Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Students in Public and Private Institutions: Patterns and Implications

By

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Abstract

Sexual violence on college campuses is a pervasive issue that affects students across various institutions. This study aims to analyze and contrast the prevalence, patterns, and underlying factors of sexual violence among students in public and private educational institutions. The study focused on the challenges faced by students in these institutions interventions and policies for fostering safer learning environments. To quantify the prevalence of sexual violence in public and private educational institutions. Identify and analyze the patterns and forms of sexual violence experienced by students in each institution. To assess the effectiveness of existing prevention and response mechanisms in both public and private institutions. The findings confirmed the existence of sexual violence. Majority of the respondents are females from both universities about 65% more than the male counterpart. On age categorization, majority of the respondents 16-24 years' private institutions while 22-35years Public institutions. The commonest form of sexual abuse and violence, known to respondent in the private institutions is Stalking while public institutions are rape. Majority of respondents indicated that the abusers are unknown for public institutions and known by the victims for private institution students. On the other hand, most of the known abusers are those who have in the past or present maintained certain degree of closeness and have profess love to their victims. For both public and private institutions, friends or acquaintance, ex-partners and

partners. This result shows the level of insecurity among the student hostels in various locations outside campus. According to the findings, the students who indicated that they knew where to lodge formal complaints when sexually violated listed the following officers they can get help from and the type of help such as police station, health facility, guidance and counseling, student disciplinary committee and twitter. Places they report and the type of help they seek are mostly from counselors and medical care at the health centers. On the difficulty of reporting sex abuse and violence the respondents stated that they do not find it easy to report such incidences due to fear, self- blame, victimization and low self-esteem. The low level of under-reporting could be the cause of persistent sexual violence on campuses. The study therefore recommends the use of policies on the perpetrators punishment; create regular awareness to easy report through different mechanism and recovery process from experts for victims of sexual violence.

Keywords: Sexual violence, Public institutions, Private institutions, Comparative study, Prevention, Policy recommendations.

Introduction

Sexual violence remains a critical concern within higher education, impacting the well-being of students.

Again, Studies holds that Sexual Violence in Nigerian universities and the wider society is of high rate, 30% of women and girls aged 15-49 years report experience sexual abuse (National Demographic Health Survey 2018, Open learning Initiatives, 2012). Also, the report of Banvard-Fox, Linger, Paulson, , Cottrell, & Davidov, (2020), has it that between ages 16–24 are at the highest risk of sexual assault. Alcohol and drugs are implicated as playing a major role in rapes on college campuses in the U.S. According to Atkinson (2004), schools that have a record of heavy drinking have a 50-83% of students, often experiencing their first years away from home together, in an environment, with some anticipating new activities and freedoms, whilst others are left more vulnerable.

Sexual violence cases have increased considerably during the Corona Virus disease (COVID-19) related lockdowns, similar to the global trends. Within the

context of tertiary education institutions, there are a number of studies, which show that women and girls are of high risks of sexual violence (Fisher, Cullen, and Turner, 2000; Stermac, Cripps, Amiri and Badali, 2020). Findings emphasize both the cause and consequence of inequality, gender, ethnicity, class, age, status, citizenship, and nationality of the identified respondents/participants.

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2002) defined Sexual Violence as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts of traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, any person regardless of their relationship to the victim in any setting, but not limited to home and work. The study adds that the implication is that sexual violence negatively affects the mental health, social well-being, academic performance, interpersonal relationships of victims (Campbell, Dworkin, & Cabral, 2009). This shows that violence against women may be grounded in power imbalances between men and women which may exhibit different causative factors and outcomes from violence against men. Gender-based violence is universal, differing only in scope from one society to another. Much of this violence is inflicted on girls and women by husbands, fathers, or other male relatives, familiar people such as friends, neighbours even strangers (Fisher, Cullen, turner, 2000, Stermac, Horowitz, & Bance, 2013; Jordan, Combs, & Smith, 2014; Mengo & Black, 2016; Potter, Howard, Murphy, & Moynihan, 2018).

Statement of the Problem

Sexual violence is perhaps one the most under-reported crime because disputes within the family, even outright physical abuse, are often not perceived as criminal acts either by the perpetrators, the victims themselves, or by the legal system (Heise, Raikes, Watts and Zwi, 1994). Also, women activists claim that in Nigeria for instance, the penal code may have been exploited with loopholes to perpetrate sexual violence. In this regard, the law seems to permit the correction of a woman by her husband (Wokocha 2024). Therefore, such acts would ignite fear in the victims especially women and girls.

