

A STUDY OF DATING VIOLENCE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA

Abstract

This study will identify the types of dating violence and prevalence of dating violence among the students in the selected universities in Southwestern Nigeria. It will also examine factors influencing dating violence among the university students in Southwestern Nigeria. The study will use multistage sampling technique: three universities will be selected purposively from the universities in the study area, these selected universities will involve one federal university, one state university and one private university. Out of the selected universities, questionnaire and interview will be used to mine information on the study focus from one hundred students that will be randomly selected from each of the selected university making three hundred respondents. The study will use appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics for the analysis of this study. The result of this study will be disseminated via conferences, journals and other notable mediums. The study is expected to provide information on the types and prevalence of dating violence among the universities students in Southwestern Nigeria. It will also reveal the factors influencing dating violence in the study area.

Keywords: Dating violence, University students and Southwestern Nigeria

(I) Background to the Study

Dating violence in the Nigeria universities as societal and health problem have been a thing of concern for scholars. The rate of this violence among the Nigeria university is constantly increasing daily. Dating violence have been defined differently by scholars and most of the scholars see this phenomenon from the perspective of a partner taking control over another partner. Luthra and Gidycz (2006) defined dating violence from the perspective of behavioural pattern in a dating relationship in which a partner controls his/her dating partner using fear and intimidation. Some scholars believed that this violence is more prominent among females than males (Foshee, 1996; Gray and Foshee, 1997; Malik, Sorenson and Aneshensel, 1997; Molidor and Tolman, 1998; Straus and Ramirez, 2004; Sullivan, and Snow, 2008).

This dating violence could be physical, psychological, sexual and stalking. It is physical when a partner aggressively abuse his/her dating partner using a dreadful object or displaying any harmful action such as beating/slapping among others while with the partner. Also, psychological violence does occur when a partner consciously bullying his/her partner by taking advantage of the partners' emotion. Dating violence also occurs sexually when a partner does not consider the sexual interest of his/her dating partner in a particular time but only consider his/her own self-enjoyment (self-center relationship or rape). Stalking dating violence also occurs when a dating partner intentionally abuse/threatened his/her dating partner via sending abusive messages; email, text message or by post and bullying. This dating violence is synonymous to dating abuse, relationship violence, courtship violence and relationship abuse (Sousa, 1999).

Studies have indicated factors influencing dating violence, many of these studies are carried out in developed economies. Some of these factors have been attributed to demographic attributes; age, educational background, gender, work experience and religion (Jakupcak, Lisak

and Roemer, 2002; Moore, Elkins, McNulty, Kivisto, and Handsel, 2011; Awopetu, 2014). Some scholars also attributed dating violence to social factors such as peer influence, family background, residential location (Foo and Margolin, 1995; O'Keefe, 1997; Schwartz, O'Leary, and Kendziora, 1997; O'Keefe and Treister, 1998; Foshee, 2004).

Despite the increasing level of counsellors in the universities, churches/mosques, the level of dating violence kept increasing daily, and this has resulted to the affected partners committing suicide, poor academic performance, emotional trauma etc. though, many studies have been done on dating violence in developed economies, little studies have been carried out on the dating violence of universities students in southwestern Nigeria. In spite of the study carried out on issues relating to dating violence in the study area, little attention had been given to a combination of psycho-social variables such as personality trait, self-concept, peer influence, family background, socio-economic status and demographic attributes as factors influencing dating violence. Also, little attention has been given to the types and prevalence of dating violence among the university students in southwestern Nigeria, hence, this study.

(II) Research Questions

- (i) identify the types of dating violence among the university students in southwestern Nigeria;
- (ii) evaluate the dating violence prevalent among the university students in the study area; and
- (iii) examine the factors influencing dating violence among the university students in the study area.

This study will be ordered in this manner; literature review, methodology, results and discussion, conclusion and recommendation, and area of further study.

(III) Research Methodology

The study will use multistage sampling technique, three states will be purposely selected in southwestern Nigeria namely Lagos, Ekiti and Ondo using convenient sampling. Primary data will be collected using one set of questionnaire and interview. three universities will be selected purposively from the universities in the study area, these selected universities will involve one federal university, one state university and one private university. Out of the selected universities, questionnaire and interview will be used to mine information on the study focus from one hundred students that will be randomly selected from each of the selected university making three hundred respondents. The questionnaire will be subjected to statistician for scrutiny and pilot study will be conducted in Osun State using thirty copies of questionnaire in order to improve on the effectiveness of the study design. The questionnaire will elicit information on the types and prevalence of dating violence in the study area such as physical, psychological/emotional, sexual and stalking. The questionnaire will also collect information on the factors influencing dating violence in the study area such as demographic attributes, socio-economic factors and psycho-social variables. The data obtained will be analysed using appropriate descriptive statistics (cross tabulation, mean and charts) and inferential statistics (Independent t-Test, correlation; Spearman Rho, factor analysis and logistic regression).

(IV) Expected Contribution to Knowledge

The study will provide information on the types and prevalence of dating violence in the study area and also reveal the factors influencing dating violence in the study area.