



**The voice of male citizens: Why do men sexually abuse young girls? A
study of men in Ibadan City in Oyo State, Nigeria**

by

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A dissertation to the School of Social Sciences in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of Masters in Gender Studies

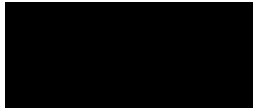
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October 2019

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. All citations references and borrowed ideas have been duly acknowledged and referenced. It is being submitted for the degree of Masters in Gender Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Department of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. None of the present work has been submitted previously for any degree or examination in any university.



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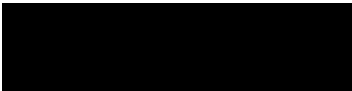
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DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR

I supervised this MA thesis to satisfaction and is submitted with my approval.

Title: *The voice of male citizens: Why do men sexually abuse young girls? A study of men in Ibadan City in Oyo State, Nigeria.*

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Signature

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14 October 2019

Dedication

This work is dedicated to the young girls and women who have been the victims of sexual abuse in their lives.

I also dedicate this work to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adegbenjo, who gave me the opportunity to study outside of the country and who laid the foundation by supporting me to achieve whatever I propose to do.

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Abstract

Sexual abuse of young girls remains a prominent international concern. This pandemic abuse is a major problem that affects young girls and females throughout Africa. Nigeria is among the countries affected by the prevalence of sexual abuse with high reports of incidents of the sexual abuse of young girls which has become a regular fixture in the Nigerian media. Numerous studies have been done on sexual abuse; however, this study presents men's perceptions and opinions about the reasons why men sexually abuse young girls. This study presents findings from research conducted in the Ibadan community in Oyo State, Nigeria. Based on a qualitative research method, the essential objective of this study is to explore men's perception towards what they think makes men sexually abuse young girls. Hence this study does not look at the perpetrators or victims of sexual abuse but rather it seeks men's opinions in order to understand the causes of sexual abuse perpetrated by men.

The in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with twenty members of the Ibadan north-east local government community. With the ethical clearance approval, the interviews were conducted in the period of December 2018 to January 2019. The research is positioned towards a feminist critical argument therefore the aim of the investigation is to understand why men sexually abuse young girls. The study explores the authentic views of the Ibadan north-east's community as there is limited scholarly literature on men's opinions on the sexual abuse of young girls. Critical questions are asked such as men's perceptions towards sexual abuse and what men think should happen to the perpetrators. This study provides the opportunity to listen to men's voices on why men sexually abuse young girls. The data were thematically analysed and discussed.

Results indicate that there is an overall knowledge of sexual abuse, from the sample of interviewees, majority of whom are patriarchal in nature. Also, from the findings there was a stereotyping of female dressing by the participants which was linked to the cause of sexual abuse, participants also expressed their judgmental actions on the perpetrators of sexual abuse by killing the offenders. Therefore, opinions and views are shared in the recommendations. Necessary campaigns and awareness on sexual abuse should be carried out to address the issue of sexual abuse, likewise to inform the law enforcement agencies on how to handle and give necessary attention to reports of sexual abuse.

Key words: Sexual abuse, gender, patriarchy, masculinity, young girls, perpetrator.

Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United National International Children's Education Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
UNILAG	University of Lagos
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
CRC	Charter on the rights and welfare of the child

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND THE BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Sexual abuse is one of the most widespread violent crimes and human rights abuses. It is also one of the types of gender-based violence. Africa is said to be the worst continent affected by sexual abuse compared to other continents (Pereda, 2009). Collins (2013) posits that sexual abuse is an international problem affecting females across the world. While also affecting males and young boys, sexual violence mostly affects females and young girls around the world (Collins, 2013). Harper (2018) defines the issue of sexual abuse as unwanted sexual activity involving force. Sedlak (2010) also mentions that sexual abuse is an act of forcing or enticing a young person to take part in sexual activities and does not necessarily involve a high level of violence, whether the victim is aware of what is happening or not. Countless numbers of females around the world, have in one form or the other, experienced some form of abuse by men. Globally, one out of three women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime (Ellsberg, 2005). In 2017, the World Health Organisation estimated that up to one billion minors between the ages of two and 17 years have experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (WHO, 2017). According to Singh, Parsekar and Nair (2014), 150 million girls under the age of 18 years have experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime. Despite the increase in the prevalence of sexual abuse, many cases go unreported, pointing to the fact that the reported cases may be insufficient to estimate the true scale of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse occurs most times between a child (adolescent) and an adult, or another child (adolescent) who by age and development is in authority or in a position of responsibility and trust, whereby the activity is intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the perpetrator (Priebe, 2008). Many young girls and women have fallen victim to sexual abuse by men who are often the perpetrators of this sexual act (Chi, 2015). Barth's (2013) study notes that young girls below the age of 18 have the tendency to be victims of sexual abuse. Adding to this is a report on the statistics of sexual abuse, whereby 7.9 per cent of males and 19.7 per cent of females globally are sexually abused before the age of 18 years (Wihbey, 2011).

According to Nurocombe (2000), over time various scholars have defined the term sexual abuse as different concepts. Several early definitions of sexual abuse suggest that it is a sexual contact mostly between a child and an adult, perpetrated by force or without consent

(Friedrich,Urquiza and Beilke, 1986). Akanle (2011) posits further that sexual abuse is the act of forcing or attempting to force another individual through violence, threat, verbal pressure, deception, cultural expectation and economic circumstances to engage in sexual activity against their wish. Sexual abuse of young girls is perpetrated by force, which can be referred to as rape, and is a forceful and violent act carried out to get sexual gratification from a person without consent. Onyejekwe (2009) states that rape is forceful, unlawful sexual intercourse without a woman's consent. Strengthening this, according to the Criminal Code section 357:

Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent if obtained by force or by means of threat or intimidations of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by any means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband is guilty of an offence called rape (Onyejekwe, 2009; Criminal code section 357 of the Nigerian constitution).

Adeniyi (2014) also gives some insight into sexual abuse, which is regarded as the greatest offence committed against adolescents. At the same time, Sanderson (2006) made it a known fact that most sexual abuse cases are committed by adults. There is no specific firm evidence about what motivates the perpetrators to rape young girls. Nevertheless, sexual offenders represent the normal population. The cases of sexual abuse cut across all genders. In Africa and the world, women and young girls are victims and the most affected by sexual abuse, while men are often reported as perpetrators (Badoe, 2017; Yahaya, 2012). The highest rates of child sexual abuse in Africa are reported in Morocco, Tanzania, South Africa and Nigeria (Punch, 2016; Perede, 2013). In Nigeria, recent upheavals and media reports on gender-based sexual abuse has brought the debate into the public view. The incidence of opposite sex rape continues to take a significant dimension in the city of Ibadan in Oyo State, Nigeria. There are over 20 cases reported monthly where young girls are usually the victims and survivors, while men are the usual perpetrators (Punch, 2016; Onyelemelam, 2013). It is because of these rising reports of sexual violence in Ibadan (The Eagles, 2013) that this location is chosen for the study population.

Therefore, this dissertation is a contribution to the body of knowledge on the sexual abuse of young girls which gives an in-depth investigation into the perception of men in the Ibadan north-east local community of Oyo State Nigeria, as to why men sexually abuse young girls. This study creates a space to listen to the voices of the male citizens for sharing their

perspectives and contributing to the issue of sexual abuse perpetuated by men. This study will also contribute to the scholarly knowledge of sexual abuse and to gain a deeper insight into the phenomenon. A comprehensive interaction between the researcher and men in Ibadan north-east local government was achieved, which gave a broader insight into the discussion of sexual violence. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to achieve the main objective of the research. This introductory chapter provides the background to the study on why men sexually abuse young girls. This chapter is organized into nine sections which provided a background to sexual abuse, as well as listing the focus and background of the study. Lastly, this chapter offers a summary of the research problem; objectives of the study; and the significance and the justifications of the study. Furthermore, the chapter explains the structure of the dissertation, defines terms used in the study and provides a conclusion to the chapter.