Kalra & Bhugra (2013).) stated that sexual violence is usually committed by someone who claims that he loves, cherishes, and cares about the person violated. Incidentally, while there is a concerted effort at the global level to eliminate

violence against women, not much has been done at the local level, in the educational institutions in Nigeria. Thus, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) has been at the forefront of championing the course of fighting sexual violence in the country. The rate of sexual violence under-reporting, due to stigmatization is a barrier to getting adequate data for the criminal justice system's persecution in Nigeria. (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, 2019). Sexual violence under-reporting is a major limitation for the prosecution of perpetrators, delivery of justice, and the design of other interventions for the support of survivors (Chiazor, Ozoya, Udume, & Egharevba, (2016). Despite the prevalence of sexual violence in the tertiary education settings, the level of reporting is low and this negatively impacts victim support, access to justice, and prevention of recurrence with similar trends observable in the wider population.

In 2005, a nationwide survey of rape survivors revealed that out of 10,000 respondents, only 18.1% reported the offense to the Nigerian Police (Chiazor 2016). It is therefore important to understand the underlying factors affecting reporting of sexual violence and how these may be addressed in order to ensure effective support for victims and access to justice. Most of the factors inhibiting the reporting of sexual violence are linked to face-to-face reporting by the victims, either involving formal or informal justice or quasi-judicial institutions. Some of the factors which affect rape reporting include confidentiality and anonymity of the survivors, fear of stigmatization, and considerations for the physical safety of the survivor, fear of reprisal attacks, negative cultural and societal perceptions (Ullman, Callaghan, Shepp & Harris, (2020).

A study of the reporting of sexual violence in tertiary care psychiatric settings in India shows that the barriers to women's reporting their experience of sexual violence exist both at the level of the victim and at the level of the health professionals. On the part of the victim, there could be a fear of retaliation by the perpetrators and on the part of the professionals, the lack of privacy in the handling of the report of sexual violence creates barriers to reporting (Vranda, Kumar, Muralidhar, 2018). This underscores the need for approaches for reporting, investigation, and prioritizing the protection of victims' privacy and other forms of support. Underreporting of incidence associated with sexual victimization in Nigeria has called for the attention of all stakeholders in the

country. However, an increase in the report of all forms of sexual victimization could be attributed to technology like the advent of mobile phones and social media (Adeleke, Hassan, Olowookere, 2012). It is very injurious to female health and it cuts across, socio-economic classes though it may be more prevalent among the lower classes. Some of these health consequences are violence-related injuries, gynecological problems, miscarriage, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV), pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain, headaches, permanent disabilities, hemorrhage and sterility resulting from FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

Elegbeleye (2006) further affirmed several physiological problems as depression, anxiety, suicidal thought, anger, aggression, sexual behavior problems, symptoms post- traumatic stress disorder and developmental delays. Incidence of Viseco-Virgina Fibstula (VVF) diagnoses, have had long term effect on the reproductive system of females with unwanted pregnancy for student in their teen age. The implications of sexual violence on student have extreme impact on their health and academic activities, decreased functionality, truancy, low self-esteem, identity disorder. Sexual violence has great risk for severe mental outcomes among women, the most prevalent is depression, suicide attempts, post- traumatic stress disorder, other stress disorders (UN,2006).

This study focuses on understanding the differences in the experiences of sexual violence among students in public and private institutions. However, the nature or severity of sexual violence can be influenced from several factors such as poverty, gender inequality, cultural or religious beliefs, conflict or natural disasters. Sexual violence survivors have severe impact on women' and girls physical and mental health. The negative health consequences can persist for a longtime especially the experience of more than one type of violence. (Johnson 2005). SV produces gynecological trauma in rape cases due to harmful objects when forced to have sexual intercourse and give birth before pelvis is fully formed. The trauma includes tearing of the vagina; fistula (a tear close to the bladder or rectum) infections other injuries and complications during childbirth. (United Nations, 2005). By investigating the prevalence, nature, patterns and form of sexual violence. The study aims to provide an overview that can guide policies and prevention strategies.

