

Socio-Economic Condition and Drug Abuse as a Determinant of Sexual Harassment among Athletes in South-South State Sports Councils in Nigeria

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Abstract: This study was designed to determine the Prevalence and Determinants of Sexual Harassment among Athletes in South-South States Sports Council in Nigeria. Two specific objectives, Two research questions and Two null hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population for the study comprised of 1,647 male and 1,274 female athletes. They give a total of 2,921 sports athletes in South-South Sports Council which spread across the six states. The sample size of the study consisted of 336 male and 262 female athletes giving a total of 598 representing 20% of athletes from each of the state Sport Council. Instrument titled “Prevalence and Determinants of Sexual Harassment of Athletes Questionnaire (PDSHAQ)” was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three research experts, all from the University of Uyo. Instrument was trial tested on 20 athletes who were not part of the research sample. Cronbach Alpha Reliability Statistics and reliability co-efficient of 0.98 was obtained. The data was analysed using Mean and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions while hypothesis was tested at .05 levels of significance. The finding of the study showed that different states have varying mean scores on sexual harassment among athletes in South-South Nigeria. In addition, socioeconomic status and drug uses are determined of sexual harassments among athletes. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended among measures to protect female athletes from sexual harassment by having committees that are made up male and female officials to select athletes for participation in competitions base on performances instead of leaving the selection process in the hand of a single individual. Athletes with history of drug use should not be accepted into the sport council.

Keywords: Socioeconomic Condition, Drug Abuse, Sexual Harassment

Introduction

Sexual harassment all over the world has been identified as a global menace to the society regardless of the effort in trying to curb it yet the phenomenon still exists and constantly on the rise in many countries around the world (Burrows *et al.*, 2018). In spite of the effort over the rising cases of sexual harassment, there seems to be no end to this menace. There is no day in the world today that one case of sexual harassment report is not hard in the social media (Nextier, 2020). One contestable reason for this conscious awareness could be that sexual harassment victims are becoming more encouraged to report such crimes. Sexual harassment acts can take place in different circumstances and settings. These include, for example: rape within marriage or dating relationships, rape by strangers, systematic rape during armed conflict, unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, sexual abuse of children, forced marriage or cohabitation, including the marriage of children, denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted diseases, forced abortion, violent acts against the sexual integrity of women, including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspections for virginity, forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Bermon *et al.*, 2021).

Unfortunately, sport is not an exception, and by its global nature including both athletes from developed and developing countries, and athletes with different socio-cultural background, gender, and age. There are many forms of interpersonal violence, such as physical, verbal, and sexual abuse that the athletes could be exposed to. Indeed, harassment often has their starting point in a specific socio-cultural context which favours discrimination based on power differentials (Simpson *et al.*, 2015). Aside this, social order in which social interface between male and female occurs also indicate a propagation of the social menace of sexual harassment. In such interface, mutual interest of give-and-take response defines a civilized and socially acceptable sexual behaviour. The sexual behaviour that exists is not only peculiar to male and female but to both male to male (homosexuality) and female to female (lesbianism). The increasing manifestation of some social interface is the reason for increase in deviant behaviours globally. Since the 1970's there is increase recognition of sexual

harassment as a social matter and problem. Sexual harassment is a social problem which has been a matter of concern and may be affecting the quality of behaviour exhibited in the society and particularly the athletes being produced to represent individual country in any sports competitions (Onoyase, 2018).

Sexual harassment takes place in various places all over the world. Particularly is the sexual harassment that occurs among athletes in the sports' organizations in Nigeria. The most common development of sexual harassment in the Nigerian sports organization includes' sexual advances from the superior staff to female athletes confirming the unequal power relations where the perpetrator occupies a higher and influential position of authority over the victim. National Association for Sports and Physical Education-NASPE in Harriss *et al.* (2020), reported that sexual harassment that occur in Nigeria sport organizations is between coaches and athletes, athletic directors and athletes; coaches and assistance coaches; athletic directors and coaches, athletes and athletes and even same sex. Thus, when mutual agreement is denied, in some extreme cases, it results to rape which is a fall out of moral deficit and lust. This is especially in cases where some female athletes are engaged in sexual harassment by seducing male superior sports official, or are lured by their male superior sports officials expecting to be awarded unmerited favours during spots events or to feature them to represent the organization in sports competitions. Some of the factors which contribute to sexual harassment among athletes include; the need for preferential treatment, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and drug abuse among others.

