

SEXUALLY-RELATED OFFENCES AMONG ADULT IN SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN EKITI COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

Sexually-related offences are one of the major gender-based violence that attracts global concerns. This development has generated a lot of empirical researches as well as government-based legislations to address the anti-social behaviour in the society. Yet both old and young members of the society continue to experience its various forms. This study was prompted by frequent media reporting of the prevalence of sexually-related offences that has bedevilled most communities, in recent time. This paper therefore attempts to identify the penetrative forms of sexually-related offences and causal factors in a selected rural and urban community of Ekiti. Through mixed method sampling technique that covered rural and urban communities in Ekiti State, involving 150 respondents for survey, and secondary data from police records and other government agency handling sexually-related offences, the study found that the most prevalent form of sexually-related offence is child rape and the incidence is not statistically significant across rural and urban community but differs with an average number indicating higher rate in rural location ($M = 3.85$, $S.D = 3.167$) compared to the urban locations which differ a little ($M = 4.21$, $S.D = 3.924$). The study concludes that if a minor act of groping is not tolerated then serious forms of sexually-related offence can be averted from occurring.

KEYWORDS: *sexually-related offences, child rape, rural, urban*

INTRODUCTION

Sexually-related offences are also fittingly described as an act of sexual violence or act of sexual assault. Sexual violence definition has been made in various capacities. For the purpose of this study, the WHO (2011) definition of sexual violence is adopted because it explains the spectrum of sexually-related offences that can be perpetrated against a member of the society. WHO (2011) defines sexual violence as: ‘Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act,

unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work'. This definition comprises of a spectrum of unwanted sexual behaviour that ranges from rape to physically less interfering sexual contact whether an attempt to commit or committed a sexual act. The use of coercion in the definition also connotes so many sexual activities, which is further described below: Sexual coercion connotes a variety of experiences that compels a person to have sex against her or his will (Heise, Ellsberg and Gottemoeller, 1999). Adams-Curtis and Forbes (2004) define sexual coercion as "any situation in which one party uses verbal or physical means (including administering drugs or alcohol to the other party either with or without her consent) to obtain sexual activity against freely given consent". In line with this definition, Ajuwon, Olaleye, Faromaju and Ladipo (2006) also define sexual coercion in terms of an adolescent experience of certain sexual behaviour such as unwanted touch, luring someone into having sex via trick, attempt to force someone to have sex", "compel someone with force to have sex", "beating someone up for refusing to have sex " and "giving someone drugs in order to have sex with the person". Furthermore, sexual coercion as defined by Sathyanarayana, Nagpal and Andrade (2013) is the act of being physically, psychologically, financially or otherwise forced or tricked into engaging in a sexual activity. The importance of all these definitions to this study is that the act of any form of sexually-related offences may involve the use of an instrument such as coercion, which could be a force, verbal threat, drug, tricks, persuasions and so on. Therefore, Sexually-related offences may then be described as sex crime or an unacceptable sexual behaviour that infringe on the sexual autonomy of persons. It constitute offences as diverse as

rape, defilement, sexual assault (without intercourse), unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment including demanding sex in return for favours, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, sexual abuse of children including statutory rape (sexual intercourse with or without consent with minors) adultery, sodomy, fornication, forced marriage and co-habitation including the marriage of children, forced abortion, violent acts against the sexual integrity of women including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspection for virginity and forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Gupta and Shrfestha, 2018, Chatteraj,2006).

The sexually-related offence is a global phenomenon and its prevalence varies across countries of the world. Sexually-related offences are common across all cultures and nations of the world. Recent studies (Puri, Shah and Tamang (2010), World Health Organization (WHO), 2005) in developing countries suggest that sexually-related offences cut across old and young within the society and it is gender bound. As common as these offences are, they also vary in terms of prevalence, reporting and occurrence. It is to this end that this study attempts to explore sexually-related offences in selected rural and urban Ekiti communities.

Statement of the problem

Worldwide, Sexually-related Offences (SRO) occurrence are commonly alarming social problems that are not without consequences. In 2013, the World Health Organization reported that “35 percent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence and that the region of the world with the highest reported rates of sexual and physical violence towards women are Africa, the Middle East and Southeast