Objectives of the Study

1 To quantify the prevalence of sexual violence in public and private educational institutions.

2 To identify and analyze the patterns and forms of sexual violence experienced by students in each setting

3 To assess the effectiveness of existing prevention and response mechanisms in both public and private institutions.

Methodology:

This research will employ a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. The survey will gather quantitative data on the prevalence of sexual violence, while qualitative methods will provide a deeper understanding of the contextual factors contributing to these incidents. A diverse sample of students from both public and private institutions will be included to ensure comprehensive insights.

Research Design

This study adopted the cross sectional survey design and the quantitative and qualitative approach of data collection. In the Social Sciences a cross-sectional study (also known as cross-sectional analysis, transverse study, prevalence study), is a type of observational study that analyzes data from a population, or a representative subset, at a specific point in time (that is cross-sectional data) Obikeze,1990.In this study, the above concept was utilized for investigating the use of social media in sexual violence reporting ,in selected institution in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State to give a broadened and prevalent view of the research and widens the scope thereof, thereby giving a more detailed and accurate view of the research topic. The choice of the cross-sectional survey appears appropriate for this study because cross-sectional study reports are useful sources and interpretation of ideas for further studies and involve data collection at a defined time.

The Study Population

The study population consisted of student and staff (official such as the Dean of student, Director Health service department, Student union heads, Security personnel, clergy heads of the institution, about eight hundred respondents. And

this was done with the consent of the student using the purposive techniques for the sample size of the total population. The population which was purposively selected among the undergraduate student for the study from each faculty. (Cocham, 1977).

Instrument

A mixed method approach was used consisting of quantitative and qualitative formative research, interviews with key informant of the institution A multi structured questionnaire and interview was used for the data collection designed for wider coverage, time saving, ability to ensure the anonymity of the respondents, the Questionnaire respondent consist of an appropriate proportional sample size from the total student population in public institutions and private institutions. The questionnaires consist of the socio demographic data, profile of respondent, determinants prevalence and similarity in research questions. The questionnaire and interview was administered with the consent of the student and selected officials of the institutions of both sexes and different ages from the total student population in the institutions. The instruments were intended to detect sexual violence, awareness, level of prevalence, institutional mechanisms put in place for the students in reducing sexual violence, threats against themselves and people they cared about.

Sample Size

The sample size for this study was due to the nature of the study which was solely, centered on sexual violence among student in tertiary institutions. Hence the entire population from the institutions which is 77000 from the institutions therefore the sample size is 831. This was to ensure about 95% confidence of the study from the area. A purposive sampling technique was used to obtain the sample. Purposive sampling is the selection of participants based on the purpose of the study (Rubin & Babbie, 2008). These institutions were selected because of their existing services to victims of sexual violence and the level of involvement of these institution in the fight against sexual violence among students both the local and statewide level. The purposive sampling technique will also allow the researcher to select the respondents based on their qualifications and years of experience.

Data Collection Method

Data collection was through the use of TOOLBOX an app which consisted of all the research questions imputed for the purpose of the study. The study was administered by fieldworkers using mobile phones and hard copy of the questionnaire, in –depth interviews was used for the interviews. Data collected was analyzed with the kobo collect app and further interpretation using frequency, percentage distribution with charts. While the interviews were coded and interpreted using content analysis.

Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected through the copies of questionnaire were analyzed using frequency distributions, percentages and charts to aid objectivity and transparency. The qualitative data generated from respondents via in-depth interviews were subjected to verbatim transcription exercise after thematic analysis method.

Results:

Socio-demographic data

Age				
RESPONDENT	**PUBLIC**	**%**	**PRIVATE (%)**	
16-24years	101	12.6	147	86.5
25-35 years	693	86.7	23	13.5
36-44 years	6	0.7	0	0
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**
Sex				
Male	245	30.6	64	37.6
Female	555	69.4	106	62.4
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**

From the table above, the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, shows the respondents from different campuses(public and private) for public campus, the highest respondents from ages 25-35 years 693(86.7%), while private campus, had the highest respondent between ages 16-24years 147(86.5%)of the

total respondents. The table shows the differences in ages of students from public and private institutions. This indicates that the respondents from private were younger students than the respondent from public institutions. However the female respondent from both Universities are major victims of sexual violence 661 of the total respondent.

