

## *Original Paper*

# Child Rape in Nigeria, Implications on the Education of the Child

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### ***Abstract***

*The purpose of this study was to investigate child rape in Nigeria, its implications on the education of the child. Descriptive survey design was adopted. Three research questions guided the study. The population of the study was all the young parents in Nigeria whose female children are between 0-12 years old. Disproportionate random sampling was used to select 100 respondents each from 8 states out of 36 states in the country, making it 800 respondents. Structured questionnaire and interview were used to collect data from the respondents. Frequency, percentage and rank order were used to analyze the data collected for research question one. Mean, standard deviations and rank order were used to analyze data for research questions two and three. The findings revealed a high prevalence of child rape in Nigeria. The findings also identified in rank order; lack of reports on rape cases, mishandling of rape cases, child labour, children being left alone without care, men raping children for ritual purposes, indecent dressing as the causes of child rape. According to the findings, the effects of child rape in rank order include; emotional traumas, social stigma, sexual transmitted infections, termination of child' life, low academic performance, physical pains and injuries, school dropout, poor attendance to school. Recommendations and implications were also made.*

### ***Keywords***

*child, rape, stigma, shame, infections*

## 1. Introduction

Human sexuality is not just a matter of instinct as many people believe. It is rather an action which is controlled by decisions and social norms. It is a decision because no matter the reasons behind sexual activities, the two parties involved should under normal circumstances decide or take a decision to carry out the act. It is also controlled by social norms in the society because there are social sexual norms and ethical standards that guide how humans express their sexuality even though it varies from one culture to another.

However, the variation of social sexual norms in different cultures does not rule out the fact that sexual abuse called rape is considered a taboo and strongly condemned and shunned all over the world. It is more serious when it involves children (minors) especially children and babies of eight years and below.

Child rape in Nigeria is a new dimension of rape which has left many mouths agape and eyebrows raised. It is so embarrassing and heart breaking to hear that children who suck breasts are raped by beings who call themselves men. One begins to wonder what type of pleasure such worthless men derive from raping babies and children. How can a man with all his senses insert his manhood in the tender and undeveloped private parts of toddlers? Are these men human or beasts? Apart from the fact that the female child due to her directional ability cannot make a decision about her sexuality, the child's psychological state according to Catholic Diocese of Nsukka (2009) makes her vulnerable for rape.

Rape is the crime of forcefully having sexual relationship with somebody against the person's wish or consent. The term rape according to Wikipedia (2017) originated from Latin word "rapere" meaning to snatch, grab or to carry off. Child rape is a form of sexual abuse committed against a child that is not old enough to have sex, in which an adult or older adolescent uses the child forcefully for sexual gratification.

There has been an outcry against child rape in Nigeria, which attracted the attention of not only the government, and non-governmental organizations in Nigeria, but also international non-governmental bodies (Uzoanya, 2015). The senate in Nigeria has passed a bill in 2015 which prescribed life imprisonment for rapists and anybody who has sexual relationship with children under the age 11 years, but unfortunately, the bill has not deterred the rapists (Halim, 2016). As individuals, and groups both governmental and non-governmental organizations try to quench the evil fire of rape of children, the fire burns farther and wider to consume the lives, future and the education of the innocent female children in Nigeria. The news of child rape is worrisomely increasing. It is now usual to hear that a man has raped his biological daughter, or that a baby girl of some months old has been defiled carnally by an old man. What lures men into raping children and babies really confuses people.

Despite the measures taken so far to combat the menace of the rape of children in Nigeria, the problem tends to escalate geometrically.

In *Enugu State*, National Mirror (2016) reported that a 16 year old boy has raped three kids including a 10 month old baby girl in Udi local government area of the state. According to National Mirror (2016), the police in the state confirmed the arrest of the rape suspect, adding that the case has been transferred to the police headquarters in the state where the suspect was being detained. Police also arrested a 50 year old headmaster, Mr. Nathaniel Idoko from Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State for allegedly raping his four female pupils aged between 5-6 years in a bush in July 2018 (Ossai, 2018; Njoku, 2018).