Asia”. In the same vein, Garcia-Moreno and Watts (2011) presented a report from World Health Organization that “one in every five women is a victim of sexual assault”. Also, 5–15 percent of the females in Africa report a forced or coerced sexual experience (Daru, Osagie, Pam, Mutihir, Silas, and Ekwempu, 2011). *The Guardian* a world news data blog in 2014 gave an overview of a major survey on sexually-related offences reporting that one in three women have reported some form of physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15. This survey was an attempt to determine the extent of violence against women across the European Union (EU). Also, Al Jazeera News (2016) reported cases of crime against women in India as recorded by the country’s National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2015. India, an Asian nation in 2015 had no fewer than 34, 651 cases of rape reported across the country. The figures as released by NCRB show that victims ranged from female children younger than six years old to women over 60 years. The figures also show a slight decrease compared with the 36, 735 cases reported in 2014. In line with all these occurrences of rape, African countries also have prevalent cases of sexually-related offences. African Check (2015) report statistics of rape incidents in South Africa that were reported to the police as it is included in the country’s broad array of sexual offences. The number of reported rape per 100, 000 people in 2014/15 was given as 43,195 cases. This means that for every 100,000 people in the country, there were 80 rape cases reported.

In Nigeria, the incessant incidences of sexually-related offences are also worrisome when virtually no week passes without a media report of one form of sexually-related offence or the other. For examples; The Punch Newspaper on July 3, 2016, reported that a “Man, 54, abducts, rapes 11 years old girl in Ado-Ekiti”. “Man rapes his Children aged 5, 7, 9 in Enugu” (Vanguard Newspaper, 2016). In the same vein, Vanguard Newspaper on March 26, 2016, reported how a

Lebanese raped and impregnated his 17 years old Nigerian maid and thereafter sacked her. In August 2016, The Punch Newspaper gave an outlook of rape cases for 2015 as recorded by the police across the states in Nigeria as 1,827 cases of rape. It is obvious that the most commonly reported form of sexually-related offence in Nigeria is rape which is also known as the most prevalent sexually-related offence in the society (Hassan, Awosan, Panti, Nasir, Tunau, Umar, Shehu, Ukwu, and Sulaiman, 2016, and Akinyemi, 2008). Also, a report from Mirabel Center in Lagos State in 2017 indicated that among reported cases of sexual offences the centre had handled between the year 2014 to 2017, rape and defilement were more with a total of 2159 cases. In this category, the most common type of sexual offence is child defilement which has increased from 57% in 2014 to 77% in 2017. All of these instances of reported cases of sexually-related offences motivated this study and also for the fact that Ekiti State has a domesticated law against gender-based violence.

Research Objective.

The general objective of this study is to examine sexually-related offences in selected rural and urban communities in Ekiti. However, the specific objectives are to;

1. Examine the forms of sexually-related offences prevalent among adults in selected rural and urban Ekiti communities
2. Ascertain the number of cases observed by significant others in selected Ekiti communities on issues of Sexually-related Offences in their environment.

Brief Literature Review

Sexually-related offence is an anti-social behaviour that has attracted concerns from researchers, government and non-government agencies globally. Studies have also confirmed the prevalence of sexually-related offences to be age, sex, location and time-bound. Looking inward to Nigeria as the home country for this study, sexually-related offences are also prevalent. In August 2016, The Punch Newspaper gave an outlook of rape cases for 2015 as recorded by the police across the states in Nigeria as 1,827 cases of rape. These statistics reveal fluctuation in prevalence when compared with the recorded 1,959 rape cases in 2014 and 1,788 in 2013. In addition to these statistics of penetrative sexually-related offences in Lagos, The Punch Newspaper 2017 gave statistics of the penetrative form of sexually-related offences cases alone treated between the periods of two years (July 2014 to February 2017) by the Mirabel Center as 2252 rape cases. This reported incidence dwelled more on the penetrative sexual act which is invariably just a form of Sexually-related offence. Akinyemi (2008) indicates that rape is the most common (41%) reported an incidence of sexually-related offence in the police record. This may also be attributed to what the criminal justice system of Nigeria treats as sexually-related offence bearing in mind the norms and values of the land. Empirical studies of the prevalence of sexually-related offences in Nigeria vary in terms of the study design and methodology. A retrospective study conducted in Sokoto State in Northern Nigeria shows a low prevalent rate (0.84%) of sexually-related offences among a larger proportion of victims (41.2%) aged 5 to 12 years; and about a fifth of female victims (20.6%) were pre-school children aged 4 years and below (Hassan et.al, 2016). On the other hand that there is a tenfold increase in patients presented for sexual assault in 2015 (2.0%) compared to 2006(0.2) in Lagos State (Ezechi, Adesolamusa, David, Wapmuk, Gbajabiamila, Eugeniaidigbe, Ezeobi, Ohihoin, and Ujah, (2016). This tenfold increase of

reported cases in Lagos State thus may be attributed to the practicability of the Lagos State Criminal Code of 2011 on sexually-related offences and the extent of implementation of the law. It is also possible that the awareness of this law has enlightened citizens towards the importance of reporting incidences of sexually-related offences when they occur.