1.2 The Outline of the Problem Statement

Sexual abuse is a global phenomenon which affects different age groups, genders and races across the world. According to Stoltenberg (2011), sexual abuse has been recognized as one of the most common offences committed against females across the world. Reports of sexual abuse have dominated the headlines in the media, causing a great deal of concern in Nigeria (Akin-Odanye, 2018). In African nations the World Health Organization (WHO) reports on the prevalence of sexual abuse towards young girls before the age of 15 years as being between seven and 21 per cent (Kidman, 2016). Finkelhor (2014) maintains that sexual abuse has been reported by many scholars and reveals that it has become a local and global problem. Finkelhor, Araj, Baron, Peter and Waytt (1986) made it known that sexual abuse has received awareness and has become a social concern through the mass media and more non-governmental organizations. Moreover, academia has started to show an interest in this phenomenon and more literature on sexual abuse has been developed. However, despite the attention given to the sexual abuse phenomenon and the extensive studies conducted on the issue, sexual abuse continues unabated. Finkelhor (1986) admits that sexual abuse studies are difficult to conduct due to the shame and stigmatisation it conveys. Hence, for this reason this study focuses on men's views concerning the sexual abuse of young girls.

In Nigeria, the prevalence of sexual abuse of young girls' cuts across the country (Manyike, 2015). Eyong (2019) conducted a survey on adolescent young girls' schools in Nigeria and

discovered a high prevalence of sexual abuse. In north-east Nigeria, sexual violence towards females is estimated to be 77.7 per cent amongst female children who are younger than 12 years of age (Akin-Odanye, 2018). In the south-west and south-east of Nigeria, Olley and Makinde (2017) postulate the prevalence to be between 40 and 55 per cent amongst adolescent girls. Several studies have been mentioned on the prevalence of sexual abuse in the newspapers indicating a high prevalence of sexual abuse in different parts of the country (David, 2018). Literature has indicated that young females below the age of 18 years are the most prominent victims of rape. Nonetheless, males could also experience sexual abuse from the same sex or the opposite sex, but studies have shown that the prevalence of sexual abuse is higher amongst young girls and women, and perpetuated by men (Onyemelukwe, 2015). Sexual abuse is also committed by family members or someone close to the family, which is not easy for a young girl to disclose (Duru, 2014). The victims of this sexual abuse often worry about the aftermath for herself and the family, or the victim may feel loyal to the offender. Moreover, if an individual is living in a family where violence is a norm, the fear of more or severe violence may prevent her from disclosing the sexual experience (Oseni, 2016).

Reflecting on the high rate of sexual abuse in Nigeria, there have been numerous cases of rape perpetrated on young girls and women. In Nigeria, some reports have revealed that 4-6 per cent of all adolescent girls in south-western Nigeria experience rape (Folayan, 2014). It has also been identified that in Nigeria there is no age limit to rape; children, infants, adolescent girls or mature adult women such as mothers and grandmothers are being raped (Ademulika, 2018). There are several dimensions to rape, including gang-raping, rape by family members, and rape of young girls. Recently there has also been a spiritual dimension to rape, which includes that 'men of God' who perpetuate rape on young girls (Smith, 2016). Groce (2004) maintains that there is a myth linked to the rape of young girls by men as it is believed that having sexual intercourse with under-aged children below 18 years old could cure and prevent the HIV/AIDS infection. Lazarus (2019) also posits that the rape of young girls is used as a means of wealth by men who consult voodoo doctors. Some men take advantage of young girls and abuse them sexually. For this reason, there is insufficient empirical data on men's opinions on sexual abuse perpetrated on young girls. Therefore, this study seeks to understand men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls by men. It

was able to identify the various reasons why men sexually abuse young girls by conducting one-on-one interviews with male citizens of the Ibadan community in Oyo State, Nigeria.

1.3 Motivation for the Study

This study addresses a social phenomenon which has been causing atrocities and emotional instability. It seeks to address men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls by other men. Literature has been studied and has identified females' opinions on the sexual abuse of victims. Men's opinions have been isolated and ignored in most studies. For this reason, this study presents men's views and knowledge concerning the sexual abuse of young girls. Moreover, a review of the literature revealed that the sexual abuse of young girls has been researched and focuses mainly on the victims, but not much attention has been paid to the men's opinions on this issue in Nigeria. According to Lalor,(2004), the study of sexual violence has focused on the commercial exploitation of women and ignored to a large extent the pervasive abuse of young girls. It is therefore essential to pursue the current debates and investigations as the findings would represent the views and opinions of adult men residing in the Ibadan community.

There have been several reports of sexual violence in Nigeria, while there is a high-level of increase in the sexual abuse of young girls in the Ibadan city of Oyo State, Nigeria (Adeyera, 2018). This assertion has driven this investigation into why men sexually abuse young girls in the Ibadan community. Therefore, the paucity of literature on sexual abuse in the Ibadan community motivated the decision for this study. Another factor that motivated this study was the presumption that when males talk to one another, they often express their fantasies of sexual intercourse and share perceptions of sexual intercourse. It is therefore this preconceived notion that motivated the researcher to conduct the study. This motivation was thus underpinned by the researcher in order to understand what motivates adult males to sexually abuse young girls by investigating men's opinions on the issue.

1.4 Research Objectives, Questions and Main Themes of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate adult male citizens' voices on why men sexually abuse young girls in Nigeria. The study is set to find out why men abuse young girls and will explore the nature and extent of the sexual abuse of young girls by men in Ibadan

city in Oyo State, Nigeria. Hence, the following key research objectives are appropriate for this research work;

- To find out the reasons why men are sexually attracted to young girls;
- To explore men's views on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men;
- To examine what men, think are the effects of sexual abuse on young girls;
- To explore what men, think are the effects of sexual abuse of young girls on the girls' family;
- To find out if there are any consequences for males who sexually abuse young girls. If none, to find out why there are no consequences; and
- To identify if there are any steps taken by society, government and NGOs against sexual abuse.

The research objectives therefore were achieved by eliciting men's view through the following questions:

- What makes men sexually abuse young girls in Ibadan city, Nigeria?
- What are men's views on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men?
- What do men think are the effects of sexual abuse on young girls?
- What do men think are the effects of sexual abuse of young girls on the girls' families and society?
- What have men observed/witnessed happening to the perpetrators (the consequence)? If nothing, why? What do they wish would happen to them?
- What initiatives are taken by society, government and NGOs against the sexual abuse of young girls in this city?

The research findings answered all the research questions and was able to achieve the main objectives of the research by focusing on individual perceptions of sexual abuse and identifying why men sexually abuse young girls. Men interviewed in the study raised different concerns on sexual abuse. According to these men's responses, it gave a safe space for the participants, which enabled them to identify the effects of sexual abuse on the victims. According to participants' responses, patriarchy is embedded in most men. This directly affects women and young girls; most especially as sexual abuse is gendered and mostly

affects females. The research participants reported governmental actions on the perpetrators and directly pitched their own sentimental actions towards the perpetrators, as well as the involvement of community members to curb the incidence of sexual abuse.

1.5 Study Setting

It has been noted in the background to this study that sexual abuse cuts across all races and countries around the world, with the highest rate reported in Africa. However, the rate has drastically increased in Nigeria, with several reported cases of young girls below 18 years old who have been abused by adult men. Nigeria hosts the highest population in Africa, with a population of 199 million inhabitants as at October 2017, of which 94 million are under the age of 18 years old, making it the most populous country in Africa and one of the largest populations of youth in the world (Akanle, 2019). This study focused on investigating men's opinions on why adult males sexually abuse young girls. Literature has made it known that there are numerous cases of sexual abuse across Nigeria (Eyong, 2019). Reports by Bimbolakemi (2014) designated that sexual abuse continually affects young girls in Nigeria, especially in the south-western region where Oyo State is located, in the city of Ibadan. The city of Ibadan reports the highest prevalence of sexual violence cases in Oyo State. In a survey carried out in 2013 on rape prevalence in the state, Ibadan city recorded over 20 cases of rape monthly, with only one out of 100 cases receiving diligent prosecution (Premium Times May 15, 2019). Eyong (2019) also claimed that the prevalence of sexual abuse is between 55 per cent and 40 per cent among young girls in Ibadan and all other parts of the south-west and south-east in Nigeria.

