

Family Pornography and Undergraduates Sexual Behaviour in Public Tertiary Institutions in Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined family pornography and undergraduate sexual behavior in public tertiary institutions in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study uses a cross-sectional survey design and selects 400 respondents for this study. We validate the questionnaire by assessing respondents' responses using Cronbach alpha (score = 0.87). The hypotheses were formulated and tested using Multiple Regression and Chi-square at a 5% significance level. The results indicated that family pornography predicted the undergraduates' sexual behavior and family type also influenced the undergraduates' sexual behavior. The results further revealed that age, gender, religion, and family structure had significant relationships on sexual behavior but not with the ethnical background and academic discipline of the students. It recommends that parents should not be left alone in this campaign. Other agents of socialization, such as school and religious organizations, should also see that adolescents are informed about sexualities and the risks involved in risky sexual behaviors.

Keywords: Family, pornography, undergraduates, sexual behavior, public tertiary institutions

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sexual behavior among youths has been a focus of health programs worldwide since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. For more than two decades, various non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), government agencies, and parastatals have investigated adolescents' reproductive health issues. Youth sexuality and sexual behavior remain challenging in most developing countries, including Nigeria.

Not until recently, adolescents in Nigeria were seen as a healthy segment of the population and received low priority for services. However, biology and society bring on additional health challenges resulting from early

exposure to sex, unprotected sex, violence, and substance abuse (Adefalu and Ayodele, 2019). Adefalu (2018) posited that adolescents in Nigeria have a high burden of reproductive health problems. This assertion supported earlier surveys conducted on the National Demographic Health Survey (2008), National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (2007), and Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey (2010). These Surveys revealed that 46.2% of female adolescents and 22.1% of males (22.1%) have engaged in sexual intercourse. This figure varies from state to state. For some states like Ogun, it can be as early as 15 years (Ayodele and Akindele-Oscar, 2014).

Sexual behavior is how humans and other animals demonstrate and express sexuality. It is how humans experience and express their sexuality (Saowanee *et al.*, 2018). The birth of a new sibling, peeping at another child or adult through any immense opportunity in the bathroom, or looking at their mother can trigger or amplify children's sexual behaviors. These behaviors tend to be momentary, distractible, and diminish once the child understands that such behaviors are inappropriate, particularly for public viewing (Oluwatoyin and Oyetunde, 2014).

Adolescents who reside in homes with family nudity, co-bathing, or less privacy when dressing, going to the bathroom, or bathing or in which sexual activities are occurring are more likely to engage in sexual behaviors (Chandrarekha *et al.*, 2018). Reactions from others of embarrassment and shame may be misinterpreted as positive responses, prompting the child to persist in sexual behavior (Kirubel *et al.*, 2019).

However, family pornography (FP) is the conjugal act of the family, especially the parents, exposing their children to unconsciously the mindset that "they are kids, they know nothing." This act may be in the form of bathing and dressing up before the children, and worst still, parents having sexual intercourse while the children are awake in the same room. Family pornography, therefore, is the explicit description or exhibition of sexual activity unintended to stimulate erotic emotions. The effect it has on the children's feelings, attitudes, and sexual behavior is not always immediate but has a lasting effect on their behavioral and emotional wellness (Ayodele, 2018). He observed that FP had been regarded as a source of sex information since it has been found that children learn about the mechanics of sex from home.

Nigerian youths who are under the influence of family pornography may engage in various sexual acts, ranging from activities done alone to acts with another person in varying frequency patterns, for various reasons (Yohannes, 2018). Sexual activity of such students usually results in sexual arousal and physiological changes in the aroused adolescents.

Over time, the researcher has noticed problematic sexual behavior, which has been gradually getting out of control. It has caused most of the students to have different sexual diseases, unwanted pregnancies, complications with pregnancy, rape, school dropouts, sex addiction (which are caused by the early practice of sexual activities), and suspension from schools due to sexual immorality. This study, therefore, assessed the prediction of family pornography on undergraduates' sexual behavior. The specific objectives of this study are to examine how family pornography, structure, and students' socio-demographics indices would predict undergraduates' sexual behavior.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Theory of Reasoned Action developed by Fishbein and Ajzen is the basis of the study. This theory reflected that an individual's behaviors are often caused by his or her intention as a function of attitude toward performing the act and normative beliefs about it (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975). The Theory of Reasoned Actions model emphasizes four elements: the action, the object of the action, the situation, and the time the action is performed. The model also revealed that there would be a high correlation between attitude and behavior if measured on the same level. This model's four elements best explain how sexual behavior and attitude interact. Several students agreed to engage in sexual behavior because of certain conditions like agreement or love for each other without being forced. Invariably, sexual behavior could interact with family pornography, structure, and even their sociodemographic indices.