One of the ugliest rape cases in recent time as observed by The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) was the rape of a 3 year old girl by the biological father in 2013. The act was done when the father was changing the daughters pampers (Vanguard National Newspaper, 2013). Again in December 2016, in Enugu-Ezike Community in Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State, one Mr. Ojobo has been arrested by Enugu State Police Command for raping 11 children between the ages of 3 and above. Olujisting (2016) states that the culprit confessed that he flashed a magic white cloth before the children who became unconscious and followed him to where he abused them sexually for ritual purpose of becoming rich.

In *Ebonyi State*, the news of child rape is not less serious as an 8 month old baby was reported to have been defiled by the very man who is her biological father. According to the mother of the baby (the wife of the rapist), the incident has repeated itself which attracted the mother's attention. In Ebonyi state also, a 16 year old boy has been arrested for raping a 4 months baby. According to Vanguard National Newspaper (2017), the boy carried the baby into his room and raped her repeatedly until the baby started bleeding through the private part and anus.

In *Abia State*, one Mr. Emeka Asirionu, a 65 year old man has been arrested and paraded for raping a 2 year old girl child kept under his care at Oriendu near Umuahia. According to Abia state commissioner of police Mr. Adeleye Oyebade, the suspect was arrested in September 28, 2016 (Punch Newspaper, 2016).

Baby rape has also been cited in Imo state. For instance, five men were reported for allegedly raping an 8 year old girl. The girl who hawks sachet water was lured by the rapists to a lonely part of Relief Market in Owerri where they serially raped her until she became unconscious. Vanguard Newspaper (2017) and Onyejiuwa (2016) reported that angry mob on discovering what happened caught three out of the five, tore their clothes, and beat them thoroughly before handing them over to police.

Child rape was also investigated in *Cross-Rivers State* and it was revealed that a 24 year old man-Chijioke Nwafor has raped an 8 year old Miss Alice Eneji to death, Chijioke has forcefully engaged Alice in a marathon sex at St. Patrick's Primary School Okuku which resulted to the victims

death. The Police Relation officer Mr. Hogan Bassey confirmed this to Vanguard Newspaper (Premium Time, 2013). In Calabar, also, one Mr. Macellinus Nwabiri defiled his 3 year old step daughter. She was admitted to the General hospital Calabar where medical reports stated that the hymen of the victim had been broken, confirming that the rape actually happened. Further, medical investigations by Nigerian Navy hospital Calabar also confirmed the act (Cross River Watch, 2016).

In *Osun State*, a man of 27 year old has been arrested by the police and charged to court after reports that he had forcefully defiled a 2 year old toddler (Vanguard Newspaper, 2016).

In Ibadan, Oyo State, according to Gbemileke (2015) one Pastor was arrested for raping a 7 year old girl (Bidemi) on the altar of his church in May 2017. The accused confessed that he really attempted the crime but could not penetrate. What a sacrilege that a pastor would use an altar of God for rape nest.

In *Kaduna State*, a 24 year old Haruna Tukur, a bus conductor has been arrested, and charged to magistrate court in the state in 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 for raping a 5 year old girl repeatedly even after he had been arrested and set free on bail for raping the same child. According to Garba (2016), this case has prompted an outrage in social media, as the culprit has been reported to have repeatedly raped the child for two years starting from when she was only 3 years old. Also in Kaduna, Mr. Daniel Joseph a 31 year old man has been handed over to Kaduna police command for raping his 2 year old daughter in Gonin-Gorachikum local government area of the state. The mother of the child was late and the culprit used the opportunity to destroy what he should protect. The crime was confirmed by a medical doctor who reported penetration and serious infection (Daily Post, 2016).

In *Kano State*, a 6 month old baby girl has been raped by the husband of her mother's friend in 2016. The man raped the baby with the help of his wife who held the infant's legs. The rapist (name withheld) confessed that his wife and he were barren, and have agreed for the rape of the baby as they have been told by a ritualist that the only way they could have their own babies was for the man to rape a baby for rituals (Dachen, 2017; Nigerian News Today, 2017).