Ibadan city is in Oyo State, one of the south-western regional states in Nigeria. Ibadan is known to be the third most populous city in Nigeria (Fourchard, 2003). Ibadan is a prominent transit point between the coastal regions and the hinterlands in Nigeria (Odeyinka, 2017). The principal inhabitants of the city are Yorubas, as well as various tribes from the country. There are 11 local governments in Ibadan metropolitan area, consisting of five urban and six semi-urban areas in the city (Adelekan, 2016). Local government is the third tier of government in Nigeria, whose duty is to control the administrative function in a geographical area. From the 11 local governments in Ibadan city, one of the urban areas, Ibadan north-east local government was chosen for the research work. The justification for choosing this area

for the study is that the area is a major urban area, known for commercial activities. The centre of the city is here and most importantly, there have been serious outrageous reports of sexual abuse, robbery and several criminal activities in this geographical area, as well as Ibadan city reporting the highest number of sexual abuse cases in Oyo State (Ige and Fawole, 2012). The site was ideal in terms of accessibility for the researcher to enter the area and access participants since the researcher is familiar with the area, which was an advantage for the researcher to recruit participants to conduct the interviews.

1.6 Significance and Justification for the Study

Studies indicate that women and young girls may become victims of sexual abuse in their lifetime and perpetrators are mainly men (Clemmons, 2007). Literature has also made it known that sexual abuse has taken a new dimension in Nigeria where young girls are often victims of sexual abuse (Oseni, 2016). Even though much has been gathered from females and victims of sexual abuse around the world, not enough has been done to get male's opinions, interventions and contributions in preventing and fighting women and children's sexual abuse by men. Therefore, in order to investigate why men sexually abuse young girls, this study gives a safe space for the voices of male citizens to be heard, making this study original and significant not only in the context of Ibadan, Nigeria but also of Africa at large.

The study will also contribute to the body of knowledge and thereby fight against children's abuse, violence against women and trafficking of young girls and women. The study will not sample children or young girls because they are minors and talking about such a sensitive topic can involve psychological implications, which the researcher has no resources to deal with because of time constraints. Also, women are intentionally excluded from the study as a large part of the literature on violence against women, including the sexual abuse of women and children, is gathered from women. This study intends to fill the gaps by increasing men's voices in violence that affects young girls with men as perpetrators. The study's application is also potentially useful amongst other university departments such as gender studies, sociology, social work and psychology as it fills the gap in identifying why men sexually abuse young girls.

1.7 Structure of Dissertation

This dissertation consists of a total of five chapters which include:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter provides the background to the study, the problem statement, motivation to the study, the aim of the research, research questions, objectives and the structure of the dissertation.

Chapter 2: Literature. This provides a comprehensive review of literature that has been published, related and is relevant to the study. The chapter also outlines the principal theories upon which the research has been constructed.

Chapter 3: Research methodology. This presents the research methodology that was conducted to achieve the aims and objectives of the study.

Chapter 4: Research results and discussion of findings. This chapter presents the findings and results following the thematic analysis of the qualitative data and discussion.

Chapter 5: Summary and conclusions. This chapter summarizes the findings of the study with the themes that emerged and concludes the study. This chapter also makes recommendations for a further study.

This structure enhances the narrative and comprehensive interrogation of why men sexually abuse young girls in Ibadan city in Oyo State, Nigeria. Each chapter opens with an introduction that outlines the objective of the chapter. The dissertation follows a self-explanatory structure with the title.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Throughout this dissertation, significant terms whose meaning, depending on the context, may vary and therefore need clarification on the proper context and meanings are as follows:

- **Sexual abuse:** Referred to as molestation, which is usually undesired sexual behaviour by one person on another person, and that is often perpetrated using force or by taking advantage of another individual.
- **Sexual abuse of young girls:** Is a form of molestation in which an adult or older adolescent uses a young girl for sexual stimulation.
- **Young girls:** refers to girls between the ages of 9 - 17 years.
- **Perpetrator:** refers to a person who carries out a harmful, illegal or immoral act.

- **Gender:** is used as a socially constructed concept referring to roles, behaviours and activities performed by a person in society.
- **Rape:** refers to a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse, or a form of sexual penetration carried out against a person's without consent.
- **Men:** is referred to as an adult male person, as distinguished from a boy or a woman.
- **Gender-based violence** refers to a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and which continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Interchangeably, it has being widely acknowledged that most gender-based violence is inflicted on women and girls by men.
- **Ibadan City** is the capital and most populous city in Oyo State, Nigeria.

1.9 Conclusion

This chapter provided a proper background upon which the entire thesis was built. It provided background information on the research topic under this study, which is an important aspect of the research. The chapter was organized into five sections. The next chapter analyses literature and the theoretical framework on sexual abuse with relation to the prevalence of sexual abuse across the world at large, Africa, Nigeria and with a focus on Ibadan city. It also reviews various works related to sexual violence, such as intimate partner violence, the baby factory, human trafficking and the sexual incidence reports by men. It also discusses the applicable theories to the study of sexual abuse perpetrated by men on young girls. The study mostly focuses on why men sexually abuse young girls.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

The intention of this study is to understand the various views on gender-based violence, with a focus on sexual abuse. The aim of a literature review, according to Leedy (1989), is to cite in an area not specifically similar but collateral to the area of study. The literature review closely looks at the works of other scholars who have conducted studies related and relevant to the current investigation, which will be helpful in understanding existing research and debates relevant to the study. Therefore, this chapter reviews diverse literature related to the sexual abuse of young girls and women by men. The focus of this study was to delve into men's views on why men sexually abuse young girls. The public perceptions of sexual abuse by men on females will be discussed with reference to the findings of both local and international studies. The objective of this chapter is to understand the nature and extent of sexual abuse on women and young girls. The relevant literature reviewed includes studies on sexual abuse; rape; violence against women and young girls; the baby factory; sex trafficking; and prostitution, especially amongst young girls below 18 years of age. This is relevant to the study as it delves into different forms and the extent of sexual abuse on young girls. Sexual abuse in the context of this study can be understood as undesired and forced sexual activity by an older person with a minor or a young girl below 18 years of age. Stoltenborgh, Bakermans-Kranenburg, Alink, and van IJzendoorn *et al.* (2013) affirmed that sexual abuse is recurrent in studies of gender-based violence, especially against females.

The literature chapter has two major sections, namely the literature review and theoretical framework sections. Section one introduces the literature review, which includes conceptualising sexual abuse with other definitions, concerns and types of sexual abuse. A review of sexual abuse from a global perspective and exploring the incidence of sexual abuse in African countries, the chapter also outlines the culture of silence, denial of sexual abuse and the perpetrators of sexual abuse. It identifies the incidence of sexual abuse in Nigeria and Ibadan City. This section also reviews the myth of sexual penetration with a virgin and covers the effects of sexual abuse on young girls. The age of victims is also discussed. Section two covers the theoretical framework and lastly, summarises the chapter.

2.2 SECTION ONE: Literature Review

2.2.1 Conceptual clarification of sexual abuse

Gordons and Collins (2013) and Dawes-Richter and Higson-Smith (2004) posit that sexual abuse is an international problem affecting many females across the world. These are females of different age groups, socio-economic class and ethnicity. It is a phenomenon which takes place more frequently than people may realise especially amongst young girls (Anderson, Mangels and Langsam, 2004). Across the world, daily reports of sexual abuse are gradually increasing, accumulating to several cases per annum. The United Nations estimated the growing spread of sexual abuse around the world to be 150 million girls and 73 million boys below the age of 18 years who have experienced a form of forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual abuse as at 2004 (UN, 2004; Lalor, 2004). According to a UNICEF (2017) report on sexual violence in the lives of children and adolescent girls, approximately 15 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have experienced forced sex at some point in their lives.