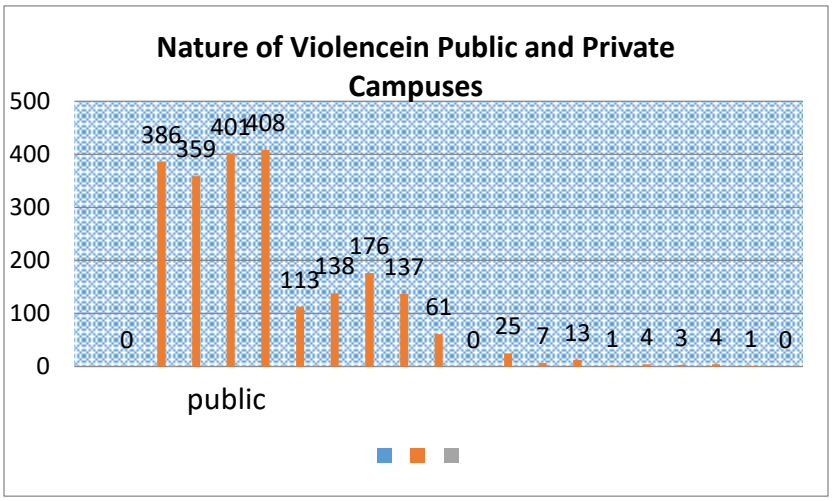
FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE	PUBLIC	%	PRIVATE	%
Stalking	162	0.2	73	43.1
Verbal or electronic	179	22.4	20	12.1
Rape	182	22.8	38	22.4
Oral copulation	50	6.3	3	01.7
Anal intercourse	62	7.7	12	06.9
Penetration of foreign object	77	9.6	9	05.2
Penile vaginal penetration	61	7.6	12	06.9
Others **	27	3.4	3	01.7
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**
Place of abuse?				
Where did it occur %	**PUBLIC**		**%**	**PRIVATE**
Classroom	16	02	6	03.4
Hostel	58	7.3	44	25.9
Off-campus	290 36.3		64	37.9
Toilet	17	2.1	3	01.7
Your room	122	15.2	21	12.2
Office	60	7.5	18	10.3
Others	237	29.6	14	08.6
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**

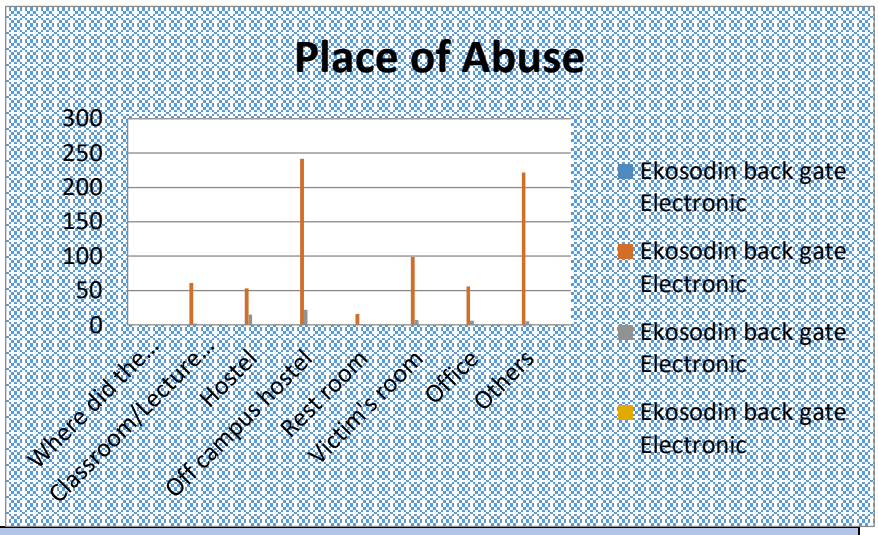
Results from table 2 , shows data of the entire respondents from public and private institutions experiencing different forms of sexual abuse, students from private institutions claimed that stalking is one of the highest sexual abuse 43.1%, then Rape 22.1 verbal or electronic abuse 22.4%of the entire respondents others from private institutions also claimed 1.7% have had oral copulation, anal intercourse

(6.9%) and penetration of foreign object in the Anus/vaginal (5.2%). 6.9% of the entire respondents claimed they have experienced penile vaginal penetration and 1.7% of the entire respondents have experienced more than one form of sexual abuse as a student . furthermore findings indicates that Rape (22.8%)is the commonest form of sexual abuse often experienced by students, in the public tertiary institution .verbal and electronic abuse is (22.4%) also stalking (0.2%)others are oral copulation(6.3%), penetration of foreign object in the Anus/vaginal (9.6.%), penile vaginal penetration (7.6%) others 3.4%of the entire population.