Child rape is not limited to Nigeria alone. Other nations of the world have their own ugly stories to tell about rape of children or minors in their own lands. For instance, a 25 year old man has been arrested at a home in Annaloug Country Down in Northern Ireland for raping a 2 year old baby girl. The culprit later appeared before magistrates in Armah and was charged with rape, causing a lot of grievous bodily harm to the child (Darko, 2018).

In Assin Adadientem municipality in *Central Ghana*, a 4 year old girl has been brutally raped by her mother's neighbor when her mother was away attending funeral. Shockingly, the chief of the area allegedly refused to take any action against the rapist, claiming that "gods" said the man was innocent (Ngugi, 2017).

In Jijiga Southeast Addis Ababa, a 4 year old girl had died in a hospital from injuries sustained during rape. According to the medical reports, the girl suffered from severe lacerations when she was raped. However, the culprit, a twenty-four year old man has been handed over to police (The Irish Times, 2002).

Rape cases in Nigeria have taken a new dimension of involving children and babies. However, nothing goes for nothing as an adage says. The rape of children therefore has many causes which may include.

### *1.1 Mishandling of Rape Cases*

It is an established fact according to Achunike et al. (2014), that rape and sexual violence against women are not prosecuted as expected. Alhassan et al. (2013) lament that over one hundred cases of rape and violence against females often go without any of the culprits being prosecuted; Falayan et al. (2014), stress that sometimes, the police do not take appropriate actions by not making official report. The Nigerian criminal code of law section 357 of criminal code Act, laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recommends life imprisonment for rape convicts and 14 years imprisonment for attempted rape (Itoro, 2015).

The Nigerian senate has also approved life imprisonment for rapists of children under 11 years and people who have sexual intercourse with minors. However, only very few persons have been convicted since the enactment of the law to 2018. This is because sexual abuse matters in law court are sometime frustrated by the government which usually acts as the prosecution. The governmental prosecution of the offenders according to Uzoanya (2015) may have not been encouraging as it has been reported that sex offenders have in some cases asked to do community service as a form of punishment, contrary to the stipulated laws.

Furthermore Ejim (2013) observed that Nigerian laws appear to in addition victimize and humiliate the female folk as they do not bring justice to them. The rigorous requirements involved in producing the authentic evidence of rape in question seem to trivialize the whole matter. For instance, before a rape case is established, the victim must get a medical report to confirm that rape has taken place, as well as getting police report within the shortest interval of time. Unfortunately, some Nigerian police demand bribe from rape victims in order to investigate rape cases and give reports, and when the bribe is not given to them, they accuse the rape victims of consenting to the sexual intercourse with the rapists. In some cases, the complainant becomes the accused and vise versa, depending on who gives the highest bribe. Olatunji (2012) Conducted an extensive review of the Nigerian anti-rape law and identified some short-comings of which some are; that a rape victim must establish that penetration occurred, and that consent was not given. These limitations with establishing consent make proving many of the few valid rape cases difficult. Consequently, rapists increase in number as they are not adequately punished.

### *1.2 Shame and Stigmatization*

Many families and rape victims feel that reporting of rape incidents would circulate the news of the victims' defilements which may result to shame, ridicule and social stigma. Consequently, many families prefer to conceal rape assaults that involve their family members in order to save themselves from shame, character assassination, backlash, rigorous legal procedures and public embarrassments among others. As a result, rape victims do not have the zeal to pursue their cases to conclusion. This undue silence over rape crimes encourages rapists go scot free, leading to more rapes (Uzoanya, 2015; Achunike et al., 2013; This Day Live, 2018).

Supporting the statement that lack of report of rape increases rape incidents NOI-Polls (2014), Falayan et al. (2014) opine that majority of child rape cases which are never reported as parents want to protect the image of their children against social stigmatization and embarrassment increase the incident instead.

### *1.3 Cultism and Rituals*

Ocultism and rituals are other causes of child rape in Nigeria. Due to unemployment, acute economic recession and more especially high rate of materialism and satanism in the country, many young men have sold their consciences to money, affluence and materialism. For instance, according to Nairaland Forum (2015), some people believe that when women especially virgins (children) are raped, the destiny of the victim is transferred to the perpetrator through magical means. An example of this is where a rapist \* used white cloth to charm 11 children and abused them sexually. He confessed that the act would reap the destiny of the victims spiritually to make him rich, but that he has not started being rich by the time he was caught (Olujisting, 2016). The rape of 6 month old in Kano was also for ritual purpose (Dachen, 2017; Nigerian News Today, 2017).