Literature Review

Socio-economic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. Socio-economic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Socio-economic status is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Examinations of socio-economic status often reveal inequities in access to resources, plus issues related to privilege, power and control. Among athletes, individuals with varying socio-economic status are present. Those with better socio-economic status appears to have anything they want and when they want it while those with low socio-economic status are denied some opportunities and are sometimes subjected to victimization. People most of the time wants to be identified with persons of high socio-economic status and some from the low socio-economic status can easily subject themselves to abuse in other to be identified with those of high socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status is more commonly used to depict an economic difference in society as a whole (National Center for Educational Statistics in Buckingham *et al.*, 2013).

Socioeconomic status constitutes some social problems in the society because of some unequal social relations. These problems may be due to poor background upbringing starting from homes up to their workplaces, or, may be responsible for the inability of a person's social predicament to begin with (*American Psychological Association, 2020*). For instance, youths are particularly at risk for many health and social problems in the United States, such as unwanted pregnancies, drug abuse and obesity (Boushey and Weller in Blustein, 2013). Also, engaging in sexual intimacies with a high-status partner can contribute to feelings of desirableness and self-worth (Buss in Johansson, 2013). Relationship breakup and divorce are likely to pose problems for either partner in the coach-athlete or athlete-athlete relationship and may jeopardise careers (Wahl in Johansson, 2013). Although, attraction, love and sexual agency research into sexual harassment or abuse in sport has helped to raise awareness about the risks of coach-athlete or athlete-athlete sexual relationships. However, a critical issue tends to be disregarded in this research context, or is only regarded as part of a grooming process. This is the meaning and impact of affirmation, intimacy, attraction, love and sexual desire for social agencies which are crucial in determining sexual relationship (Brake and Burton, 2012).

Absolute income, as theorized by economist is the relationship in which as income increases, so will consumption, but not at the same rate (Parker, 2010). Athletes with higher and expendable income can accumulate wealth and focus on meeting immediate needs while being able to consume and enjoy luxuries and weather crises (Weller and Tolson, 2017). Research shows that lower socioeconomic status athletes have lower and slower performance as compared with athletes of higher socioeconomic status (Staff, 2012).

The abuse of drug is another variable that can influence sexual harassment among individuals. Drugs are chemical substances that modify mental, emotional and behavioral functioning of the users. According to the World Drug Report (2012), the use of illicit drugs has increased throughout the world in recent years because it is associated with the adolescent subculture of rebelling against convention and seeking adventure. Drug abuse is a pattered use of substance in which the users consume it in amounts which are harmful to themselves and others (Udoh *et al.*, 2016). Drug abuse can affect a person's sense of good judgement and lead the individual to engage in various unacceptable conducts, including sexual harassment. Research studies have found that some of sexual harassments on college campuses involve a situation in which the perpetrator, the victim, or both were consuming alcohol (Greathouse *et al.*, 2015).

Criminal or anti-social behaviour occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug and long term personality changes in individuals may occur as well (*Ksir and Charles in Kayne, 2012*). In addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, use of some drugs may also lead to criminal penalties, although these vary widely depending on the local jurisdiction (*Mosby's Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Dictionary in Ibrahim et al., 2016*). In 2010 about 5% of people (230 million) used an illicit substance (*World Drug Report, 2012*).

Athletes may turn to substances to cope with numerous stressors, including pressure to perform, injuries, physical pain, and retirement from a life of sport (which happens much earlier than retirement from most of other careers) (*Morse, 2013*). Additionally, athletes may be significantly less likely to receive treatment for underlying mental illnesses such as depression (*Reardon and Factor in Kate et al., 2013*). Untreated mental illness is often associated with substance use, perhaps in an effort to self-treat. Alternatively, substances of abuse may cause mental illness (*Riggs et al., in Claudia and Shane, 2014*).

Abbey et al., in Antonia and Abbey (2015) in their study reported that about half of sexual harassment on college campuses involve a situation in which the perpetrator, the victim, or both were consuming alcohol. Thus, sexual harassment was more likely to occur in settings where alcohol was consumed (example, parties, bars) (*Graham et al., 2014*). Potential perpetrators seek out such settings as a way of finding vulnerable individuals. Alcohol should be seen as a risk factor for—not a cause of—unwanted sexual advances and other forms of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment involving alcohol more often occur among individuals who know each other casually as acquaintances, rather than among individuals in romantic relationships (*Abbey et al., in Antonia and Abbey, 2015*). Alcohol consumption is associated with aggression and loss of inhibition (*Testa and Livingston in Robert, 2018*).