Findings on the venue of the incidence, private 37.9% of the respondents claimed it happened off-campus, 25.9% claimed it was done in the hostel and 12.1% of the respondents affirmed it happened in their room. Others includes; classroom (3.4%), toilet (1.7%) and office (10.3%). However, 8.6% of the entire respondents were tagged as others. Furthermore Public has the highest place of incidence off-campus 32.2%,victims room 13.3%, others 29.6% classified as hot zones such as Osasogie, Ekosodin, block of flats, back of hostels etc., while others are toilet(2.1%), hostels (7.1%)office (7.5) while classroom (0.2%) of the entire respondent. Therefore from the data both universities have off- campus and victims room as the major places of occurrence for sexual violence. For Public hot zones are critical places and danger zones for students.

Nature of Violence in public and privates Campuses





Was the abuser known				
Known	169	21.2	111	65.5
Unknown	630	78.8	59	34.5
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**
WHO?				
Partner	86	10.8	27	15.8
Ex-partner	69	8.7	71	42.1
Classmates	80	10.0	31	18.4
Family member	112	14.1	27	15.8
Neighbor	109	13.6	9	05.3
Lecturer	78	9.7	4	02.6
Acquaintance	199	24.9	1	0
Others	67	8.2	0	0
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**

The table above indicate the level of reporting among student From the results, students stated 65.5% of the respondents that the abusers were known persons and they include; partners(18.4%), Ex-partners (42.1%), classmates (18.4%) and family members with 15.8%. others include neighbors with 5.3% and lecturers with 2.6%. however, 34.5% of the victims claimed the abusers were unknown. But in Public institution the abusers are unknown 78.8% for the known abusers 21.2% which include partners i (5.8%),ex-partners (8.0%) classmates (8.0%), neighbors

(11.6%) family members(14.1%) lecturers (9.7%) acquaintance (19.9%)while others

Easy to Report				
RESPONDENT	**PUBLIC**		**PRIVATE**	
Yes	288	36	13	7.6
No	512	64	157	92.4
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**
Difficulty in reporting				
Fear	160	20.0	59	34.5
Victimization	146	18.3	9	5.4
Emotional torture	145	18.2	15	08.6
Low self -esteem/inferiority complex	120	15.0	26	15.5
Self- blame	104	13.0	26	15.5
Harassment	95	11.9	9	5.0
Physical injury	25	3.2	21	12.1
Others	3	0.4	5	3.4
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**

(8.2%) from the entire respondent.

Where did you seek help from				
RESPONDENT	**PUBLIC**		**PRIVATE**	
Hospital	150	18.8	11	06.9
Police station	207	29	11	06.9
Church	63	7.9	35	20.7
Mosque	24	3.1	29	17.2
Parent	162	20	32	9.0
Friends	100	12	40	24.1
Counselors	180	22.5	9	05.2
Total	**800**	**100**	**170**	**100**

On the easy of reporting for victims of sexual abuse from Uniben, the result from the table shows that reporting of sexual violence was easy to report 36% while not easy to report 32%due to fear (20.2%), victimization (18.2), low self-esteem (15.0%), self-blame (13.0%),and physical injury with 3.2%. others 1% harassment with 11.9%, and emotional torture with 18.2%. However, fear, victimization, low

self –esteem, emotional torture and harassment have high effect of sexual abuse on the victim, this are major reasons why student do not find it easy to report sexual violence incidence in Uniben. The result from the table also shows the low reporting among the IUO students ranges from fear (34.5%), low self-esteem (15.5%), self-blame (15.5%) and physical injury with 12.1%. others are guilt with 5.2%, nightmare constituting 5.2% and emotional torture with 8.6%. However, some respondents had more than one aftermath effect as they make up 3.4% of the entire respondent.

Therefore, students from both universities have claimed that one major barrier to easy of reporting is the due to fear, self-blame, victimization from people, and low self-esteem while IUO added that physical injury could also not easy reporting
The table above shows the place of support for victims, where the victim can seek help from public institutions, the respondents claims that the police station 25.9% is the major place to report sexual violence for immediate response, seek help from your family members 22.8%, church 7.9% and friends (11.8). While the private, the church 20.7%or mosque17.2%, friends 24.1% then family member these are the places students seek help for immediate response.