### *1.4 Indecent Dressing*

Indecent dressing is another factor that leads to rape in Nigeria. Many parents purchase all sorts of dresses for their children which expose the inner body and contour of the kids that should be covered from public views, such as tighs, buttocks stomach and breasts. These days, young female children are dressed shabbily in boxers, short nickers, pants and leggings (Achunike et al., 2014). As a result, one wonders whether the parents of these kids still remember that these children are females who need woman dignity and respect. Female children who indulge in such dresses become tomboyish with male stereotyped behaviours of sitting and spreading their legs, dancing seductively just like boys whom they share their dress code with. All these may arouse sexual urge in men and adolescents especially the sexy and irresponsible ones. Ayogu (2011), after conducting a research on sexual abuse revealed that parents knowingly or unknowingly buy clothes with inscriptions such as "I am a sexy girl", "Kiss me deep", "hug me tight", "Romance me" or "Fuck me baby" for their female children to wear.

Expectedly, such ludicrous and psychedelic dresses that advertise female nudity are inviting to rapists to carry out their exploits.

#### *1.5 Another Cause of Child Rape in Nigeria Is Parental Carelessness and Irresponsibility*

Many parents due to quest for money or tight office work feel that bombarding the children with food stuff and other luxuries are always the best for them (kids). Such parents abandon their little children early in the morning at the mercy of yard members or even without anybody to guard them, and come back late in the night. In such situations, children are denied of love, affection, close monitoring and guidance. The children become their own mothers, loitering around without restrictions or being monitored. These attitudes expose children to all sorts of dangers including rape.

#### *1.6 Child Labour*

Due to economic recession and poverty in Nigeria, children especially girls hawk goods along the streets as early as 6 or 7 years old. The introduction of young girls into street trading or hawking increases the chances of child rape in Nigeria (Ali, 2018; Chukwu et al., 2018; Agbo, 2017 p. 3). Unfortunately still, most of these hawkers go nude as they hawk their wares. Commenting on the nudity of Nigerian girl hawkers, Nairaland Forum (2016) opines that girl hawkers in the country have carried out a dressing code of wearing indecent dresses such as miniskirts, leggings, nickers and hanging tops that expose their little bodies-nipples, novels, hips, and laps.

Furthermore, these girls in a bid to sell their goods are usually determined to follow their presumed customers to any length to dispose their items. Some criminals and rapists capitalize on the children's innocence and gullibility and lure them to lonely places where they may be raped or molested sexually. Child rape just like other rapes has many negative effects on both the raped and the rapists, ranging from social, psychological or emotional, and physical consequences to health challenges on the survivors (Click, 2016).

#### *1.7 Sociological Effects of Child Rape*

Child rape carries with it social stigma both for the victims and the perpetrators. The perpetrator if known, receives negative remarks from people whether convicted or not. Many people including friends and relations will disassociate themselves from him which may affect his social life including marriage. He is likely to be a loser in any competitive position or election. The victim has the greatest shame, and stigmatization that may cost her self-esteem, and self-image especially in marriage. As long as people remember the rape incident, they may doubt her health status including her fertility and ability to bear children, which may lead to her being rejected in marriage. Our society relies on moral beliefs, ethics and human etiquettes. So when a child is raped, it becomes a social stigma and makes the society lose its morality on the victim's life. The stigma may follow the child to adulthood and become a hindrance to her marriage as not every man would like to marry a rape victim for shame.

In Igbo culture, just like many Nigerian cultures, virginity is a virtue, and a girl child who preserves her virginity till her marriage is honoured by her spouse and any other person who knows about it. Nevertheless, if a girl child is forcefully robbed of her virginity through rape, it leaves a permanent wound in her that can affect her interpersonal or heterosexual relationships, leading to rejection in marriage, frustration, and disappointments.