In line with the empirical studies of prevalence rate in Nigeria, is the study of Ashimi and Amole and Ugwa (2015). They reported prevalence rate in longitudinal studies conducted between September 1, 2011, and August 2013 among survivors of sexual assault in Kano State. Their studies reveal 3% (24/973) of prevalent rate. This also indicates the prevalent type of reported cases of sexually-related offences which is rape or defilement. Furthermore, Nnorom and Effah-Chukwuma (2011) establish the prevalence of sexually-related offences in South West Nigeria, indicating that sexual assault (unwanted touch, rape and sexual harassment) is one of the acts of violence with low reporting that is perpetrated against women in South-West Nigeria. Nnorom and Effah-Chukwuma (2011) discover through survey report that South-West region has low actual experience of rape due to the reluctance of the people in relaying their experiences which contradict their case study findings that revealed more cases of rape. This was followed by inappropriate touch as the most common form of sexual assault experienced by women while sexual harassment was found to be evenly spread across the region but not significant. Apart from penetrative sexual offences that constitute the most reported cases in Nigeria, sexual coercion, sexual harassment, and spousal rape are also prevalent. Studies on sexual coercion have revealed its prevalence both in terms of formal or informal setting in the society. In a study carried out by Ajuwon, et.al (2006) among secondary school students in three Northern States in Nigeria reveal that 36% of the student population studied have experienced one form of sexual

coercion or the other, with the unwanted touch of the body as the highest (31%) form of sexual coercion that is prevalent. Another study on sexual coercion among young women in the Southern and Northern parts of Nigeria indicates 74% prevalence of sexual coercion perpetrated by non-partners in the South as against 26% in the North (Aduayi, Aduayi and Olasode, 2016).

Scholars have demonstrated the prevalence of sexual harassment in Nigeria especially, in relation to workplace experiences of harassment (Omonijo, et.al, 2013; Chukwudi and Gbakorun, 2011 and Fawole et.al 2003). Studies (Ola and Ajayi, 2013; Esere, Idowu, Durosaro and Omotosho, 2009) have also revealed the prevalence of spousal rape in Nigeria especially in the South-Western part where people may not perceive it as rape but rather a conjugal obligation between husband and wife which the husband can apply force when necessary. Therefore, to establish the extent of prevalence of sexual harassment, coercion and spousal rape in terms of reported incidences may be difficult to achieve because of the cultural attitude of members of society towards these forms of sexually-related offences. This fact is buttressed more with the studies of Esere, Idowu, Durosaro and Omotosho (2009) that suggest that prevalence of intimate partner rape/violence in Nigeria is rooted in the cultural structure of the society which upholds male dominance over female and attributes lower status to girls and women compared to boys and men. Also, it is a known fact that the man cannot be guilty of rape against his wife under Nigerian law description of rape offence (Obidimma, and Obidimma, 2015). This may hinder the reporting of incidences by victims. Also, the fact remains that the generic depiction of the female in the society as sex objects as well as the rape myth practices make cases of these sexually-related offences to be treated with laxity. Furthermore, empirical studies have demonstrated that residential locality is a predictor of sexually-related offences. Studies of Uwaoma, Osita-Njoku,

and Madukwe (2012), reveal that urban and rural women experience spousal rape as a form of sexually-related offences. But the rural women experience it more due to some social factors like the objectification of women as men's property or attaching more importance to family reputation than personal justice or safety. Likewise, McCarry and Williamson (2009) in their study also confirms the rural and urban experience of sexually-related offences in Bristol but with a difference suggesting that in terms of numbers, there are no significant differences. They reveal that 10.5% of rural and 10.6% of urban women had experienced attempted rape while 11.6% of rural and 11.9 of urban stated that they had been raped in their lifetime. This study implies that sexually-related offences do occur in all human societies be it rural or urban, but it is the level of prevalence that varies across these societies. However, the variation across these societies is determined by both cultural and social factors.

Though many empirical studies of sexually-related offences have been carried out adopting various method of data collection, such as; secondary data gathered from hospital and treatment database (Hassan, et.al 2016; Ezechi, et.al, 2016; Ashimi, et. al, 2015; Badejoko, Anyabolu, Badejoko, Ijarotimi, Kuti and Adejuyigbe, 2014; Das, Chakaraborty, Batabyal, Sukul and Dhar, 2013). Other secondary sources were based on police records of reported cases (Gbemileke and Oladepo, 2015). Some others adopt purely qualitative (Fawole et.al 2003) or purely quantitative approach (Adogu, Adinma, Onuorah, and Ubajaka, 2014 and Umana et.al 2014) and while some combined both qualitative and quantitative (Omonijo, et.al 2013) method to conduct studies of sexually-related offences. However, little research has been carried out in the area of examining the forms of sexually-related offences in rural and urban Ekiti community. An attempt to investigate this has motivated this research.