Although there is no universal agreed upon definition of sexual abuse, various researchers and human rights organisations have expressed their views on the issue of sexual abuse. It is a forceful sexual activity (Harper, 2018) on females which violates their individual physical and psychological integrity and is the transgression of moral norms of the person and the society (Sedlak *et al.*, 2010; Burton, 2016). This forceful activity also leads to prostitution (Badoe, 2017; Mathews, 2019) or acts of sexual gratification (Priebe, 2008; Olafson, 2011).

Akanle (2010:1) asserts that sexual abuse is “the act of forcing or attempting to force another individual through violence, threats, verbal pressure, deception, cultural expectation and economic circumstances to engage in sexual activity against their wish”, thus maltreating them in their adolescent age (Stoltenborgh and Bakermans-Kranenburg, 2013).

Alexander, Bernier, Christopher, Hmurovich and Collins (2012) explain from the feminist perspective that sexual abuse is a microcosm of a greater and wider range of control of the weaker parties in society. Hlavka (2014) and Ports (2016) express sexual abuse as a non-consensual abuse of young people (mainly adolescents) in any form of forced sexual interaction, including all forms of sexual intercourse such as genital contact, kissing, touching of breasts and participation in sexual contact between two parties.

A summary of the literature above points out that the sexual abuse of young girls is the sexual gratification of the perpetrator without consent. These definitions describe sexual abuse as a forceful sexual interaction perpetrated by men on young girls, which has become relevant to the study based on the findings of such research. From the findings of the study, sexual abuse is often perpetrated by adult men on young girls through oppressive and aggressive means by men who express their masculine traits. From the radical feminist perspective, most men have the potential to use violence against women (Aggarwal, 2016). This points to the rape of young girls who are sexually abused with a forceful act by men who possess the patriarchal traits of oppression of women in society.

2.2.2 Forms of sexual abuse

There are basically two types/forms of sexual abuse, namely non-contact sexual abuse and contact sexual abuse (Bezuidenhout, 2008; Heiberg, 2005).

2.2.2.1 Non-contact sexual abuse

Murray (2014) posits that sexual acts occur with varying degrees of contact. One of these is non-contact sexual abuse which takes place without any actual sexual contact between the victim and the perpetrator. This includes verbal harassment such as derogatory remarks about a person's body, which is a form of sexual request for sexual gratification (Fitzgerald, 2017). This form of sexual abuse also involves a form of sexual signal or indication to an individual. Thus, it represents a form of non-verbal communication. There is a visible action of communication of sexual messages, such as throwing a kiss through the air or giving a sexual assessment of a person's body. Recently, cyber sexual abuse is an emerging social issue. Cyber rape is violence that is facilitated via the use of technology and which can be perpetrated against victims with the assistance of technology (Henry and Powell, 2016). Young teenagers have become involved with this form of non-contact sexual abuse, which involves online harassment by sending pornographic materials through an electronic internet device. Thus, media portrayal of sexual behaviour and pornography to underage children below the age of 18 years can also be described as a form of non-contact sexual abuse (Stanely, 2018). Ferguson and Hartley (2009) also noted that the purpose for non-contact sexual abuse is to have a sexual arousal. Cooper and Quayle (2016) state that sexting, which involves sending sexual messages or photographs electronically or through messages or via

the internet, is a form of non-contact sexual abuse. Ringrose, Gill, Livingstone and Harvey *et al.* (2012) also affirm that many studies have shown that about 20 per cent of adolescents/teenagers between the ages of 10 and 17 who are active on the internet and other social media platforms have been exposed to naked pictures or people having sex. Johnson (2001) made it known that verbal abuse is a form of non-contact sexual abuse used as a means of exerting power or control over a victim. Thus, verbal abuse triggers anguish, intimidating oppression or bullying. Over time it has become more intense and frequent as a form of non-contact sexual abuse. Norman (2012) explains further that emotional abuse is also linked to non-contact abuse which is imposed from one person to another. This form of abuse often occurs in conjunction with other types of abuse which may occur in isolation. Therefore, emotionally abused victims are subjected to fear, self-blame, powerlessness and insecurity. Nevertheless, psychological abuse can be described as non-contact sexual abuse characterised by a person's behaviour that may result in psychological trauma including anxiety, depression and stress disorder.

According to Pereda (2009), non-contact forms of sexual abuse often lead to contact sexual abuse. To date, non-contact forms of sexual abuse have not achieved the same public status as compared to contact forms of sexual abuse and are less likely to qualify as legal offences (Ward, 2002). One possible clarification offered by Murray (2014) is that less harm is incurred when an individual suffers sexual experiences that are less intrusive and bear no evidence of physical harm or injury. However, based on empirical research, non-contact forms of sexual abuse can also cause the victim adverse psychological harm (Fergusson, McLeod and Horwood, 2013). Barth *et al.* (2013) disclose that the incidence of non-contact sexual abuse is identified to be higher, on a scale of 31 per cent for females and 17 per cent for males.

2.2.2.2 Contact sexual abuse

Contact sexual abuse, also known as penetrative sexual abuse, involves sexual activities such as touching, fondling and tickling of breasts, directly or through cloth (Gandri and Chihambakwe, 2010). It also involves oral sexual activities such as sucking of breasts or tongue kissing and oral-genital contact. Badoe (2017) further buttressed that penetrative sexual abuse involves sexual activities such as oral, anal and vaginal intercourse involving

other abusive sexual physical contact. Dube (2005) asserts that females encounter more contact and non-contact sexual abuse than males. Nonetheless, males or females can be victims of sexual abuse. Therefore, males could experience sexual abuse from the same sex, or the opposite sex but studies have shown that the prevalence is higher amongst women and young girls than men (Awosusi, 2015). Koss (2018) also affirms that in the past few years, young girls have been the main victims of sexual abuse and most of these sexual acts are committed by adult men. An aspect of sexual abuse is rape. Onyejekwe (2009) describes rape as forceful, unlawful sexual intercourse without a woman's consent. Strengthening this, the Criminal Code section 357 states:

Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent, or with her consent if obtained by force or by means of threat or intimidations of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by any means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman by personating her husband, is guilty of an offence called rape (Onyejekwe, 2009; Section 357 of the Nigerian constitution).

This unlawful act has become a problem in society affecting women and young girls, which can be affirmed by studies based on the findings that rape has been affecting young girls most especially. A study by Aruna (2018) affirms that there has been a high prevalence of rape reported on young girls in Nigeria. Nonetheless, Achunike (2014) explained that there are several cases of rape which have flocked the newspaper reports and headlines stating that reports of rape have become a daily occurrence affecting young girls and women. Such reports include teachers raping young female students; religious leaders raping his congregation members; armed robbers raping a victim; fathers raping stepdaughters; and rape by members of the family, all of which is coherent with the findings. Therefore, this research study sought to address the gap in the literature and found reasons what makes men sexually abuse young girls, making its relevance and significance to the body of literature and sexual abuse discourse.

2.2.3 Sexual abuse in an international context

Over the last two-decades, sexual abuse has gained acknowledgement internationally as a violation of human rights. Jamal (2012) and Lalor (2010) note that the flare-up and increase in the rate of sexual abuse is a social problem globally. As stated earlier, Leach (2006) study found cases of sexual abuse globally, especially of young people, which is estimated to be 150 million young girls and 73 million young boys under the age of 18 years who have in

one form or the other experienced forced sexual intercourse, or other forms of sexual abuse through physical force. In 2017, the World Health Organisation estimated that up to a billion minors between the ages of two and 17 years have endured violence: either physical, emotional or sexual violence. Sexual abuse is a violation of international human rights, which is considered an element of international law for the protection of human rights across the globe (UN, 2002). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of an Individual below the age of 18 (UNCRC) legally obliges countries around the world to protect young people's rights. It gives legal jurisdiction to all states to protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation including coercion of a young individual to perform sexual activities such as the prostitution of children; exploitation of young people; child labour; and sale or trafficking of children. Nonetheless, all countries in Africa have acceded to the UNCRC policy, except Somalia (Doek, 2009). Jones (2008) acknowledges that in Pakistan, there is no vibrant law against sexual abuse and there is no law that gives the clarification for sexual consent. Meanwhile, in South and East Asia, the protection of individuals from sexual violence is not strongly imposed and implemented. In Indonesia, there are laws that guard against sexual exploitation. Despite the policy of the United Nations on the Convention on the rights of children/adolescents across Africa and other parts of the world, there are numerous and outrageous incidents of sexual abuse across the world, with other forms of abuse towards young girls (Weston, 2016).