Statement of the Problem

In recent time the productivity of athletes in states sports councils in south-south, Nigeria has been discouraging. This however is attributed to be caused by the rising cases of sexual harassment emanating from the state sports councils. Parents, athletes and some concerned stakeholders are lamenting over the rate at which the social menace called sexual harassment is becoming a regular occurrence in the south-south state sports councils. They claim that states sports councils lack the willingness to vigorously tackle prevalence of sexual harassments and other forms of sexual assaults such as sex-for-growth in the job coupled with lack of faith in the system to impartially dispense justice. Others believe that this growing social menace of sexual harassment is the reason most female athletes refuse to participate in sports and the few that summon courage to partake are likely to perform poorly in competition or even have less chance of being selected at all to represent their states except they yield to the pressure of being harassed. Some victims resort to take the law into their hands and some superior sports officials have been set up, stripped, beaten and humiliated by aggrieved victims who are desperate for revenge. However, the consequences may be poor performance and lack of willingness to voluntarily participate without being molested or intimidated.

Athletes in states sports council have their unique experiences of sexual harassments from staff and peers. Though, sexual harassment affects virtually men and women of all races, ages and colours; Nigerian victims experience more elusive types of harassment. In other countries or cultures, sexual harassment is a behaviour that is globally unacceptable in any public setting. Regardless of the form it takes, perpetrators disguise themselves but the society is not pleased with it. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to investigate the prevalence and determinants of sexual harassments among athletes in South-South states sports councils in Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to find out the prevalence and determinants of sexual harassments among athletes in south-south state sports councils. Specifically, the study seeks to;

1. Determine whether socio-economic conditions is a determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria.
2. Determine whether drug abuse is a determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria.

Research Questions

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions were formulated to guide the study.

1. How does socio-economic condition be a determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria?

2. How does drug abuse be a determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and each of them were tested at .05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference in sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria based on socio-economic condition.
2. Drug abuse is not a significant determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria.

Methodology

Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. The population of this study comprised all the 1647 male and 1,274 female athletes in the south-south state sports councils spread across the six (6) states of the south-south geo-political zone. The sample for this study comprised 336 male and 262 female athletes given a total of 598 athletes drawn from the six (6) states that make up the South-South states sport council of the South-south geo-political zone of Nigeria using cluster sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was entitled: "Prevalence and Determinants of Sexual Harassment of Athletes Questionnaire (PDSHAQ)". Mean and standard deviation were used to answer research questions 1, 2 and 8 while simple regression was used to answer research questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Hypotheses 1 and 8 were tested using Analysis of Variance, hypothesis 2 was tested using independent t-test, while hypotheses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 were tested using F-ratio in simple linear regression. All the nine hypotheses were tested at .05 levels of significance. The SPSS version 23 was used to analyzed the data.

Results and Presentation of Data

Research Question 1: How does socio-economic condition determine sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria?

Table 1.1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Sexual Harassment Based on Socio-Economic Condition

Socio-Economic Condition	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Low	162	64.22	7.70
Moderate	257	58.19	7.19
High	165	57.85	5.50
Total	584	59.77	7.43

Source: Field work 2021

The result in Table 4.8 indicates the mean sexual harassment scores of athletes based on socio-economic condition. As shown in the table, the mean sexual harassment score of athletes with low socio-economic condition is 64.22, that of athletes with moderate socio-economic condition is 58.19, while of athletes with high socio-economic condition is 57.85. This is an indication that the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states sport council is highest among athletes with low socio-economic conditions, while athletes with high socio-economic conditions recorded the least mean score on sexual harassment. This implies that improvement in socio-economic condition reduces the likelihood of being harassed sexually in sport council in South-South states of Nigeria.

Research Question 2: How does drug abuse be a determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria?

The value of regression coefficient (R^2) was used in answering the research question and summary of data showed in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Simple Regression Analysis of Drug Use and Sexual Harassment of Athletes

Variables	R	R²	% Contribution
Drug Use	.448 ^a	.201	20.1
Sexual Harassment			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Drug Use

The result in Table 4.9 shows the value of the regression coefficient (R) and its' corresponding R² of 0.448 and 0.201 respectively. The value of R² of 0.201 indicates that drug use contributed 20.1% to sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states sport councils in Nigeria. This is an indication that increase in drug use can lead to sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states of Nigeria.

Result of Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria based on socio-economic condition.

Table 3.1: Bonferroni Post Hoc Test of the Prevalence of Sexual Harassment Based on Socio-Economic Condition

(I) Socio-Economic Status	(J) Socio-Economic Status	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
Low	Moderate	6.03384*	.000
	High	6.37385*	.000
Moderate	Low	-6.03384*	.000
	High	.34001	1.000
High	Low	-6.37385*	.000
	Moderate	-.34001	1.000

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

The result in Table 4.19 indicates the different socio-economic groups that differ significantly in the prevalence of sexual harassment. As shown in the table, the low socio-economic group differ significantly from the moderate socio-economic group with mean difference of 6.03384 and p-value of .000, and also differ significantly from the high socio-economic group with mean difference of 6.37385 and p-value of 0.000. The high socio-economic group do not differ significantly from the moderate with mean difference of 0.34001, with p-value of 1.000.