Hypotheses

1. Family pornography will not significantly predict undergraduates' sexual behavior.
2. The family structure will not significantly predict undergraduates' sexual behavior.
3. Respondents' socio-demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, religion, discipline, and family structure) will not significantly affect their sexual behavior.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design of ex-post-facto type. It enabled the researcher to carefully analyze the sampled population to

infer the reasons for predicting undergraduates' sexual behavior through family pornography.

3.2. Sample and Sampling Procedure

The study sample comprised 400 students randomly selected from five (5) randomly selected public higher institutions in Ogun State, Nigeria. The selected higher institutions were Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye; Tai Solarin University of Education; and University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Federal Polytechnic Ilaro and Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta. Eighty (80) students were selected from each institution using a disproportionate stratified sampling technique to make 400 students. The choice of the higher institutions and students was made because they possess the same characteristics and the level of freedom enjoyed by the students of these institutions.

3.3. Instruments

The research instrument for the research was tagged "Family Pornography and Sexual Behaviour Questionnaire (FPSBQ)." The 38-item self-developed questionnaire consisted of 3 subscales on socio-demographics (6 items), family pornography (22 items), and sexual behavior (12 items). Sample items include family pornography: "The thought of seeing other's nakedness makes me sexually aroused"; and sexual behavior: "I believe that kissing is acceptable for the female/male before marriage when s/he is engaged to be married." we constructed the family pornography and sexual behavior items in a six-point Likert format measured along Strongly Agree (6), Moderately Agree (5), Slightly Agree (4), Slightly Disagree (3), Moderately Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1).

A reliability test uses the test-retest method to determine the instrument's reliability. The instrument was validated by giving it to experts to examine and assert its suitability and appropriateness regarding the item content and purpose of the study. The results produced a reliability estimate of 0.87.

3.4. Procedure

The researcher personally visited the institutions selected for the study with the assistance of two trained research assistants. The school registrars were contacted to request their support and permission to collect student data. The instruments were administered to the respondents willing to participate (that is, their consent was sought before the administration). The respondents fill in the

instruments independently before returning them to the researcher with the assurance of confidentiality.

3.5. Method of Data Analysis

The completed questionnaires were checked to ensure they were filled in correctly. All the inventories were returned; ten were void, while 390 were used for analysis. Thus, 97.5% success in inventory administration was recorded. Multiple Regression and Chi-square statistics were used to analyze the data collected. The results at the 0.05 level of significance were tested.

4. RESULTS

The results in Table 1 indicated that the predictor variable (family pornography) in the regression model predicted the undergraduates' sexual behavior ($R = .585$, $R^2 = .342$, $Adj. R^2 = .337$, $beta = .385$, $t = 4.514$, $F_{(1, 389)} = 15.689$, $p = .000$). This showed that the predictor variable accounted for 33.7% of the variance in the undergraduates' sexual behavior. The null hypothesis, which stated that "Family pornography will not significantly predict the undergraduates' sexual behavior," was rejected by this finding. It implies that the undergraduates' sexual behavior was significantly predicted by family pornography.

Table 1. Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis of the Influence of Family Pornography on Undergraduates Sexual Behavior

Model	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardized	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Coefficients		
(Constant)	34.444	3.324		10.363	.000
Family Porn	-1.480	.296	-.385	-4.514	.000
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	169.910	1	169.910	15.689	.000 ^b
Residual	4212.870	389	10.830		
Total	4382.278	390			

$R = .585$, $R^2 = .342$, $Adj. R^2 = .337$, $SE = 3.299$

a. Dependent Variable: sexual behavior

b. Predictors: (Constant), family porn

The results in Table 2 indicated that the predictor variable (family type) in the regression model predicted the undergraduates' sexual behavior ($R = .234$, $Adj. R^2 = .054$, $eta = .017$, $t = 4.514$, $F_{(1, 389)} = 3.609$, $p = .000$). This showed that the predictor variable accounted for 5.4% of the variance in the undergraduates' sexual behavior. The null hypothesis, which stated that "Family type will not significantly predict the undergraduates' sexual behavior,

"was rejected by this finding. This implies that the undergraduates' sexual behavior was significantly predicted by family type.

Table 2. Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis of the Influence of Family Structure on Undergraduates Sexual Behavior

Source	Type III sum of squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Corrected Model	92.530	1	92.530	3.609	.031	.017
Intercept	479093.014	1	479093.014	3151.349	.000	.899
Family Type	92.530	1	92.530	3.609	.031	.017
Error	53665.848	386	152.028			
Total	635116.000	389				
Corrected Total	53758.377	390				

R-Squared= .234 (Adjusted R Squared=-.054).

Table 3. Respondents' sociodemographic variables and their sexual behaviors.