From previous research on sexual abuse, Stoltenbough (2011) states that it appears to be an alarming problem across the world. Abeid *et al.* (2015) affirm that globally, statistical estimations of adult women who experience sexual abuse is between 14 and 25 per cent and the sexual abuse of young girls is between two to 62 per cent. In a review, Pauolucci (2001) shows that the prevalence of sexual abuse in the United States is between 15 and 20 per cent, with the prevalence of young girls and adults falling as victims ranging between four and 50 per cent. In another study carried out in the United States on the prevalence of sexual violence, approximately 15 per cent of young adolescents below the age of 18 years' experience some form of sexual violence each year. Out of these sexually abused, 50 per cent of the victims are involved in vaginal or anal penetration (Nurcombe, 2000). Finkelhor (1994) and Pereda (2009) conducted an international comparative review on sexual abuse in 28 countries. They documented that the prevalence of sexual abuse ranges from 0-53 per cent in

women and from 0-60 per cent in men. In North America, 15 to 25 per cent of females have been abused in their childhood (Whealin, 2007).

Lampe's (2002) comparative review of 24 countries in Europe, conducted in Great Britain, France, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and some other parts of Europe, found that the overall prevalence of sexual abuse under the age of 16 ranges from six to 36 per cent in girls and one to 15 in boys. More studies in Europe also proved an outrageous prevalence of rape cases (Cerezo, 2003). In Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2010) estimates that 24 million girls and 8.6 million boys under the age of 18 years have experienced some form of sexual abuse involving physical contact. However, it is believed that Africa's rate of abuse is likely to surpass figures elsewhere, mainly because of rapid social change and the patriarchal nature of most African societies (Mutavi, 2018). It is apparently difficult to know the country with the highest prevalence of sexual abuse due to the known fact that many of sexual crimes are under-reported (Mapayi, 2018). Countries rely on police data and media reports of sexual crime. The term sexual abuse in context varies in countries. What is referred to as a sexual crime in one country may be acceptable in another country. Therefore, it is difficult to make comparisons amongst countries on the highest rates of sexual violence (Vetten, 2014). Nonetheless, in a study by Badoe (2017) the overall highest prevalence rates of sexual abuse in the world are reported in African countries, which include Morocco, Tanzania and South Africa. Nevertheless, there is a high increase in the incidence of sexual abuse of adolescent girls in the 21st century, which is no longer a strange occurrence across the world (Krug, 2012; Saewyc, 2003).

The cultural norms and traditions of societies differ in terms of gender relations, which has been responsible for the occurrence of this menace. A study on sexual abuse and harassment documented by Hills and Silva (2005), concluded that sexual abuse is prevalent at every stage of an individual's life, even during a child's elementary education. Verbal or physical harassment starts in elementary school, where four out of five children/adolescents experience some form of sexual violence or bullying. It is generally accepted that children are the building blocks of society and future leaders. Therefore, the development of the future greatly relies on them and as such it is important to secure the psychological health of these children, which should be of utmost importance to all in order to uphold such a future position. However, the survival and protection of these children/adolescents hangs in the

balance as many of these children/ adolescents have been sexually abused. Therefore, in addressing the main objective of research, this study responsively bridged the gap in the literature; and not only identified some factors leading to sexual abuse of young girls but also highlighted the consequences of sexual abuse on the victims and survivors – the young girls. A few television personalities in the United States of America, like Oprah Winfrey, Rosanne, and Gabrielle Union have openly confessed to the media that they were victims of sexual abuse (Serisier, 2018), following the #MeToo movement on social media, which was an international movement against sexual abuse, assault and sexual harassment in the workplace and amongst children (Edwards, 2018).

The World Health Organisation's Chapter on Adolescent Pregnancy (2007) study noted that in some parts of the Middle East, Africa and Asian countries, traditional practices of early marriage of young girls below the age of 18 years to adult males is regarded as a proper way of expressing their cultural heritage. Fardin (2018) added that the commercial sexual exploitation of children into prostitution and pornography, which is one of the globalised movie industries with the highest gross net worth per year, is on the rise (Foreman, 1990; Flowers, 1994). Gorey (1997) noted that it is estimated that 60,000 girls and 300,000 in the United States of America engage in prostitution. Pinheiro (2006) noted that according to a review by the United Nations that in African countries, it is estimated that 10 million young girls below 18 years of age are involved in prostitution. Sexual abuse is a form of violation of fundamental human rights law guiding an individual which is also a violation of international human rights, irrespective of the perpetrators of the crime (Willows, 2009). Literature findings concur that sexual abuse is a global issue with its prevalence across the world. According to Dube (2005), sexual abuse is a worldwide problem where most studies focus on women and young girls as the most affected victims.

2.2.4 Sexual abuse in Africa

Africa, consisting of 53 countries, is the world's second largest and most populous continent after Asia, consisting of at least one billion people (Sessen, 2018). Africa holds a wide range of different geographic, climatic and cultural zones. The continent is the origin of humanity, with a variety of ethnicities and tribes (Mamdani, 2018). Various geographic regions in Africa have been recognised by their diverse historical cultures that have impacted on modern

countries. Despite this wide and large geographical, political and cultural diversity, there are still several diverse international institutions that seek to address the continent's problems in a common forum, notably the African Union and the African Economic Community (de Coning, 2017).

Africa is rich in natural resources and yet remains the world's poorest and most under-developed continent due to political instability; economic exploitation; tribal conflict amongst different tribes in a nation; frequent military rule; the spread of diseases, particularly malaria and HIV/AIDS; corrupt governments known for committing serious human rights violations; high levels of poverty and illiteracy (Rodney, 2018). In 2003, the United Nations' Human Rights Development report posited that the bottom ranked nations from 151st to 175th were all in Africa (Olsa, 2005). According to a review by the World Bank, 80.5 per cent of the sub-Saharan countries are living in poverty (CIA, 2011; United Nations (UN), 2011; World Health Organisation (WHO), 2011). Therefore, before looking at specific countries with a prevalence of sexual abuse, it is essential to note that most of the boundaries of today's African nations were decided by the European colonial powers in the early 19th century by dividing the homogenous ethnic groups between several countries (Rodney, 2018). Nonetheless, modern Africa has been broadly divided into five sub-regional groupings by the United Nations, with countries sharing similar cultures, geographical area and linguistic traits. Due to this division, it is difficult to establish the prevalence of sexual abuse in a general African context without an empirical study of a country on its own (Lalor, 2004).

Africa has been said to be the continent worst affected by sexual abuse violence (Finkelhor, 1994; Pereda *et al.*, 2009) compared with other continents around the world. Within this region, especially sub-Saharan African countries, prevalence estimates vary widely. In an evaluation of 26 African-based studies, Meinck *et al.* (2015) estimate that between two per cent and 78 per cent of young girls below the age of 18 years' experience sexual abuse in their lifetime, which is difficult to expound upon. Media reports in sub-Saharan African countries indicate that there have been recorded sexual abuse of children as young as three months old (Meel, 2008). Various countries with different settings and research methods yield different sexual abuse prevalence rates. Differences in sexual violence estimates may result from different countries' contexts and variations in definitions, questioning techniques and measures used (Madu, 2003; Yahaya *et al.*, 2012).