Hypotheses:

Ho: The number of child rape incidence observed in Urban-Ekiti do not significantly differ from the Rural-Ekiti

Ho: The number of adult/date rape incidence observed in Urban-Ekiti do not significantly differ from the Rural-Ekiti

Research Design

A descriptive research design was employed for this study. This was based on the fact that that it allows the collection of information from a representative sample of a target population. The study was methodologically triangulated using a pre-coded structured questionnaire, Key Informant interview for primary data collection and secondary data sources include; the review of records on sexually-related offences from police commands, books, journals, magazines, newspapers, reports from relevant articles on-line libraries, etc

Study location.

The study was carried out in two purposively selected communities in Ekiti and their choice was based on several reasons. The first reason is that Ekiti has been portrayed to have a series of reported cases of sexually-related offences by the media as earlier stated in the statement of problem section. Hence, the rate of prevalence of sexually-related offences cannot be underestimated in the State. Secondly, because the two communities selected, appeared more on the list of the reviewed police records on Sexually-related offences in Ekiti.

Sampling Techniques

This study adopts a **multistage cluster sampling approach**. This became necessary because of a large number of adults (indigenes and migrants) who live in the study area. Hence,

the study combined probability (simple random) and non-probability (purposive, convenience, and accidental) techniques at different stages of the sampling process.

First Stage: In this phase of the sampling, the number was proportionally divided across Ekiti State in accordance with the figures of 2006 national population census and the prevailing reports from Ekiti. The Ekiti population was approximated so that the ratio used to divide the 150 samples would be equal to 3:2; indicating that there were 150 respondents from the rural and Urban Ekiti.

Second stage: In this stage of sampling, the study location was further sampled by means of purposive sampling technique whereby one rural local government and one urban local government that have recorded at least 10 cases of sexual offence since 2016 were selected. As a result, Ode-Ekiti (Ekiti) in Gboyin local government was selected for the rural settlement; while Ado-Ekiti was the urban location selected respectively. However, the number was not evenly divided across the rural and urban settlement; instead, the researcher opted to adopt a 3:2 in the urban and rural areas respectively. Ado-Ekiti (90) and Ode-Ekiti (60).

Third stage: The two local government areas were further sub-sampled to select at least four communities from each. This was done after collecting a list of communities in each of the selected local government; and from these lists, communities were selected by means of *simple random (lottery) probability sampling technique*. From these lists of communities across the two local governments, more than 8 communities were selected for the study.

Fourth Stage: At this stage, a combination of systematic random sampling and accidental/purposive sampling of the streets and compounds were carried out starting from the

main entrance into the community, the first housing unit at a major landmark (market, church or community head's house) was usually the starting point. Subsequently, respondents from housing units and followed by every third (3rd) houses. This was done until the total sample size was realized. In housing units whereby, the study criteria were not met, the next housing unit was used to replace it. In each housing unit, the household head or if not available, an adult who shows interest was administered the questionnaire. And in some cases, respondents are being spoken to in their relaxation joints, workplace, marketplace, church, schools, hospitals and mosque amongst other places.

Method of Data Collection

The study employed a quantitative method based on questionnaire and secondary data from police and Ekiti State Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment.

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Data Analysis

The information gathered from the quantitative method through the use of questionnaire was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and presented in frequencies and percentages. Also, the hypotheses were tested using the independent sample t-test.

RESULTS

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY VARIABLES

Table 1 showing the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents in rural and urban Ekiti

VARIABLES	CATEGORIES	URBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
SEX	Male	41	22	63
		65.1%	34.9%	100.0%
	Female	49	38	87
		56.3%	43.7%	100.0%
AGES OF RESPONDENTS IN GROUP	18-24 yrs	13	9	22
		59.1%	40.9%	100.0%
	25-34 yrs	36	24	60
		60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
	35-44 yrs	25	14	39
		64.1%	35.9%	100.0%
	45 and above	16	13	29
		55.2%	44.8%	100.0%
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESPONDENTS	No formal education	0	3	3
		0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Primary school	6	11	17
		35.3%	64.7%	100.0%
	Secondary school	32	30	62
		51.6%	48.4%	100.0%
Tertiary school	52	16	68	
	76.5%	23.5%	100.0%	
ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS	Yoruba	69	48	117
		59.0%	41.0%	100.0%
	Igbo	5	1	6
		83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
	Other Ethnic Group	16	11	27
59.3%		40.7%	100.0%	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF RESPONDENTS	Traditional belief	1	0	1
		100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Christianity	76	51	127
		59.8%	40.2%	100.0%
	Islam	13	9	22
59.1%		40.9%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From Table 1 above, data on sex distribution of respondents show that more than half (rural: 43.7% urban: 56.3%) of the population were females while the remaining (rural: 34.9%, urban: 65.1%) were males. This means that more females than males participated in the research. The age distribution of the respondents reveals the age range between 18years and 45years plus. This is in conformity with the operationalised definition of an adult within the context of the study. The data also indicate the mean age of respondents as 33.67. This implies that the larger part of the study population comprised of young adults (25 – 44). Statistics on educational attainment of the respondents indicate that majority have acquired formal education.