Another issue of sociological consequences of child rape is the mistreatment of rape case. After rape, according to Wikipedia (2017), the victim is subjected to investigations and interrogations by the police including medical examinations, and in some cases mistreatments. During the criminal trials, rape victims suffer loss of privacy and their credibility may be challenged. Most of them become the target of slut shaming and cyber bullying if public bans are not used to protect them.

### *1.8 Psychological or Emotional Effects of Child Rape*

Child rape generally may result to short-term or long-term psychological effects on the victim, including psychopathology in later life (Dinwiddies et al., 2000; Nelson et al., 2002). Rape terribly hurts women. Olufemi Kayode according to laments that rape is like stabbing a heart and leaving the dagger on the bleeding wound. Rape goes with anger, regret, denial, rejection coupled with emotional pains that arise from the fact that an individual is overpowered physically and forced to do what she hates and does not want to do. For children who are raped, the horror and emotional trauma that accompany the act can be devastating. Many raped children according to Click (2016), hardly recover from the emotional trauma as they experience loss of self-esteem, loss of childhood, loss of confidence in male adults, depressing and psychological crisis, depending on the age of the child. For example, the six month baby that was raped according to this study might not remember anything and she is better off if she is not told about it. For older children, the trauma can be extreme especially if the child is threatened with weapons or garged before the act as some perpetrators do. This according Mulugetta et al. (1998) may lead to short term psychological impacts of self-blame, suicide attempts, stress disorder, depression, loss of appetite, anxiety disorder. Other effects include dissociative and learning problems, destructive behaviours such as self-destruction, autophobia (fear of being alone) and achluophobia (fear of darkness) (Dinwiddies et al., 2000; Nelson et al., 2002).

Rape can also leave long term emotional or psychological adverse effects on the child victim. Rape leaves painful memories and life-long psychological consequences on its victims and may result to permanent damage of self-worth. It can cause Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This is a mental disorder that can develop after an individual has witnessed traumatic events such as rape, murder, traffic accident or warfare. The symptoms include disturbing thoughts, feelings or dreams related to the event, fright responses, schizophrenia and so on. An individual with PTSD is at higher risk of suicide, intentional self harm and criminality in adulthood (Lahane et al., 2010).



The risk of long psychological effects is greater if the rapist is a relative or a family member of the rape victim. Incestual rape has been shown according (Dinwiddies et al., 2000; Nelson et al., 2002), to be one of the most extreme form of childhood trauma, a trauma that often does a serious and long term emotional damage on the part of the rape victim. It may lead to a child having problems relating with her family members or running away from home and committing suicide or even joining criminal gangs.

Another psychological problem of child rape is sexual dysfunction at later age, such as Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) or Inhibited Sexual Desire (ISD) (Wikipedia, 2017). This is a sexual dysfunction that is characterized by lack or absence of sexual fantasies and desire for sexual activity. Ebby et al. (1995) state that a victim of rape suffering from this problem will not start or respond to her partners desire for sexual activity. Rape can also result to frigidity in a raped child in later life. Sexual frigidity is an abnormal sexual behaviour or sexual dysfunction in which a woman hates sexual intercourse or is unable to enjoy love making or show any feeling for sexual activity. (Nwachukwu, 1994, p. 246). A sufferer of sexual frigidity does not relax her body for easy penetration, consequently experiencing sexual pains that may lead to further hatred for sex.

Vaginismus is another psychological after effect of rape that hunts a rape victim especially the children. This is another sexual dysfunction that is more serious than Hypoactive Desire Disorder (HSDD). Vaginismus sometimes called Vaginism is a condition in which a woman is unable to engage in vaginal penetration including sexual intercourse, manual penetration, insertion of tampons or menstrual cups and penetration involving gynecological examinations (Paptests). Lahane et al. (2010) assert that vaginismus results in involuntary muscle spasm, which makes any vaginal penetration painful and impossible. A woman who has been raped at tender age is likely to develop this problem at later age. The sufferer does not control spasm just as a person has no control over shutting the eye when an object comes towards it (Ebby et al., 1995).

### *1.9 Health Risks of Child Rape*

Health risks of child rape can be enormous and devastating. The risks are more on the infections that cause havocs on the victims.

