

ATTITUDE OF LITERATE ADULTS TOWARDS INCESTUOUS RELATIONSHIP IN IBADAN, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan Metropolis towards incestuous relationship. The target population for the study was literate adults in Ibadan metropolis working in higher institution of learning. The sample consisted of 300 respondents selected from literate adults in Ibadan Metropolis using purposive sampling technique. Adopted questionnaire titled Attitude Towards Incestuous Relationship Questionnaire (ATIRQ) was used to collect data for the study. Content validity of the instrument was established by experts while reliability of the instrument was subjected to test-retest reliability technique using the Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient formular which yielded 0.75 at 0.05. Data collected were analyzed using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The result revealed that there was significant difference in the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan Metropolis towards incestuous relationship on the basis of gender [$t(298)=7.67;p<0.05$]; home type [$t(298)=19.25;p<0.05$]; and socio-economic status of the family [$F(297)=4.92;p<0.05$]. It was therefore recommended that psychologists and guidance counselors through their various professional associations should sensitize the government on the need to provide technical and financial support to all agencies involved in the eradication of incestuous relationship in Nigeria. Also, incestuous relationship skills training should be included in the curriculum of counselor education programmes in Nigeria universities.

Keywords: Attitude, Literate, Adults, Relationship

Introduction

The Nigerian society has many social problems one of which is the growing incidence of incestuous relationship. Like other parts of the world, Nigeria has some incidence of abuse of teenagers and adolescents. This constitutes a very serious problem because it threaten the very foundation of the country, as teenagers and adolescents who are significant part of the population are the vulnerable victims. Research indicates that 46% of children who are raped are victims of family members (Wolf & William, 2004). The majority of American rape victims (61%) of all forcible rapes occurred when the victims, was less than 11 years old. Eleven percent (11%) of rape victims was raped by their fathers or stepfathers, and another 16 percent (16%) were raped by other relatives (Jane & Sharon, 1999)

In Nigeria, Taiwo (2007) observed that one of the manifestations of general wave of social menace currently sweeping through the nation is incestuous relationship. In October, 2008

in Ibadan, an episode of incest was witnessed and was reported between a father, and his daughter. It resulted in the birth of a baby boy named Samuel. Also, in Awka a 15 year old girl was drugged and raped by her father (Geoffery, 2008). A father in Lagos was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for having incestuous relationship with his two daughters (Eromosele, 2010). The Nation of 11th June, 2010 also reported that a 37 year old man from Akwalbom State, Ben Philips admitted that he impregnated his daughter of 12 years old. But he claimed he was seduced by his daughter.

In Nigeria, it is difficult to have statistics to support the continuing increase in incidence of incest because the victims do not report the incidence because of fear of reprisal if the perpetrator is apprehended (Momoh, 2005). However, various studies place the percentage of incest victims in the general population of America at about 10-20 million (Marvin, 1997). Among the reported victims of incest, girls out-numbered boys by approximately ten to one; however the number of boys abused may be underreported. According to yearly major crime statistics returns of Ogun State Police Command (2004), rape and indecent assault amounted to 51 females and 18 males. However, the number of incest was not specified.

Incest is a criminal and abnormal behaviour that occurs over a broad spectrum of experience ranging from physical attack to the act of seducing of other partner involved into sexual intercourse (Moynihan, 1988). Incest is any prohibited heterosexual relation between persons of the same culturally or legally defined kinship group, usually between unmarried members of a nuclear family, i.e. between brothers and sisters or between parents and children (The New Encyclopedia Britanica, 2003). It includes step relations as well as cousins and in-laws.

Finkeihor (1982) defines incest as sexual experiences between family members, including sexual propositions, exhibition, sexual fondling, hand-genital or oral-genital contact, mutual masturbation, and intercourse. Incest in South African law is unlawful and intentional sexual intercourse between male and female persons who are prohibited from marrying each other because they are related within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity, affinity or adoptive relationship (Margolin, 1994).

Incest is forbidden even in cultures that are sexually permissive in some ways, perhaps because human beings recognized at some level that incest leads to serious problems. The offspring of incestuous bonds are prone to certain genetically transmitted defects that affect health, intellect and behaviour of human beings (Kempe&Kempe, 1984). On the social plane, incest causes conflicts, rivalry and role strain within a family leading to series of questions which can cause psychological problem.

In discussing types of incest, Sadock (1989) stated that father-daughter incest is the most frequently reported and acknowledged form of intra-family sex. According to Sadock and Sadock (2003) other types of incestuous relationship that have been known to practitioners and researchers include father-son incest, mother-son incest, mother-daughter incest, brother-sister incest, incest with extended family members such as uncles, aunts and grandparents.

Although, social scientists do not know how wide spread incest is, but in the early 80s, estimates from studies of Americans were high (Kempe&Kempe, 1984). Russel (1993) had estimated in a study and found that close to 40 percent of women had experienced at least one incidence of sexual abuse by a family member or adult by age 18. It is estimated that 85 percent of victims are female, with father-daughter incest accounting for 75 percent of the reported cases. Incest appears among all socio-economic classes (Parker & Parker, 1985). Anthony, (2001) noted that incest is more common among lower class families and because it is so shameful, is often kept as a very big secret within families.