Respondents without formal education represent a very small portion of the population. The data also indicate respondents with the highest level of education constituted a larger portion of the population. This finding is no doubt expected from the Ekiti State because it depicts their value for educational attainment which is held in high esteem. This finding is also expected because Ekiti State people are known for acquiring formal education at all levels. On respondents' religious affiliation, the table indicates that the majority of respondents were Christians, followed by Muslims and traditional worshippers. The finding reflects percentage variation in the religion of respondents who were willing to participate in the survey. Ethnic affiliation of the respondents shows that the majority were Yoruba, Igbo and other ethnic groups. This finding was expected because the study was carried out in a Yoruba speaking state of Nigeria. The presence of the other ethnic groups may be attributed to their influx into these states for commercial purposes, schooling, as well as search for greener pastures.

Table 2 Percentage distribution of Respondents' Awareness regarding the prevalence of one or more forms of sexually-related offence (s) in and around the rural and urban Ekiti community between the year 2016 and 2017

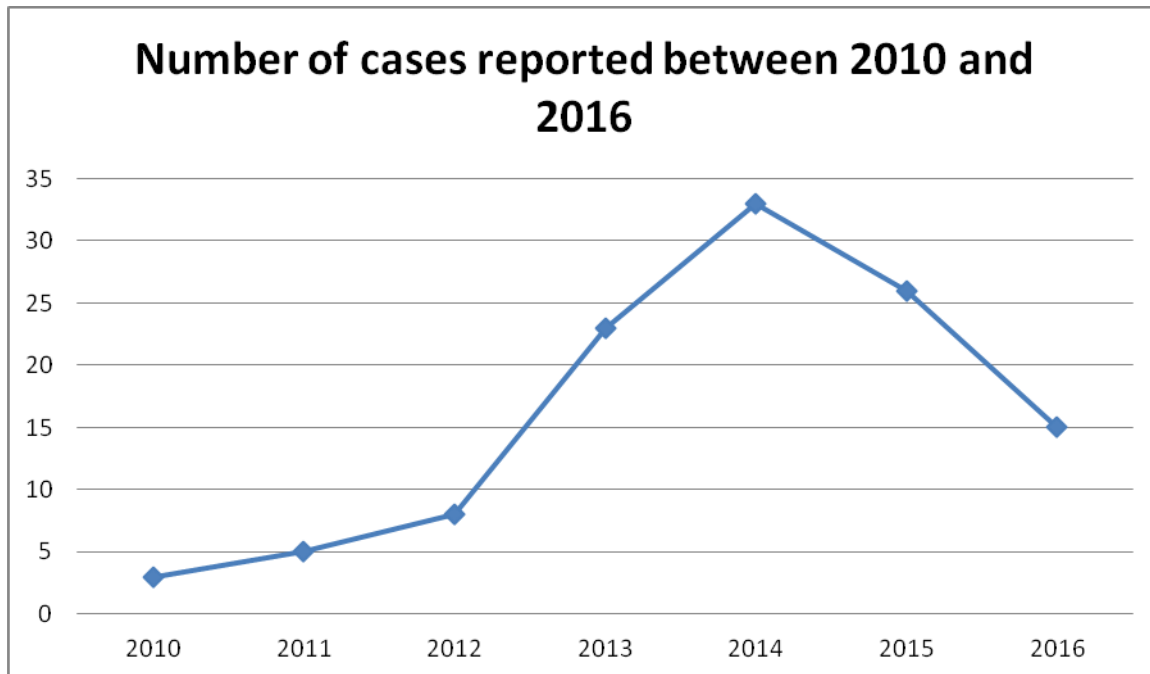
Variables	Categories	Urban-Ekiti	Rural-Ekiti
<i>Total number of respondents :</i>		90	60
AWARENESS OF SEXUALLY-RELATED OFFENCES	<i>Aware of incidences</i>	37 41.1%	24 40.0%
	<i>Not aware of incidences</i>	53 58.9%	36 60.0%
CASES OF CHILD-RAPE INCIDENCES	<i>Witnessed at least a case</i>	27 30.0%	19 31.7%
	<i>No case witnessed</i>	63 70.0%	41 68.3%