Stoltenborgh *et al.* (2011) further evaluated sexual violence using a variety of different measures, ranging from self-report questionnaires to informant reports. The authors found that the prevalence of sexual abuse is estimated to be 20.2 per cent in females and 19.3 per cent in males in Africa who suffer sexual abuse during their lifetime. In another study carried out by Brown *et al.* (2009) in five African countries which sampled 22,656 students, it was reported that 22-29 per cent of young girls and 17-24 per cent of young boys respectively reported a prevalence of sexual abuse in their lifetimes. In a review on sexual abuse conducted in Morocco, Alami and Kadri (2004) acknowledge that sexual abuse is experienced via both non-contact and contact penetration. Of 278 women who were sampled, 27 of them had experienced a form of sexual abuse and 17 out of the 27 were reported to have experienced sexual abuse between the age of two and 10 years. However, the prevalence of sexual abuse in the study conducted in Morocco was estimated to be nine per cent based on the study. Alami (2004) stressed further that most of the victims knew their perpetrators and that incest appears to be the most distressing form of sexual abuse in Morocco. In Ethiopia comprehensive research was carried out to explore the incidence of sexual violence. A wide range study was carried out in a high school. Worku, Gebremariam and Jayalakhmi (2006) found that the most common form of sexual abuse is verbal harassment followed by sexual contact intercourse. In the study of 222 students sampled, about 36 per cent reported unwanted sexual advances by persons entirely unknown to them; around 31 per cent from school mates; 16 per cent were reported from the family; and 15 per cent from neighbours. The range of sexual abuse in Ethiopia is as high as 67 per cent. In Kenya and Tanzania, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Lalor's (2004) review on the prevalence of sexual abuse found that prostitution and rape of young females is on the rise. Lalor's (2004) study review in Tanzania proved that sexual relationships between a father and daughter or relatives with female children do occur, which are not always reported but settled within the family. Moreover, Oluga (2010) mentioned that in Tanzania, men believe that having sex with a young virgin girl cleanses them from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

In South Africa, the report of rape and sexual abuse towards both old and young women is on the increase. In the past few years, more than 67,000 cases of rape and sexual violence against children have been reported while more cases were in existence without being

reported (David, 2016). Awofala (2018) states that children under the age of seven are mostly affected also, South Africa is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world. The prevalence of sexual abuse, especially amongst young girls tends to be an outrageous epidemic in Africa where a myth exists that having sexual intercourse with a virgin will cure a man from HIV/AIDS (CIA, 2011; UN, 2011; WHO, 2011; Lalor, 2008; Madu, 2001; Madu and Peltzer, 2000).

Mchichi (2004) notified that the prevalence of sexual abuse in Morocco was at nine per cent, considering the subject of Islamic taboo in the country. Nevertheless, in the same study in Morocco, 728 women were interviewed and 27 of these women confirmed that they had had some experience of sexual violence in their lifetime. This proves that sexual abuse in northern Africa is relatively low and rare (Alami, 2004). Sexual violence affects people of different age groups and gender including males, while females are predominately affected by high levels of sexual abuse (Harvey *et al.*, 2007). Harvey went further in a survey carried out in South Africa and found that between seven and 48 per cent of adolescent girls and between 0.2 and 32 per cent of adolescent boys had forced sexual intercourse. Literature has made it known that sexual abuse affects all countries across the globe, with different statistics. While Finkelhor (1994) established that Africa is said to be the worst continent affected by sexual abuse.

2.2.5 Sexual violence against women and young girls

It has been revealed that both males and females can experience forms of sexual violence, but several studies have shown that there is a greater prevalence amongst women than men. Emphasising this further, Henry (2018) uncovered that sexual abuse is strongly gendered with more women reported as victims of sexual violence than men. The female gender is victim to violence in all areas, especially when challenged by males (Oladeji, 2013). Violence against women and girls is a common occurrence which has gained international recognition, and which is a serious violation of human rights. Globally, one in every three women is raped or abused in her lifetime (Heise, 1999). Most of this violence is committed by someone close to them (Akinlusi, 2014). Fawole (2008), and Oyediran and Cunningham (2014) opined from their review that the prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria is as high as 42 per cent. Acts of violence against women and young girls include rape (forced sex), physical

abuse, incest, female genital cutting/mutilation (FGC/M), denial of food, denial of a pleasant time to relax, early child marriage and forced marriage (Joda *et al.*, 2007). Violence is not attributed to being perpetrated against women alone as men are also abused sexually and physically (Javaid, 2016). However, violence against women and young girls is prevalent because women and young girls tend to be weaker by nature and are easy to target (Hynes, 2004). Hence, this research study identified the gap in literature on what makes some men in Africa, especially in the case of Nigeria as the research focus, sexually abuse the minors such as young girls, making them the victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Dunkle (2004) contends that violence against the female gender is predominately perpetrated by male gender. This occurs around the world but is more prevalent in developing countries as developed countries have implemented laws protecting women (Okemgbo, 2002). Ilika (2005) claims that women are involved in domestic violence by their male counterparts. In the same view, it is believed that power resides in the man as the head of the house, thus this is broadly the case in most societies and social economic groups, where political and interpersonal power remains with the man. Thus, Sen (1998) posits that power is gendered. The WHO noted that females between the ages of 15 to 44 years' experience some form of sexual partner violence, which is a major cause of death and disability amongst African women (Krug *et al.*, 2002). Abe (2012) notes that sexual violence is mostly presumed and maintained to be normal and is not recognised as a momentous problem that should be addressed as victims have been left to handle the issues. Literature and research findings established that women and young girls are the most affected victims of sexual abuse (rape) perpetrated by men. Thus, in recent years more young girls have become victims of rape.

2.2.6 Intimate partner abuse

Intimate partner abuse is a common behaviour or attitude in which a partner in an intimate relationship challenges to uphold power and control over the other using psychological, physical or sexual pressure (Lundgren, 2015). It is one of the most common forms of violence towards women by husbands or other intimate male partners. Partner abuse can take a variety of forms, including physical assault such as hitting, slapping, kicking and beating; psychological abuse such as constant belittling, intimidation and humiliation; and forced sex (World Health Organisation, 2012). Intimate partner abuse occurs in all countries and

surpasses social, economic, religious and cultural groups. According to the Demographic and Health Survey Report in Nigeria in 2013, the commission estimated females' lifetime exposure to intimate partner violence as 19 per cent for emotional intimate partner violence; 14 per cent for physical intimate partner violence; and five per cent for sexual intimate violence (NPC, 2014). A further study conducted in some regions in Nigeria reported a prevalence of intimate partner violence ranging from 42 per cent in the north (Tanimu, 2016); while in the south-west the prevalence is 29 per cent (Okenwa, 2009) and 78.8 per cent was reported in the south-east (Ndugasa Okemgbol, 2017), with 41 per cent in the south-south (Itimi, 2014). Scholars have also argued that violence against women and young girls is an expression of patriarchal domination of females by men, which is rooted in gender and power inequality (Lawson, 2012). In some societies men are regarded as the breadwinners, while women are expected to be the homemakers who care for the children and are economically dependent on men.

2.2.7 Culture of silence and denial of sexual abuse

Until recently, sexual abuse was a silent area of research in many African countries. The discussion of sex in public or to children below 18 years old is widely considered taboo and the topic was reserved for adults in many contexts (Gune and Manuel, 2011; Tamale, 2011). In the same context, in some Islamic countries in Africa such as Morocco, sexuality remains a taboo and the countries encourage young girls and women to adapt to the regulations with regards to not interacting with males (Alami, 2004). This has opened a broad space of inadequate discussion of sex education with young adolescent as a result of many adults or guardians not encouraging young children or adolescents to partake in open discussions about sex (Pattman, 2017). Talking about sex and sexuality has however become a necessity due to several gender-based violence risks such as sexual abuse, human trafficking, domestic abuse, forced prostitution and several sexual health risks such as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and abortions which affect young people on the continent (Cobbett, McLaughlin, and Kiragu, 2013).