#### **Infections:**

Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) are the worst effect of rape including child rape. Many researches according to Holes et al. (1996) have revealed that rape is a risk factor for HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted infections in the victim. Rapists according to Nwachukwu (1994, p. 246) often have underlying psychological problems ranging from strong emotion to influence of drug and organic brain disease like dyscontrol syndrome. Since they do not have right mindset, they usually engage in casual unprotected sexual relationships that may lead to vulnerability to sexual transmitted diseases and infections. Therefore, most of them are potential vectors of diseases and infections including

HIV/AIDS. When they rape, they spread epidemic that may lead to premature death or terminal diseases and reproductive problems among the rape victims. The damage to reproductive organ can as well lead to bareness with its everlasting emotional trauma, regret and frustration for life time (Falayan et al., 2014).

Another infection that rape victim can contract is vaginitis or vaginal inflammation which in most cases is a symptom of infection of the vagina. The inflammation can also involve both the vagina and vulva. In this case, it is called vulvovaginitis, resulting in discharge, itching and pain (Holmes et al., 1996; Pobby, 2014; Healthline, 2018). Urinary Track Infection (UTI) is also another infection associated with rape. It is an infection which affects part of urinary track. Ebby et al. (1995) opine that when it affects the lower urinary track, it is known as bladder infection called cystitis, and if it affects the upper urinary track, it is called kidney infection known as psycho-nephritis.

### **Statement of the Study Problem**

Rape is bad, but child rape is evil. There has been a lot of outcry in newspapers, radio broadcast, blogs, and other mass media about child rape in Nigeria. Many children including babies have been raped or even died as a result of rape. Some have been raped by their neighbours, family members and friends and strangers, while others have been raped by men who call themselves biological fathers of those children.

Child rape has caused a serious insecurity among female children in the country. Babies are no longer safe in their cots because their biological fathers rape them while changing their pampers. School children develop school phobia because their teachers defile them instead of protecting them. Errand children's lives are at risk as some of them are lured or abducted into bushes where they are raped for ritual purposes, while pastors use God's sanctuaries as love nest as they rape toddlers of their own churches.

All these cause a lot of havoc in Nigerian society as many children's lives and education have been affected adversely. The researcher was moved by this heart-breaking situation to investigate on child rape in Nigeria and the implications on the education of the child.

### **2. Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To ascertain the level of parents awareness of child rape in Nigeria.
- 2) To find out the causes of child rape in Nigeria.
- 3) To identify the effects of child rape in Nigeria.

### 3. Research Questions

- 1) How aware are parents of the prevalence of child rape in Nigeria?
- 2) What are the causes of child rape in Nigeria?
- 3) What are the effects of child rape in Nigeria?

### 4. Method

The study adopted descriptive survey. The population of the study was the entire young parents in Nigeria whose female children are between 0-12 years. This group was chosen to accommodate the age of children under study. Disproportionate random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. 8 out of 36 states in Nigeria were selected. In each state, 100 respondents comprising male and female were sampled for the study. The sample size was therefore 800 ( $100 \times 8 = 800$ ). Parents were used because the researcher found it difficult to get in touch with child rape victims. Anonymity and confidentiality were granted to the respondents for security purposes.

Structured questionnaire and interview were used to collect data. The data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentage, mean and standard deviations and rank order. A criterion mean of 2.5 was used to accept or reject an item.

### 5. Findings

**Research Question 1:** How aware are parents of the prevalence of child rape in Nigeria?

**Table 1. Responses of Parents on the Prevalence of Child Rape in Nigeria**

S/N	Child rape prevalence	Fr.	%
1	I have heard news of child rape	709	88.6%
2	My child has been raped when she was b/w 0-8 years	32	4%
3	A child related to me has been rape at the age of 0-8 years	66	8.2%
4	There has been a case or cases of child rape in my locality	124	15.5%
5	I have not heard about child rape	91	11.4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>800</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 above showed the parents' responses on their awareness of prevalence of child rape in Nigeria. 709 respondents representing 88.6% agreed that they have heard about incident of child rape in Nigeria, while 91 (11.4%) said they have not. 32 respondents (4%) agreed that their children have been raped between at the age of 0-8 years. 66 respondent (8.2%) agreed that a child/children of 0-8 years related

to them have been raped. 124 respondents representing 15.5% agreed that there has been a case or cases of child rape in their locality.