Sociodemographic Variables	Frequency	Chi-Square	df	P	
Age	15 – 20 years	251	72.69	2	.000
	21 – 26 years	92			
	27 – 32 years	47			
Gender	Male	169	21.34	1	.009
	Female	221			
Religion	Christianity	286	10.78	1	.000
	Islam	104			
Ethnicity	Igbo	76	5.43	3	.209
	Hausa	38			
	Yoruba	251			
	Others	25			
Academic discipline	Science Related	197	3.10	1	.551
	Non-science Related	193			
Family Structure	Parents living together.	29	59.11	4	.000
	Living with both parents	30			
	Living with mother alone	64			
	Living with father alone	46			
	Living with a family member	52			

The result of the chi-square test to test the significant relationship between sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents and sexual behavior revealed that there was a significant relationship between the age (chi-square = 72.69, P = .000), gender (chi-square = 21.34, P = .000) religion (chi-square = 10.78, P = .000), family structure (chi-square = 59.11, P = .000) and

sexual behavior but not with their ethnical background (chi-square = 5.43, $P = .209$) and academic discipline of the students (chi-square = 3.10, $P = .551$).

5. RESULTS

This study examined family pornography and undergraduate sexual behavior in public tertiary institutions in Ogun State, Nigeria. The first hypothesis indicated that undergraduates' sexual behavior was significantly predicted by family pornography and that about one-third (33.7%) of sexual behavior exhibited by undergraduates is a result of various forms of family pornography that they were exposed to, which is in line with the model of the theory of reasoned action. The implication is that family pornography is a predictor of undergraduates' sexual behavior. When sexual scenes or contents of what children are exposed to at home become part of what they learn daily, there is a high possibility that it can trigger their libidinal energy, prompt them to engage in early sexual practices, and influence their sexual behavior in totality. This aligns with Orluwene, Ekechukwu, and Ojiugo's (2015) findings, which indicated that the family environment and parents play an essential role in determining whether the children raised in that family will be well-adjusted and responsible.

The results of the second hypothesis revealed that the undergraduates' sexual behavior was significantly predicted by family type. This result implies that how the family is structured provides a salient development context in that children grow up usually having primary relationships with one or two biological parents and with or without older and younger siblings. This result is in tandem with the findings of Awaluddin *et al.* (2015) and Oluwatoyin and Oyetunde (2014). Their various studies revealed that the home plays a significant role in activating most sexual behavioral responses of adolescents. Furthermore, the sexual activities of today's adolescents have given liberty closeness to reckless sexual activities, resulting in an unhealthy sexual reproductive life due to how homes are structured today. Adolescents who reside in homes where there is family nudity, bathing, or less privacy when dressing, going to the bathroom, or bathing or in which sexual activities are occurring are more likely to engage in sexual behaviors (Chandrarekha *et al.*, 2018).

The sociodemographic correlates of respondents' family pornography and sexual behavior showed that age, gender, religion, and family structure correlate well with family pornography and sexual behavior but not with their ethnical background and academic discipline. This result is like that of

Ayodele, Olanipekun, and Akinlana (2015) that despite religious, cultural, and legal sanctions against premarital sex, dramatic changes in sexual attitudes and interactions have become a familiar and widely accepted part of romantic relationships regardless of culture, gender, age, and religion. Oladeji (2013) reported that 34% of early adolescents and 61% of late adolescents reported having sexual intercourse, and 7% of high school students said they first had intercourse before age 13 (Grunbaum *et al.*, 2000). Ayodele (2011) found in his study that 89.3% of males and 91.2% of females have had sexual intercourse in the last six months. Out of these, 6.1% of males and 28.8% of females had experienced attempted forced sex or forced sex.

This study has implications for research and work counsellors since it has shown that family pornography influences the sexual behavior of tertiary institution students; concerted efforts are required to draw up or review existing curricula for tertiary schools to take cognizance of the likely variables that could hinder the marital adjustment of these students in future. Researchers can provide appropriate enrichment programs and therapeutic strategies to educate young adults on profitable modes of premarital behaviors.

6. CONCLUSION

Family pornography is an unintentional and unconscious act, and it harms the children's psyche, which can go a long way toward becoming a behavior that shapes their personality. From the research findings, it was concluded that family pornography predicts undergraduate sexual behavior. In this case, parents need to be careful and watchful of their actions around their children because children learn a lot from them, both good and bad.

Since the home is the first socialization unit, parents should be mindful of what they do in their children's presence regardless of age and limit exposing their bodies to their children. When positive sex education begins from home, both male and female adolescents will focus more on what would better their chosen career or future.

Good parental relationships should be given optimum attention to help adolescents live decent sexual lives and help them delay sexual activities until they are mature enough to handle such sensitive issues.

Parents should not be left alone in this campaign. Other agents of socialization, such as school and religious organizations, should also see that adolescents are well-informed about sexualities and the risks involved in risky sexual behaviors.

The government and other relevant agencies should also take it as part of their responsibility to ensure that there are functioning programs that explicitly address adolescent reproductive health issues in Nigeria.

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