Recently, efforts have been made to curb sexual abuse with the advent of sex education in many countries (Piot, 2001; Schwartlander, 2011). Nonetheless, Boler (2003) posits that sex education has been focused on children in elementary institutions and has been added to their

curricula. Wamoyi (2010) emphasises further and claims that sex education is a sterling way to reduce and curb the outrageous sexual violence and HIV/AIDS in the world community. Mbugua (2007) opposed early sexual education for children/ adolescents and proposed that in past years, until a person is matured or ready for marriage, coaching and counselling of sex education will not be considered. McLaughlin (2015) blamed global exposure and westernisation for the early sex education of children/adolescent before puberty or maturity age. McLaughlin went further regarding sex education and opined that children are not aware and not old enough to handle the information given to them properly. The incidence of sexual abuse has been debated by various researchers and there is a viral spread of the belief that sex education directly or indirectly encourages promiscuity among adolescents (Mkumbo, 2010). Nonetheless, there have been various denials and silence about sexual abuse across the world. Tillman, Bryant-Davis, Smith and Marks' (2010) research on sexual violence towards African women proved that a high number of African women experience sexual violence but are not likely to disclose or seek help in the aftermath of the experience. A crime survey in Nigeria (2012) proved that sexual violence in Nigeria is not reported as compared to other serious and outrageous crimes in the country (Cadmus, 2012). Imosemi's (2016) study discovered that over 700,000 women have been sexually abused in Northern Nigeria due to Boko Haram insurgency. Moreover, and in the same vein, Boakye (2009) claimed that in West Africa, due to under-reporting and fear of stigmatisation, the prevalence rate of sexual abuse is likely to be under-estimated. In Ethiopia, sexual violence goes beyond silence and undocumented due to the sensitive nature of the crime which affects the less powerful people in society whose voices will not be heard, such as young girls and women (Worku, 2002).

Priebe and Svedin (2008) and Walsh, MacMillan, Trocome, Jamieson and Boyle (2008) note that sexual abuse still remains undisclosed until the survivor feels comfortable to speak out or notify an agency about what has happened. Palermo, Bleck and Peterman (2013) and Priebe and Svedin (2008) note that low official reports of sexual abuse cases are sometimes linked to the delay and non-disclosure of the crime. Abeid (2014) and Jewkes (2005) study on sexual abuse in South Africa maintained that more than 60 per cent of girls who are victims of sexual abuse neglect to talk about the incident to their families or members of the community. A common reason for this is that they do not want to embarrass the family (Carson, 2019). Since the research study's main objective was to find out from men and

understand why some men sexually abuse the helpless young girls, the culture of silence on the reporting of sexual abuse from men in the society was among the reasons normalising the abuse. The literature and findings correlate as both established that there is a culture of silence against the disclosure of the sexual abuse of young girls; mainly because some victims are threatened by male perpetrators and some incidents are covered by the victims' families to either protect the minors from societal stigma or shame. Hence, in some cases, the study found that the family also cover the abuse if the male perpetrator is a family member to avoid disgracing the family in public. Such family excuses for not reporting the abuse of their young children are disturbing and of concern as sexual abuse may not break, because of the lack of answerability and accountability from the perpetrators.

2.2.8 Perpetrators of sexual abuse

Duru (2014) and Jamel (2012) assert that in most cases that are reported, the victims of sexual abuse know their perpetrators, who might be a member of the family or a close relative. Moore (2007) expresses further that abuse by family friends or close friends is very frequent as such friends take advantage of the closeness of the family to perpetuate the crime in complete secrecy. Jemel (2012) and Oseni (2016) posit that sexual abuse of adolescents and young children is under-reported due to several factors, such as the problem of stigmatisation (Moore, 2007). Oseni (2016) also discloses in a study on the sexual abuse of minors, that the perpetrators of this crime plead with and threaten victims against the disclosure of the crime. In a case where the victims finally disclose the crime to a parent or guardian, they prevent such victim from reporting it to the law enforcement authorities, as the perpetrator might be a member of the family. The family is trying not to disgrace a member of the family or tarnish the image of the family in society by not reporting the crime.

Sexual abuse that takes place within the family by members of the family; such incidents are always overlooked, and a formal report would not be made to the police (Jewkes, 2005). Likewise, Abied, (2014:6) states that in most African countries, it is believed that reporting of such incidents would bring embarrassment to the family and put 'the family's' honour and reputation at stake. Therefore, not enough evidence has been gathered to identify the effects of sexual abuse on the family of the victims in society. Nonetheless, most families prefer to settle the dispute amongst themselves and not involve the law enforcement agencies. Ozo-

Eson (2008) attests to the fact that there is a feeling of shame, distress, guilt and being criticised by the victim, making them not divulge that they have been sexually abused. Hardy and Kilmer (2014) also authenticate that in many cases of sexual violence, the perpetrators are known to the victims and are usually people in positions of trust. Just a few sexual abuse cases are reported to the law enforcement agencies and are not given the appropriate recognition that such a case deserves. Thus, most perpetrators of sexual abuse go unpunished (Moore and Amusabo-Asare, 2007). In a study conducted in Lagos, Nigeria, 54.6 per cent of rape cases confirmed that the assailants were neighbours, with the sexual act occurring in the neighbour's home (Akinlusi *et al.*, 2014).

In another study on sexual abuse conducted in Bayelsa state in southern Nigeria, Duru (2010) mentioned that 16.6 per cent of sexual abuse committed on young girls was perpetrated by members of the family. Moore *et al.* (2007) aver in their study of sexual violence perpetrated against adolescents and young children in sub-Saharan Africa that almost all the victims of sexual abuse knew their perpetrators. Lily, Collin and Sara (2009) stated that a majority of men prefer young girls as sexual partners because it is believed that they are sexually inexperienced and are not exposed to infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. Wood and Jewkes (1998) conveyed that teachers threaten schoolgirls to have sexual intercourse with them or fail at the end of the academic year. Jewkes (2002) went further and buttressed that if these girls are not willing to have sexual intercourse with the teachers, they either fail or receive low marks.

The literature is relevant to the study as it established that, not only in Nigeria but also in Africa and the globe at large, most men are perpetrators of sexual abuse of young girls. Therefore, the research findings support the literature as it asserts that most men who are above 18 years of age are likely to abuse women sexually, just like some men in Nigeria. The findings for this research revealed that male perpetrators use their patriarchal traits to oppress most females, including taking advantage and sexually abusing young girls. It was also established that the perpetrators of sexual abuse might also be close or related or known to most young victims and survivors.

2.2.9 Dominance and influence of patriarchy

The study on sexual abuse by Le Brun and Fraser (2015) maintains that the socio-cultural factors in African nations on the dominance and patriarchy of men has made them believe that they must have sexual satisfaction. Therefore, a father would rape his daughter merely because his wife or sexual partner might be away from home. In most African countries, kingship patterns are followed, and the power and authorities are vested in male offspring (Jekwes, 2005). Decision-making in these countries is vested in men. In the same vein, women are limited in making decisions. Their opinions can be heard but will not be given appropriate concern like those of men. Abeid, (2014) states that when men have sexual intercourse with multiple partners, they are encouraged and perceived as strong men.

The African continent is mostly a male-dominated society where men create the notion that sex in their life needs to be constant and they are permitted to have sexual satisfaction, even with a child (Amadiume, 2015). According to a study conducted in South Africa and Namibia, Jewkes (2005) argues that there is a high dominance of patriarchy and hierarchy of men in the African society, thus men are regarded as having a high prestige when compared to female children and women. Dartnall (2013), Nowrojee (2005) and Turshen (2001) proposed that the perpetrators of sexual abuse are in diverse categories as the culprit may act alone or have several accomplices, they could be adults or other children of the same age or older (Finkelhor, Shattuck, Turner and Hamby, 2014). Studies have proven that both males and females (Aebi *et al.* 2012; Wijkman, Bijleveld and Hendriks, 2014) are culpable of committing sexual acts against children. The perpetrators of sexual abuse may also comprise of non-offenders who do not partake in the sexual act directly but assist in facilitating the event, such as a person who trades children into prostitution on a commercial basis (Hodge and Lietz, 2007). Abuse of this nature explains and illustrates cases of sexual exploitation and the human trafficking of young girls. These activities have been recognised as special categories of sexual abuse (Bolen and Gergely, 2015).