**Research Question 2:** what are the causes of child rape in Nigeria?

**Table 2. Mean Standard Deviations and Rank Order of Respondents on the Causes of Child Rape in Nigeria**

S/N	Causes of child rape	X	SD	Rk	Dec
1	Mishandling of rape cases encourages rapists to rape more	3.17	1.01	2nd	*
2	Lack of reports on rape by rape victims encourages rapists in their evil acts	3.18	1.06	1st	*
3	Men rape children for occultic and ritual purposes	2.92	0.85	5th	*
4	Indecent dressing among children lures rapists into raping them.	2.63	0.87	6th	*
5	Children who are usually left alone without care are exposed to rape	3.10	0.82	4th	*
6	Child-labour exposes children to rape	3.17	1.01	2nd	*

The analysis of data in Table 2 revealed that the causes of child rape in Nigeria are; lack of report on rape by rape victims (3.17 1<sup>st</sup>), \* mishandling of rape cases encourages rapists to rape more (3.17 2<sup>nd</sup>), child labour exposes children to rape (3.17 2<sup>nd</sup>), children who are usually left alone without care are exposed to rape (3.10 4<sup>th</sup>) men rape children for occultic and ritual purposes (2.92 5<sup>th</sup>), indecent dressing among children lures rapists into raping them (2.63 6<sup>th</sup>).

**Research Question 3:** What are the effects of child rape?**Table 3. Mean, Standard Deviations and Rank Order of Respondents on the Effects of Child Rape**

S/N	Effects of child rape	X	SD	Rk	Dec
1	Child rape results to social stigma and shame	3.36	0.89	2nd	*
2	Rape victims suffer serious emotional traumas	3.75	0.84	1st	*
3	Rape victims suffer sexual dysfunction	2.68	0.56	8th	*
4	Rape victims may contract sexual transmitted infections.	3.26	0.97	3rd	*
5	Child rape victims may drop out of school due to shame and depression	3.05	0.46	6th	*
6	Injuries and pains sustained during rape may prevent a victim from attending school	2.78	1.13	7th	*
7	Emotional traumas due to rape may result to low academic performance	3.10	0.75	5th	*
8	Sexual transmitted infections including HIV may terminate child life and education	3.24	0.91	4th	*

The data in Table 3 indicated that the most severe consequence of child rape is that rape victims suffer emotional traumas. (3.75 1<sup>st</sup>) others arranged in rank order include; child rape results to social stigma and shame (3.36 2<sup>nd</sup>), rape victim may contract sexual transmitted infections (3.26 3<sup>rd</sup>), sexual transmitted infections including HIV may terminate the life of a rape victim and education 3.24 4<sup>th</sup>), emotional traumas due to child rape lowers academic performance (3.10 5<sup>th</sup>), child rape victims may drop out of school due to shame and depression (3.05 6<sup>th</sup>) injuries and pains sustained during rape may prevent a victim from attending school (2.78 7<sup>th</sup>), rape victims suffer sexual dysfunctions (2.68 8<sup>th</sup>).

## 7. Discussion

The findings in table one showed that there is high prevalence of child rape in Nigeria. It was revealed that 8 out of 10 parents believed that there is prevalence of child rape in Nigeria. This result is in line with the research carried out by NOI-Polls (2014) which revealed a high prevalence of child rape in the country. Also in support of this result, the centre for Environment, Human Rights and development reported that 1,200 children have been raped in 2012 in Rivers state, southeastern Nigeria alone (Vanguard Newspaper, 2013; Wikipedia, 2016).

The findings in table two indicated that lack of report of rape cases by rape victims increases the problem. The result was in line with observations by Ebuenyi et al. (2018) that lack of reports of rape cases promotes the evil. The results also revealed that child rape may be caused by mishandling of rape cases which encourages rapists to rape more. The result is in agreement with a study by Alhassan et al. (2013) which reported that mishandling of rape cases by anti-rape laws increases the chances of rape. The results also revealed that occultic and ritual purposes, indecent dressing, children being left alone without care, and child labour are also causes of child rape.