Hypothesis 2: Drug abuse is not a significant determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south state sports councils in Nigeria.

Table 4:2 Regression Analysis of Drug Use and Sexual Harassment among Athletes in South-South States

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	6475.404	1	6475.404	146.36	.000 ^b
Residual	25749.306	582	44.243		
Total	32224.711	583			

a. Dependent Variable: Sexual Harassment

b. Predictors: (Constant), Drug Use

The result in Table 4.20 indicated that the calculated F-value of 146.36 at 1 and 582 degrees of freedom is significant, since the p-value of 0.000 is less than the 0.05 levels of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that drug use is not a significant determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states councils in Nigeria is rejected. Hence, drug use is a significant determinant of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states sport councils in Nigeria.

Summary of Findings

1. Socio-economic condition is a significant determinant of the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south Nigeria states.
2. Drug use is a significant determinant of the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south Nigeria states.

Discussion of Findings

Socioeconomic Condition and Prevalence of Sexual Harassment

The result of the study revealed that socio-economic condition is a significant determinant of the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south Nigeria states. This finding is supported by the American Psychological Association(2020) who claimed that socioeconomic issues that leads to sexual harassment may be due to poor background upbringing starting from homes up to their workplaces, or, may be

responsible for the inability of a person's social predicament to begin with. In addition, Boushey and Weller in Blustein (2013) says that youths are particularly at risk for many health and social problems in the United States, such as unwanted pregnancies, drug abuse and obesity. Also, engaging in sexual intimacies with a high-status partner can contribute to feelings of desirableness and self-worth (Buss in Johansson, 2013). Furthermore, Parker (2010) affirmed that absolute income is the relationship in which as income increases, so will sexual desire. Athletes with higher and expendable income can accumulate wealth and focus on meeting immediate needs while being able to consume and enjoy luxuries (Weller and Tolson, 2017). Research shows that lower socioeconomic status athletes have lower and slower sexual desire as compared with athletes of higher socioeconomic status (Staff, 2012).

Drug Abuse and Prevalence of Sexual Harassment

The finding in table 2.2 revealed that drug use is a significant determinant of the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south Nigeria states. This finding is supported by the World Drug Report (2012), the use of illicit drugs has increased throughout the world in recent years because it is associated with the adolescent subculture of rebelling against convention and seeking adventure. Udohet al. (2016) noted that drug abuse is a pattered use of substance in which the users consume it in amounts which are harmful to themselves and others. It can affect a person's sense of good judgement and lead the individual to engage in various unacceptable conducts, including sexual harassment. Research studies have found that some of sexual harassments on college campuses and other places involve a situation in which the perpetrator, the victim, or both were consuming alcohol (Great house *et al.*, 2015).

Criminal or anti-social behaviour occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug and long term personality changes in individuals may occur as well (Ksir and Charles in Kayne, 2012). In addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, use of some drugs may also lead to criminal penalties, although these vary widely depending on the local jurisdiction (Mosby's Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Dictionary in Ibrahim *et al.*, 2016).

Abbey *et al.*, in Antonia and Abbey (2015) in their study reported that about half of sexual harassment cases involve a situation in which the perpetrator, the victim, or both were consuming alcohol. Thus, sexual harassment was more likely to occur in settings where alcohol was consumed (example, parties, bars) (Graham *et al.*, 2014). Potential perpetrators seek out such settings as a way of finding vulnerable individuals. Alcohol should be seen as a risk factor for—not a cause of—unwanted sexual advances and other forms of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment involving alcohol more often occur among individuals who know each other casually as acquaintances, rather than among individuals in romantic relationships (Abbey *et al.*, in Antonia and Abbey, 2015).

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study on the prevalence and determinants of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south sports council in Nigeria, it was concluded that female athletes are more vulnerable to sexual harassment than male athletes in south-south sport councils in Nigeria. It was also concluded that the use of drugs by athletes is the main determinant of the prevalence of sexual harassment among athletes in south-south states in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study;

- i. A committee that is made up of male and female officials should be constituted to select athletes for participation in competitions based on merit instead of leaving the selection process in the hand of a single sport official to avoid sexual harassment.
- ii. Athletes with history of drug use should not be accepted into the sport council to avoid sexual harassment of others since drug use is identified as determinant of sexual harassment among athletes.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Based on the limitations of the present study, the following suggestions were made for further research;

1. Determinants of sexual harassment among athletes in the post pandemic era among University Students in Nigeria.
2. Attitude of University athletes towards sexual harassment in South-South Federal Universities.

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