A consequence of incest varies on victims. According to Gary (1992), Victims of incests are more inclined to show inability to trust others, have low esteem, anxiety, sleep disturbances, anger, sexual dysfunction, conflicts over sexual identity and feel guilty ashamed, and isolated from other people. These can lead to substance abuse, and self destructive tendencies. Teenagers who had been abused incestuously are more likely to be involved in delinquent behaviour and commit crimes than those who were not (Momoh, 2005). Therefore, the knowledge of people concerning incest would assist in eradicating or reducing the occurrence of incest and would help to guide and assist the victims to live a productive and fulfilled life.

Statement of the Problem

The increasing incidence of incest as reported in our national dailies has caught the attention of many Nigerians (Adebayo, 2008; Adegbulugbe, 2008; Ojekunle, 2008; Osedbamen, 2008 & Taiwo, 2007). Though, many studies have been carried out in the Western world concerning the incestuous father, prevalence and perception of incest (Sadock, 1989; Kempe&Kempe, 1984; Finkelhor, 1982; Herman, 1981; Forward & Buck, 1978), research has also been carried out in Nigeria especially on sexual abuse of children (Abraham, 1999 & Momoh, 2006). To the best of the researchers knowledge, there is dearth of up-to-date information on attitude of Literate Adults in Ibadan Metropolis towards incestuous relationship. There is urgent need to identify the attitude of literate adults in Oyo State towards incestuous relationship so as to chart a course towards eradicating or reducing the incidence of incest.

Research Question

What is the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were tested in the study:

- (i) There is no significant difference in the attitude of the literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship on the basis of gender.
- (ii) There is no significant difference among literate adults in their attitude towards incestuous relationship in Ibadan metropolis based on intact home and broken homes.
- (iii) There is no significant difference on the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship on the basis of family socio-economic status.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey method. This design has been used for the study because it is able to capture the complexity of the desired behavior, i.e incest, such design is said to be able to describe existing variables in a given situation (Hassan, 1995)

Literate adults in Ibadan metropolis that formed the population of this study were those that acquired at least first degree as academic qualification and working in higher institution of learning. Three institutions of higher learning in Ibadan were used for the study, University of Ibadan, Lead City University and The Polytechnic Ibadan. Purposive sampling technique was used because it is an arbitrary sample selection which is good representative of specific group and literate adults working in higher institution of learning are a good example. To get respondents for the study, random sampling technique was used to select participants from the three institutions. According to Daramola (1992) random sampling method is a unbiased process, which a researcher uses to select a sample of population in such a way that each elements (member) of the population has an equal chance of being selected. The random sampling technique was employed in the selection of 300 respondents.

The instrument used to obtain data for this study is titled "Attitude towards Incestuous Relationship Questionnaire" (ATIRQ). It was developed by the researchers after a careful review of relevant literature. The questionnaire contains 20 items designed to find out the attitude of literate adults towards incestuous relationships. The instrument was divided into two sections, Section A contains items on personal data of gender, home type and socio-economic status of parents. Section B deals with attitude towards incestuous relationships as applicable to respondents using strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD).

The instrument was given to five experts in Guidance and Counselling and educational measurement and evaluation for content validation. Based on their comments, some items were modified and they certified the instrument as having content validity.

The reliability of ATIRQ was established using test-retest reliability methods. The instrument was administered twice to 40 randomly selected literate adults, 20 males and 20 females' literate adults, who were not part of the study, with an interval of four weeks. The scores from the sample were correlated using Pearson's Product moment correlation formula. A correlation co-efficient of 0.75 was obtained which was adjudged high enough for the instrument to be used for this study.

Section B of the ATIRQ consists of 20 items and is a four point Likert type questionnaire requiring responses like; Strongly Agree – 4, Agree – 3, Disagree – 2 and Strongly Disagree – 1. The highest score is 80 while the lowest is 20.

The data collected were analyzed using the simple percentage and t-test statistics. The t-test statistical tool is a parametric test often used to compare the means of two groups.

(Adana, 1996 & Hassan, 1995). All research hypotheses were confirmed at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on attitude towards incestuous relationship
Variable Frequency No = 300 Percentage (%)

Attitude Towards Incestuous Relationship		
Positive	45	15
Negative	254	85
Total	300	

The analysed data in table 1 reveals that the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan Metropolis towards incestuous relationship is negative. Result shows that 254 (85%) had negative attitude while 45 (15%) had positive attitude towards incestuous relationship in Ibadan Metropolis.

Hypothesis 1: That there is no significant difference in the attitude of male and female literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship.

Table 2: The t-test on attitude of male and female literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship

Gender	No	X	SD	df	Cal-t-value	Crit.t value
Male	112	52.71	6.45	298		
Female	188	58.2	35.15		7.67*	1.96

*Significant, $P < 0.05$

Table 2 shows that the calculated t-value of 7.67 is greater than the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected, meaning that there is significant difference between male and female literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference among literate adults on their attitude in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship based on intact and non-intact homes.