The findings in table three revealed that child rape leaves behind it a lot of consequences; social stigma and shame. The victims also suffer emotional trauma. This was supported by Alhassan et al. (2013) research which showed that 1/3 rape victims has thought of suicide, and approximately 17% actually attempted suicide, 30% has developed depression. All these are due to serious emotional traumas. The result also indicated that child rape leads to sexual dysfunction. This finding is supported by Stephen et al. (2010) who revealed that vaginismus is the leading cause of unconsummated marriages and often a threat for divorce and health risk. Other effects of child rape as revealed are body pains and injuries, sexual transmitted infections as supported in researches by Falayan et al. (2014), Achunike et al. (2014) and National Centre for PTSD (2017) that rape is a risk factor for HIV and other infections. The findings also indicated school dropout, low school attendance, low academic performance and termination of life and education as other effects of child rape.

## 8. Educational Implication of Child Rape

Child rape has very serious adverse implications on the education of the child in Nigeria. It is important to note that the overall consequences of child rape can affect learning and education directly or indirectly, hence rape hampers all children's life activities including learning. The social stigma and shame associated with child rape is capable of causing truancy or school dropout for the rape victim.

Emotionally, child rape can lead to depression, fear, school phobia and other emotional crisis depending on the age of the rape victim. She can develop suicide thoughts, anxiety disorder. Such child may feel worthless, guilty, hopeless, regretful which may result to little or no interest in life including education, difficulty in concentration in learning, and recall of memories. All these may affect learning

and academic performance (Thomson, 2007; Ofuebe, 2015, p. 74). If the rape involves school environment or a male teacher, the child may develop school phobia and lack of trust on her male teachers forever.

Emotional trauma generally impairs physical health as well as mental efficiency, both of which impede learning. Academically, children with emotional traumas are noted for low grade in school work, failure in school examinations, repeating of class or grade and school dropout (Agbo, 2018, p. 143).

There is no gain-saying that physical consequences of child rape may involve fever, loss of appetite, injuries, pains and hospitalization and death, which of course affect attendance to school and life adversely.

It is significant to note that health risks of children are detrimental to their education. A child who is infected with sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis and or cervical cancer may have her life and education endangered sooner or later.

## **9. Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made:

- 1) Laws should be effective so as to protect the girl child, and bring culprits to justice as quickly as possible.
- 2) Agencies fighting against rape should partner with the governments, parents, and other stakeholders on how the society should treat rape offenders and what to be done to bring succor to the rape victims.
- 3) Female children should be taught that they must report to their parents anybody who tries to touch their private parts.
- 4) Mothers being naturally closer to children should have strong cordial relationship with the children to enable children confide in the mothers any event in their lives on daily basis.
- 5) Children should not watch pornographic films. Children's films should be scrutinized in order to prevent them from watching immoral films and videos.
- 6) Female children should be dressed properly to maintain the dignity of womanhood.
- 7) On no account should female children be left under the care of private male teachers, family drivers, male neighbours, or security guards alone.
- 8) Female children should be discouraged from sitting on the laps of males.

## **10. Summary**

Rape is a serious offence against humanity at large and women in particular, but child rape is a horror. It is very irritating to hear a news of a male adult raping a baby of few months old. However, nothing goes for nothing as the research has identified many reasons for such atrocious act against children in Nigeria which include; the mishandling of rape cases which seems as if the laws are protecting the rape

offenders more than the rape victims, lack of reports of rape cases among other reasons. The effects of child rape according the findings are that many rape victims suffer shame and stigmatization, serious emotional traumas, sexual dysfunction among others which leave indelible marks on the lives and education the girl child.

However, the researcher is quite optimistic that if the recommendations made in this study are followed religiously such as reporting rape cases to the appropriate quarters, and laws handling rape cases adequately among other points, that the dust of child rape shall settle.

## 11. Suggestion for Further Research

Educational consequences of the rape of Primary School Children in Southeastern Nigeria.

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