Qualitative findings on distinct patterns and forms.

The victims and perpetrators

They are always weak females, or the average girls who are afraid and want to graduate without any problem. From the issues cases handled in the past. Perpetrators are sometimes fellow students, academic staff or non-Academic staff (Counselor, IDI, 2023).

Another respondent said

The school has adopted some of these measures to make sure that these cases are brought to minimal. We have people who have volunteered themselves maybe some are trying to abuse you or manhandled you there are places you can report, like I told you students find it difficult to go to such places and report, maybe it's because of the challenges they will face some are being threatened also, for school they have facilities such as guidance and counseling center. Such facility is here, then religion groups also attends to such issues, some if you can't handle it we pick it up from there and find a way to assist you. The school is also making efforts

at least of recent to provide some level of security especially outside the campus it's not easy. I know it is the function of the government but the school is going extra mile to provide such so such cases will come to minimal (Male, Clergy, 2023).

Group discussions

Many do not want the case to be persecuted, due to fear, and victimization, blames from friends and family members. They believe it should be ignored while they suffer the pain and consequences (FDG, Females, Students, 2023)

In another view:

Most of the cases handled here, first of all you have to counsel the person and if the person needs the attention of an expert like a psychotherapist, they are being referred, first of all you have to counsel the person to accept the services of these experts so they can address their cases, if eventually they agree we then refer them. Psychotherapist people who can give them professional help, on the side of spirituality guidance and counseling we do our best because we also received some level of training and awareness in that field so we offer the help whenever we can in such cases, they usually come those with rape cases, sexual abuse and every other thing (male, Clergy, 54 years, 2023).

The student need student friendly Centre within the campus for reporting cases of sexual violence in other to encourage them for reporting cases. We also have personnel who are actually going to handle this cases, may be in that case, we no longer need to refer them to UBTH (Officer, Health Centre, Female,2023).

Complementary response from respondent

There are safe places they can stay and they would not have such cases, one thing is that most of the students are living outside and you know how it is they are always exposed to such, that's one difficulty that is associated with this university, they don't have staff quarters, students hostel, most of the students 50% of them are living outside the campus which is exposing them all the more especially the young students as the case may be. You know they have not been exposed to face such challenges (chaplain, 54 years, male, 2023).

Yes unsafe places are lonely places. There are hostels where student violates other students. Most of the students are outside the campus. Within campus security persons try to monitor them (Female, 2023) (Security, Uniben, Female, 2023).
Safety on campus

A respondent view
The fundamental things to be done is to provide security that is number one. If there is security in our society it will be very difficult to see such cases, if there is security especially this environment such cases will not be very prominent they will not be expose to the fact that there will be people who will come and abuse them and then punitive measure have to be put in place not only from the government but from the university also such that they will be inform if you do this or that and when being investigated, You are found guilty of the offence what you will pass through as punishment, like losing your admission and every other things it will help to bring down the rate of sexual violence and abuse in our campuses, then also lecturer should chip it in during lecture because all this things is a results of moral decadence, so they should sensitize students on moral background so that when they have the fear of God , they will treasure life and every other thing it will be very difficult to be seeing such cases (Director, 55years, Male,2023).

QUALITATIVE FINDING ON PATTTERNS AND FORMS OF SEXUALVIOLENCE		
RESPONDENT	**PUBLIC**	**PRIVATE**
COUNSELOR (female)	Difficulty in reporting majorly female, (weak student) Occurrence off- campus. Negative effect of Rape among student(fear) Usually at night.	Not so easy to report/few report SV Majorly female who are off-campus Major form of sexual violence is rape. Occurrence lonely/quiet place off -campus
DIRECTOR (Male)	Report for rape incident comes in	We have less report on this incident, as

	late. They are directed to counselor for immediate actions. Females are majorly affected. Perpetrators are majorly unknown. low reporting is due to cultural beliefs	the dean of student, we counsel student during orientations on the need to report.
SECURITY (Male, Female)	At orientations student are enlighten with happenings around campus and emergency numbers are given to student. Bill boards are at different locations to instruct students on dress codes on campus. They are to avoid walking alone in the night or go in groups	Security personnel are to monitor happenings within campus and give hotlines for emergencies. Hostels are strictly monitored. Sexual violence incident is prevalent among student off campus by student's ex-lover or partners
HEALTH CENTRE (Male ,Female)	Student victims often report very late at the health center or affect one ailment or the other. Some come but for treatment without reporting the incident. Sometimes report of attacks by strangers, due to bruises on their body.	The health care center report is on ailment; infections etc., report of rape incident are not often reported. Usually they are brought in by their friends due to their predicament or ailment.
CLERGY/IMAM (Male)	Often times we have counseled a lot of student who come to confide in us and	We counsel them when there report or any case of attempted rape

	referred them to care services and counseling unit followed up by psychologist for mental stability	incident to prevent further occurrence. Perpetrators are strangers, friends or ex-lovers