CASES OF ADULT-RAPE INCIDENCES	<i>Witnessed at least a case</i>	22 24.4%	17 28.3%
	<i>No case witnessed</i>	68 75.6%	43 71.7%
CASES OF SPOUSAL-RAPE INCIDENCES	<i>Witnessed at least a case</i>	8 8.9%	12 20.0%
	<i>No case witnessed</i>	82 91.1%	48 80.0%
CASES OF ATTEMPTED-RAPE INCIDENCES	<i>Witnessed at least a case</i>	9 10.0%	11 18.3%
	<i>No case witnessed</i>	81 90.0%	49 81.7%
CASES OF BLACKMAIL FOR SEX/ SEX FOR FAVOUR	<i>Witnessed at least a case</i>	8 8.9%	11 18.3%
	<i>No case witnessed</i>	82 91.1%	49 81.7%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 2 above suggests that from both rural and urban communities in Ekiti, at least 1 in every 2 persons have seen incidents of one form of unacceptable sexual behaviour or the other within that period. The few who are aware of such incidences does reveal how incidences of sexually-related offences are treated with much secrecy. On the prevalence of sexually-related offences in both rural and urban communities, it is obvious that it is prevalent indicating that at least three-quarter of the respondents confirmed incidence of child rape to be more prevailing with some admitting to being a victim, media observer, physical observer or simply hearer. Also, to add to information on child rape prevalence in Ekiti is a secondary data from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment represented in line graph below:

Figure1. A line graph showing the progression of reported cases of sexually abused children from the year 2010 to 2016 in Ekiti



Source: Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment, Ekiti State

The line graph reveals that the reporting of child defilement to the ministry was at its peak in 2014. This implies that gender-based domestic violence law of Ekiti State during the Fayemi regime was highly propagated such that it changed the orientation, although the awareness of the law doesn't change the fact that a lot of the cases are still not reported.

Table 3 showing the number of observed cases regarding prevalence of Specific Forms of Sexually-related Offences in rural and urban Ekiti by Significant others

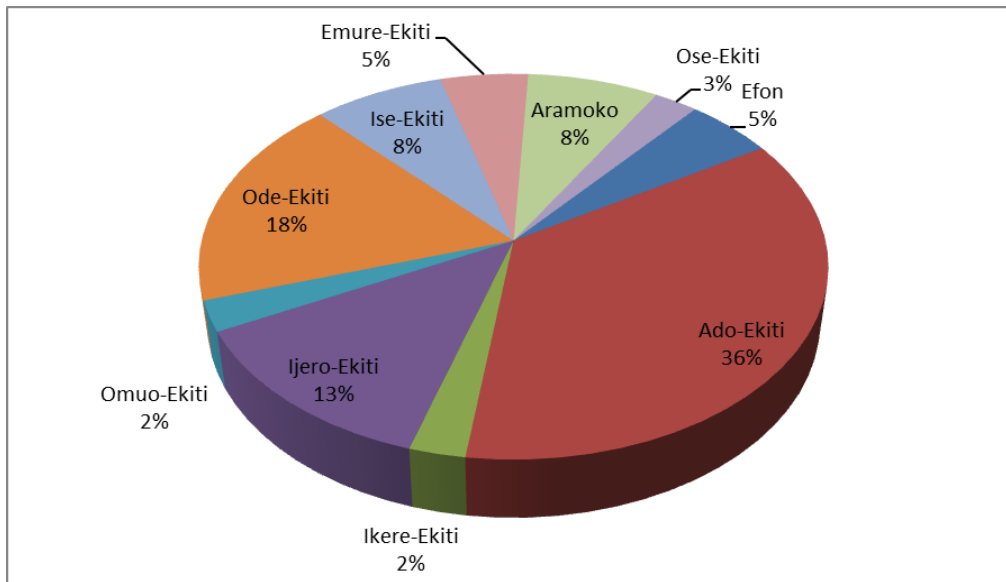
Variables	Categories	Urban	Rural
CHILD RAPE CASES OBSERVED	<i>no case observed</i>	61 67.8%	40 66.7%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	24 26.7%	14 23.3%
	<i>more than 6 cases observed</i>	5 5.6%	6 10.0%

