, the respondents were classified into male and female and scores on prevention 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 prevention of rape based on gender

Variable		N	\bar{X}	St. D	df	t	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the prevention of rape	Male	103	24.28	9.047	248	5.304	.000	<.05	0.102
	Female	147	28.93	5.271					

Source: Field, 2023

Table 2 shows that there is a significant difference between male and female students in the perception of prevention of rape ($t = 5.304$, $p < 0.05$). The mean score of female subjects ($x = 28.93$) is higher than their male counterpart is ($x = 24.28$). Size of effects ($\eta^2 = 0.102$) reveals that gender has moderate effect (according to Cohen, 1988 and Field, 2000 rule of thumb for size of effect) on the perception of prevention of rape; that is, gender accounted for 10.2% change in the students perception of prevention of rape.

Research Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the perception of prevention of rape based on family type. In testing this hypothesis, the subjects were classified into monogamous and polygamous family and scores on prevention 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 prevention of rape based on family type

Variable	Family type	N	\bar{X}	St. D	df	t	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the prevention of rape	Monogamy	96	26.17	4.821	248	6.205	.012	<.05	0.134
	Polygamy	154	32.53	6.403					

Source: Field, 2023

It is shown in Table 3, when the mean score of subjects from monogamous family ($x = 26.17$, $SD = 4.821$) were compared with those from polygamous family ($x = 32.53$, $SD = 6.403$) using the t-test statistical analysis, a t-value of 6.205 was obtained. This value is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that family type has significant influence on perception of prevention of rape. Size of effect ($\eta^2 = 0.134$) reveals that family type has moderate effect on the perception of prevention of rape; that is, family type accounted for 13.4% change in the students perception of prevention of rape.

Research Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in the perception of prevention of rape based on religion. In testing this hypothesis, the subjects were grouped into two (i.e. Christians and Muslims) and scores on prevention of rape were analysed using t-test. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Independent t-test summary showing the difference in the perception of prevention of rape based on religion

Variable	Religion	N	\bar{X}	St. D	df	t	Sig	P
Perception on the Prevention of rape	Christianity	148	19.74	3.726	248	3.114	.139	>.05
	Islam	102	20.16	4.202				

Source: Field, 2023

From Table 4, when the mean score of subjects who were Christians ($x = 19.74$, $SD = 3.726$) were compared with that of Muslims ($x = 20.16$, $SD = 4.202$) using the t-test statistical analysis, a t-value of 3.114 was obtained. This value is not significant at 0.05 level. This implies that religion has no significant influence on the students' perception of prevention of rape.

Research Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference in the perception of prevention of rape based on marital status. In testing this hypothesis, the subjects were grouped into single and married and scores on prevention 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 prevention of rape based on marital status

Variable	Marital status	N	\bar{X}	St. D	df	t	Sig	P	η^2
Perception on the prevention of rape	Single	183	21.04	4.933	248	4.173	.000	<.001	0.066

Source: Field, 2023

Table 5 shows that, single subjects have a mean score of 21.04 and a standard deviation of 4.933 while married subjects have a mean score of 27.46 and a standard deviation of 3.162. A t-test analysis of these values yielded a t-value of 4.173, which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that marital status has significant influence on students' perception of prevention of rape; size of effect ($\eta^2 = 0.066$) reveals that marital status has moderate effect (according to Cohen, 1988 and Field, 2000 rule of thumb for size of effect) on the perception of prevention of rape; that is, marital status accounted for 6.6% change in the students' perception of prevention of rape.

Discussion

This study revealed that avoiding places, times and circumstances that create a risk situation, avoiding walking and staying alone, avoiding skimpy dresses, making a lot of noise when attacked, running to safety when attacked, organising life skills and other educational

programmes to prevent rape and introducing and implementing policies against sexual harassment in schools, training health care professionals in order to have greater knowledge and awareness of rape for effective intervention, encouraging gender-balanced parenting to prevent sexual violence and organising prevention campaigns through media, religious meetings, public meetings etc. are ways of preventing rape in descending order. This is in line with the strategies highlighted by South Dew African Police Service Honey (undated). It is also in consonance with the view of Achunike and Kitause (2014) who identified indecent dressing as one of the causes for increasing rate of rape in Nigeria.

The results also showed that gender, family type and marital status have significant influence on the perception of prevention of rape among tertiary institution students while religion does not. This could be explained with the fact that rape plays a conscious process of intimidation by which men keep women in fear (Brownmiller, 1975). It also reported in Koss, Gidycz and Wisniewski (1987) study that three-quarters of women raped were between ages 15 and 21; the average age at the time of the rape was 18. Influence of family type was corroborated by Achunike and Kitause (2014), who highlighted poor parental upbringing as one of the causes of rape. Nigeria as a religious nation, every religious circle is in support of any means of preventing rape in the society.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study found ways of preventing rape as perceived by tertiary institution students. The results also revealed that gender, family type and marital status have significant influence on perception of prevention of rape while religion does not. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- ◆ Nurturing with better and more gender-balanced parenting to prevent sexual violence should be encouraged.
- ◆ Public attitudes towards rape could be changed through the use of media (radio, television, prints, 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 organizations that are involved in preventing rape and providing services to abused women.
- ◆ Policies against sexual harassment in schools should be introduced and implemented.
- ◆ People should be encouraged to report incidents of rape to the police and to improve the speed and sensitivity of the processing of cases by the country.

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