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS		
RESPONDENT	**PUBLIC INSTITUTION**	**PRIVATE INSTITUTION**
AGE RANGE	22- 35 years females	16- 25 years females
SEX	Male students do not report, this can help to increase the reporting cases, females are restricted by their friends due to shame and vitiation.	Male counterparts are not involved in reporting for their colleagues who are victims due to fears of attacks
FORM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE	Majorly rape incidents which is high among student	Stalking is the major form of sexual violence and verbal and electronic abuse violence.
PLACE TO SEEK HELP	Police station, Counselors	Friends, Church
MECHANISM USED TO HANDLE SEXUAL VIOLENCE	Social media, Mobile phone apps, student mediums. billboard, Counselors, students advisers, hotlines. The most preferred by student is mobile phone apps whatsapp, mobile apps, tiktok, etc.	Social media, student union call lines, course advisers. The most preferred is friends or third party.

Implications

The study contributes to evidence-based approach aimed at preventing and addressing sexual violence in public and private tertiary institutions in Nigeria. By understanding the unique challenges faced by students in public and private institutions, targeted interventions can be developed safer learning environments. Similar to the global trends. Within the context of tertiary education institutions, there are a number of studies, which show that women and girls are of high risks of sexual violence, Stermac, L. Horowitz, S., & Bance, S. (2013). Sexual violence could be a leading cause of untimely death and attempt for suicide due to prolong trauma among female student if not handled on time. It also has a significant impact on the academic performance on student in all institutions in Nigeria, females young or old are at risks in experiencing sexual violence in different forms such as stalking, rape, harassment, verbal abuse, intimation etc. Findings reveals seeking help, existing mechanism used in handling cases of sexual violence and socio-demographic variables, it was observed that female respondents, are more than the male respondents vulnerable to prolong illness from ages 16-35 years, more than other age categories.

Summary of Findings

The study carried out in public and private tertiary institutions. A total of 1000(one thousand students) drawn from selected faculties and departments participated in the survey. Majority of the respondents are females from both universities about 65% more than the male counterpart. On age categorization, majority of the respondents 16-35 years. The commonest forms of sexual violence, known to respondent are rape, stalking and verbal electronic abuse. Majority of respondents indicated that the abusers are either known or unknown; most of the known abusers are those who have maintained certain degree of closeness to their victims. Majorly the place of incidence indicates that off-campus, hostel, and victim's room are places of concern. This finding shows the level of insecurity among the student hostels in various locations outside campus. This is a major gap that can affect the increase of sexual violence in various institutions. According to the findings, the students indicated that they knew where to lodge formal complaints when sexually assaulted listed the following places to seek help, and the type of help such as police station, health facility, guidance and counseling, student disciplinary committee and twitter. However, the most preferred places

they report more and the type of help they seek are mostly from counselors and medical care at the health centers. Reporting sex violence the respondents stated that they do not find it easy to report such incidences due to fear, self- blame, victimization and low self-esteem. Furthermore, the mechanism used in handling sexual violence in various tertiary institutions are counseling units, health care facilities, student's mediums, hotlines and security systems. Findings indicated that the most effective are the counseling units, health facilities and student's mediums. Other preventive measures are student's orientations and campaigns by students.

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the findings there are differences and similarities in the measures, practices of institutional mechanism among various institutions in Nigeria. It was recommended that more security techniques and networking with stakeholders to ensure suitable accommodations for student in various tertiary institutions and strong security networking in the institutions. Reporting sex abuse and violence among student can be increased if the male counterpart are involved in reporting. Under-reporting could be the cause of persistent sexual violence on campuses and socio-cultural beliefs. Through collaborative support of the various institutions and the community support in fighting against sexual violence, the off campus rape incident can be tackled.

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