ADULT-RAPE CASES OBSERVED	<i>no case observed</i>	70 77.8%	42 70.0%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	18 20.0%	12 20.0%
	<i>more than 6 cases observed</i>	2 2.2%	6 10.0%
SPOUSAL-RAPE CASES	<i>no case observed</i>	85 94.4%	51 85.0%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	5 5.6%	9 15.0%
ATTEMPTED RAPE CASES OBSERVED	<i>no case observed</i>	80 88.9%	47 78.3%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	10 11.1%	13 21.7%
INCIDENCE OF UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCH	<i>no case observed</i>	83 92.2%	49 81.7%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	2 2.2%	3 5.0%
	<i>more than 6 cases observed</i>	5 5.6%	8 13.3%
SEX FOR FAVOUR/ BLACKMAIL FOR SEX	<i>no case observed</i>	81 90.0%	48 80.0%
	<i>1-5 cases observed</i>	6 6.7%	7 11.7%
	<i>more than 6 cases observed</i>	3 3.3%	5 8.3%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table above also shows, about 1 in 4 respondents claimed that they are familiar with happenings related to child rape in and around their area while at least 1 in 2 reported incidences ranging from (1 to 5) and at least 1 in 6 respondents attested that between 2016 and 2017 they have observed more than 5 cases in and around their environment. In addition, the also reveal a varying difference in the number of the various forms of observed cases of sexually-related offences in the rural and urban location with urban having more cases observed. This implies that no society is free of this social problem but making known these incidences is influenced by location. To buttress this finding is the evidence in figure 2 below:

Figure 2: A Pie-chart showing the Percentage distribution of sexually-related offences recorded by the police between 2016 and 2017 in Ekiti State



Source: Police Record Ekiti State (2016 -2017)

The police record indicates that sexually-related offences are higher in urban than rural residency in terms of reporting. This implies that the heterogeneous nature of the urban area aids reporting compared to the rural area where every member of the society knows themselves hence hinders reporting of the offences.

Null Hypothesis 1: The number of child rape incidence observed in Urban-Ekiti do not significantly differ from the Rural-Ekiti

Table 4: An Independent Sample t-test showing the difference in the number of child rape incidence observed by respondents across the urban and rural areas of Ekiti State

	SETTLEMENT DESCRIPTION	N	Mean	STD. Dev.	t-value	Df	Pvalue
Child rape cases observed	URBAN	27	3.52	3.167	-.641	148	.523
	RURAL	19	4.21	3.924			

N.B: Report is in line with the assumptions (before reporting the t statistic) because the Levene's test for equality of variances was not violated ($P > 0.05$). Owing to this violated assumption, a t-statistic assuming homogeneity of variance was computed

In an attempt to ascertain the difference in the number of child rape cases observed by respondents in the urban and rural areas of Ekiti, an independent sample t-test was employed. The test was applied to the reports of only 46 respondents out of the initial 150 selected from specific rural and urban areas of Ekiti State. Hence, there were a total of 27 respondents in the urban while 19 respondents affirmed cases of child rape in the rural areas. The 46 respondents selected admitted to having observed at least one or more incidence (s) of child rape in and around their community since the beginning of 2016. However, the result of the test was not statistically significant $t (-641) = 148, p > 0.05$. This can be explained further with a closer look at the descriptive table above. Therefore, as shown in the table 4 above, the result indicated that the incidence rate of child rape cases do not differ significantly though the average number of cases in the rural area is higher ($M = 3.85, S.D = 3.167$) compared to the urban locations which differ a little ($M = 4.21, S.D = 3.924$).

Null Hypothesis 2: *The number of adult/date rape incidence observed in Urban-Ekiti do not significantly differ from the Rural-Ekiti*

Table 4: An Independent Sample t-test showing the difference in the number of child rape incidence observed by respondents across the urban and rural areas of Ekiti State

	SETTLEMENT DESCRIPTION	N	Mean	STD. Dev.	t-value	Df	Pvalue
Adult/Date rape cases observed	URBAN	22	2.73	2.711	-1.264	26.432	.217
	RURAL	17	4.18	4.081			

N.B: Report is in line with the assumptions (before reporting the t statistic) because the Levene's test for equality of variances was not violated ($P > 0.05$). Owing to this violated assumption, a t-statistic assuming homogeneity of variance was computed

In an attempt to ascertain the difference in the number of adult rape cases observed by respondents in the urban and rural areas of Ekiti, an independent sample t-test was employed. In this case, however, the test was applied to the account of 39 respondents out of the initial 150 selected from specific rural and urban areas of Ekiti State. Hence, there were a total of 22 respondents from the urban while 17 respondents affirmed cases of adult rape in the rural areas.

The 39 respondents selected admitted to having observed at least one or more incidence (s) of adult rape in and around their community since the beginning of 2016. However, the result of the test was not statistically significant $t (-1.264) = 26.432$, $p > 0.05$. This can be explained further with a closer look at the descriptive table above.