Table 3: The t-test on attitude of literate adults towards incestuous relationship

Home type	No	X	SD	df	Cal-t-value	Crit.t value
Intact home	188	60.46	5.54	298		
Non-intact Home	112	49.48	4.25		19.25	1.96

*Significant, $P < 0.05$

Table 3 shows a calculated t-value of 19.25 which is greater than a critical t-value of 1.96 therefore the hypothesis is rejected at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there is

a significant difference among literate adults in Ibadan metropolis in their attitude towards incestuous relationships based on intact and non-intact homes.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the attitude of literate adults from socio-economic status in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship.

Table 4: The ANOVA on the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship on socio-economic status of the family

Socio-economic status	df	Sum of squares	Mean squares	Cal-t F-ratio	Critical F-ratio
Between group	2	864.274	432.37	4.92*	3.00
Within group	297	6543.28	48.58		

*Significant, $P < 0.05$

The ANOVA result on table 3 revealed that the calculated F-ratio is 4.92, which is greater than the critical F-ratio of 3.00. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected. Meaning that there is a significant difference in the perception of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship on the basis of socio-economic status.

Table 5: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) of literate adult in Ibadan metropolis on attitude towards incestuous relationship based on family socio-economic status

Duncan's Grouping	Mean	N	Group	Socio-economic status
A	13.28	100	2	Middle
B	12.06	100	1	High
B	11.70	100	3	Low

The DMRT results indicated that group 2 with mean of 13.28 differed from group 1 and 3 with mean of 12.06 and 11.70 respectively. Group 2 which is denoted with A is not similar to means of any other group and differed significantly and responsible for significant difference noted in table 4. Thus hypothesis three was rejected. This means that literate adults in Ibadan are differed in their attitude towards incestuous relationship based on socio-economic status. Middle socio-economic status with mean score of 13.28, while high and low socio-economic status with the same letter B. this shows that literate adults of high and low socio-economic status do have positive attitude towards the practice of incestuous relationship than those from middle socio-economic status.

Discussion

Hypothesis one shows that a significant difference exists between male and female literate adults in their attitude towards incestuous relationship in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo state. This finding is consistent with Abraham (1999) that incest are frowned upon and considered as a taboo. This finding is not unexpected because in most Nigerian societies, closely related families are forbidden to have sex let alone marriage. This finding is also consistent with Shittu (2011).

The present finding corroborates the assertion of Herman (1981) that incest is less likely when mothers are strong and when close mother-daughter ties exist. Also, this finding is not unexpected as it contradicts Kempe and Kempe (1984) which asserted that when there is lack of affection between parents, father or mother may look for sexual satisfaction and intimacy with another member of the family.

The findings of the study indicated that literate adults from middle socio-economic status have comparatively less positive attitude towards incestuous relationship compared to their counterparts from high and low socio-economic status. This finding contradicts the posits of Bully and Moore (1994) that differences do not exist in the families in the practice of incestuous relationship based on their socio-economic status. The finding contradicts the assertion of Taiwo (2007) that incestuous relationship is common among low socio-economic status families than families of average and high socio-economic status families. This finding indicates that family socio-economic status have effect on attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo state towards incestuous relationships.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study and the discussion that followed, the following conclusions were drawn: The result from the analyzed data revealed that the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship was negative. There was a significant difference between male and female literate adults in their attitudes towards incestuous relationship in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo state. There was a significance difference in the attitude of literate adults in Ibadan metropolis towards incestuous relationship based on intact and non-intact homes. There was a significant difference in the attitude of literate Adults in Ibadan metropolis of Oyo state towards incestuous relationship on the basis of family socio-economic status.

Implication of the Study for Counselling

The increasing practice of incestuous relationship in Nigeria and its health, psychological and social problem have numerous implication for counseling and counselor education. It can lead to inefficiency of victims in public life and loss of concentration and commitment to academic work and skills development.

The implication is that the nation is tilting towards sustaining the high level of moral decadence and this can result to half-backed graduate that can hardly perform in their job, because of psychological and social problems they would be going through from incestuous relationship. In every society across the world, children and youths are considered the hope of the nation and future leaders. The logical belief from this expectation is therefore that children and youths should be helped by counselors to exhibit good moral virtues and not vices. The situation can degenerate into total disregard for self worth and dignity of human being and resulting to poor societal development. The implication of this anti-social behavior on development of the nation could be seen in all aspects of moral, social, educational, political and economic. The nation would gradually drift into a state of moral bankruptcy if counselor through counseling education do not proof their worth to convince people that

they have special and important skills to offer to sustain sexual sanity against incestuous relationship.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of this study and its discussion the following recommendations were made: Professional counselors in Nigeria should establish their own counseling clinics where they would be able to provide necessary assistance to incest victims. Different non-governmental organization (NGO's), women organizations and groups should organize enlightenment campaigns to fight against incest. Inclusion of guide against incest skills training in the curriculum of counselor education programmes of Nigeria Universities must be ensured.

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