As shown in table 5 above, the result indicated that the incidence rate of adult rape cases do not differ significantly though the average number of cases in the rural area is higher ($M = 4.18$, $S.D = 3.081$) compared to the urban locations which differ a little ($M = 2.73$, $S.D = 2.711$).

Discussions of Result

The discussion of the result was based on the objectives of this study; the **Forms of sexually-related offences prevalent among adults in selected rural and urban Ekiti community**, the study confirms the prevalence of sexually-related offences in urban and rural communities of Ekiti. From the study, it is clear that child defilement is the most prevalent sexually-related offence in Ekiti communities with at least two-thirds of the respondents affirming that they have seen or heard about cases of child rape in and around their surroundings since the beginning of 2016 (Tables 2, 3). This prevalence is also attributed to the extent of reporting which was confirmed with secondary data (figure 1). The finding gives credence to the earlier studies (Ezechi, et. al, 2016; Hassan, et. al., 2016; and Ashimi, et. al., 2015) on the extent of prevalence of child defilement in recent times in Nigeria. Another prevailing sexually-related offence in rural and urban Ekiti is adult/date rape (Tables 2 and 3) which more than one-third of the survey population affirmed that they have observed at least one case of adult rape in their respective location of residence (Ado, and Ode-Ekiti) since the beginning of 2016. This is followed by the prevalence of unwanted touch, attempted rape, spousal rape, and sex for favour / blackmail (Tables 2 and 3). In addition to these findings on the prevalence of sexually-related offences, the

study indicates that penetrative forms of sexually-related offences are the most reported cases in Ekiti. Furthermore, figure 1 reveals the variation in terms of reporting between the year 2010-2016 which probably was influenced by the level of effectiveness of the domesticated Ekiti State Gender Based violence Laws.

On the number of cases observed by significant others in selected rural and urban Ekiti communities on issues of Sexually-related Offences. Findings from table 3 reveal that both penetrative and non-penetrative forms of sexually-related offences were observed by respondents in rural and urban Ekiti communities. Table 3 shows variation in observed cases in number across the rural and urban communities. In consonance with this finding is figure 2 that reveal more reported cases in the urban location (36%) than rural location (18%). However differences base on specific forms of sexually-related offence in terms of number as shown in table 4, indicated that the incidence rate of child rape cases do not differ significantly, though the average number of cases in the rural area is higher ($M = 3.85$, $S.D = 3.167$) compared to the urban locations which differ a little ($M = 4.21$, $S.D = 3.924$). When interpreted approximately, it can be inferred that during a period of 12 months, there would likely be at least 4 cases in both the rural and urban areas of Ekiti State, though there is a higher possibility of having a greater number in the rural areas. This corroborates findings of Uwaoma, Osita-Njoku, and Madukwe (2012) on experiences of sexually-related offences in rural and urban communities but differs in terms of forms as theirs reveal spousal rape prevalence variation in rural and urban Igbo communities in Nigeria.

In addition as shown in table 5 above, the result indicated that the incidence rate of adult rape cases do not differ significantly though the average number of cases in the rural area is higher (M

=4.18, S.D = 3.081) compared to the urban locations which differ a little (M =2.73, S.D =2.711). When interpreted approximately, it can be inferred that during a period of 12 months, there would likely be at least 4 cases of adult rape in the rural and minimum of 3 in the urban areas of Ekiti State. The finding is also incongruent with the studies of McCarry, et. al. (2009) that suggest a non-significant variation of various forms of penetrative and penetrative forms of sexually-related offences in both rural and urban communities of Bristol

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

Sexually-related offences are a common social problem in the society that its prevalence cannot be underestimated in any rural or urban community. This study laid bare the forms of sexually-related offences prevalent in rural and urban communities of Ekiti State. From the study, it is very observable child rape/defilement is more prevalent in the society but with low reporting rate to the law enforcement agencies and whether rural or urban communities, the number of cases made known are hindered due to some social factors. Therefore, not until members of society begin to strictly give punitive measures to the act of non-penetrative forms of sexually-related offences like unwanted touch or street sexual harassment, then the penetrative forms like rape will continue because issues of sexually-related offences are not given much importance by reporting like trying to protect family's reputation from social stigma.

Recommendation

1. Every member of the society needs re-orientation towards reporting in order to discourage the culture of silence.

2. Every member of the society should always allow justice to take its course without prejudice of any kind and stop blaming victims and their families for the incidence of sexually-related offences.
3. Policymakers should strategies more on the effective implementation of the domesticated Gender-Based Domestic Violence law.

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