These special categories of sexual assault may be evident in low income countries where conditions of poverty and abuse is high (Meinck, Cluver, Boyes and Mholongo, 2015; Lalor 2008; Sossou and Yogtiba, 2008). Providing added indications from the same study, Wortley and Smallbone (2006) distinguished that some of these sexual offenders limited their sexual activities to only one victim. Additionally, in about 93.5 per cent of the cases, the offenders were known to the victims, which signifies that the victims and the perpetrators are mostly

within the same communal location. Globally, there was inadequate indication to demonstrate that the offender's actions were exacerbated by an addiction to child pornography or even an unavoidably general sexual preference for children. In an assessment of these verdicts, Smallbone (2013) proposed that certain situations such as environmental cues, stressors, lures and professed incitements occur during recurrent contact with the victim and deteriorate self-restraint and controls on behaviour. In summation, these pre-conditions intensify or ease the chance for a stirred perpetrator to sexually abuse, given the accessibility of a child and the absence of a guardian to prevent the incident from happening (Wortley, 2013).

In conclusion, Smallbone (2013) argued that not all males (both adult and the young ones) commit sexual violence on young girls, however they might develop the biological propensity to perform this act. Smallbone (2011) went further and mentioned that the aspects of a youngster's social environment confine the chances of sexual abuse. Individuals study how to abstain from perpetrating the sexual abuse of young children/adolescents based on facts attained through their understanding with others, primarily from their elementary life attachments (Gottfredson and Hirschi, 1990). Nonetheless, there is little or no published literature in Nigeria that has fully investigated men's opinions on the sexual abuse of young girls.

2.2.10 Role of media and reports of sexual violence

The media platform has been recognised as one of the major means of identifying, monitoring and exposing any form of sexual abuse (McWhirter, 2007). The media has also created much damage by spreading messages and pictures that reveal reckless sexual behaviour. Bourke and Donohue (1996) gave evidence that 89 per cent of sexual offenders have been exposed to pornography in their lifetimes. Media reports and state prosecutors specified that rape in Nigeria by the police and security forces occurs at an alarming rate. It is difficult to evaluate the level to which the law-enforcement agencies perpetrate gender-based violence against women and young girls or the state's failure to prosecute and punish sexual offenders (Eyong, 2019). There is a lack of comprehensive figures which makes it more difficult to access (Mudiare, 2013). Amnesty International also considered the lack of records of sexual violence. However, Ugwanyi, (2019) calls the lack of official records part of the problem. A nationwide survey was carried out in 2005 by the CLEEN Foundation, a Nigerian non-

governmental organisation which promotes justice, security and public safety. They found in their review that only 18.1 per cent (less than one in five) of respondents who had been a victim of sexual violence had reported the offence to the police. There are numerous reasons for this which have been well-documented and researched. Sexual violence victims go through social stigma resulting in their rejection by families (Herman, 2015). The police sometimes resist making official reports, whereas some victims are skeptical about reporting rape incidents since some police officials are the perpetrators (Amnesty International, 2005; Onyejekwe, 2009). Corruption in the Nigerian system has discouraged victims from reporting sexual violence acts. Nonetheless a few cases are reported and even get to the courts. Those that go to the courts are not given the necessary attention they deserve, observes David (2018).

Some victims are unable to obtain a medical examination to substantiate their report, or they simply do not know how to report rape and obtain help. Although rape is a wide-ranging problem across all states in Nigeria, the occurrence of rape is also committed by state actors (Aborisade, 2018). The Director for Women's Affairs in Nigeria stated that around 60 per cent of violence against women is committed in army barracks or police stations, according to research by a non-governmental organisation. Moreover, Jewkes and Abrahams (2002) described the prevalent corruption of the police officials when offenders are reported. Victims of this crime do not trust police officials and many victims fear reporting their experiences of sexual assault to the police. Bribery and corruption are barriers as victims report offenders of sexual abuse and the offenders bribe the police and get away with the crime (Ajayi, 2018). The media also plays a vital role in exposing sexual offenders. This idea could also be shifted as an educational tool making people aware of the many sexual crimes perpetrated against children and adolescents (Save the Children, 2003).

2.2.11 Victims of sexual abuse

There are diverse studies from sub-Saharan African countries and other parts of the world showing that sexual abuse is a known public problem in society (Reza, 2009). In recent years, there has been great attention on the sexual abuse which has been affecting females around the world. According to police reports, data indicates that young girls are at a higher risk of being a victim of sexual abuse (Folayan, 2014). However, the prevalence of sexual abuse on

young girls ranging from 13-15 years old in a study survey of five countries in Africa ranges from nine to 33 per cent (Brown, 2009). Lalor (2004), in a comparative study on the prevalence of sexual abuse in South Africa showed that between 3.2 and 7.1 per cent report to have experienced unwanted or forced sexual intercourse as a child. Reza's (2009) study in Swaziland on the prevalence of sexual abuse of young girls before the age of 18 years old found it to be 33.2 per cent between 13-24 years of age. In Nigerian society, women and young girls experience regular violence (Oladeji, 2013). Such acts of violence include rape (known as forced sex), verbal abuse, physical abuse, forced marriage and child marriage (Joda *et al.*, 2007).

Scholars have argued that the variance of age between the victims and the perpetrators poses a construct of inequality that reflects the power of an adult preserve, which the young adolescent girl lacks (Brownmiller, 2013; Cossins, 2000). Adolescent/young girls under the age of 18 are considered less powerful within society, thus the perpetrators find them easy to target (Townsend, 2004). It is agreed that children/adolescents are physically weak and depend on adults for their day-to-day wellbeing. The dependency of young females on adults, especially males, puts them at a greater risk to be victimised while it is also difficult for them to strike back at the offender (Lynch, 1991; Lauritsen, 2009). On many occasions, many young girls have been sexually abused after their drinks have been doctored, in which case it is difficult to identify the perpetrators (Jewkes, 2005). Alcohol directly or indirectly creates a favourable environment for the act of rape to take place (Jewkes, 2005), furthermore Jewkes and Abraham's (2002) study stressed that alcohol is likely to be involved as an agent accompanying sexual crime on females of all ages. In a further study by Jewkes (2005) it was identified that alcohol was a major accomplice for offenders to commit sexual acts.

Further studies indicate that there is considerable research evidence to suggest that these sexual experiences are forced on the victims (Kuate-Defo, 2004). In a study, Manlove *et al.* (2005) found that sexual relationships involving female victims were more likely to be with an older person compared to the sexual experiences of their male counterparts. A similar study by Gowen *et al.* (2004) found that female sexual relationships with older persons were more likely to be characterised by coercion and power differentials as compared to other girls who were in similar sexual relationships with same-age mates. Abeidd (2014) reports that various studies indicate that women are not always believed when disclosing that they have

been a victim of sexual abuse, and they are often accused of consenting to the sexual violence act. Similarly, Collin-Vezina (2013) maintained that victims are often considered as bad people and deserving of being sexually abused or they are blamed for being responsible for the abuse. Hence, there is a need to justify the victims of sexual abuse and to understand the effect of these abusive incidents on the victims. Hence, literature reviewed established the relevance to the research conducted by the researcher to try and understand, based on male voices and perspectives, why some men or males rather sexually abuse young girls. The African saying postulates that abusive men are not men but males rather – and this fairly applies to men who sexually abuse young girls and women, including other people.

2.2.12 Sexual abuse HIV/AIDS and the virgin cleansing myth

Recently, there has been a drastic increase in the rape of children due to those who believe that having sex with a virgin can cure HIV/AIDS (Adelman, 2010). The virgin myth accounts for the reason for infant rape. In some African countries, local traditional healers advocate that having sexual intercourse with a virgin is an effective way to acquire wealth, to achieve greatness and success in business, as well as to receive cures and protection against sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Lalor, 2008; Mngqundaniso, 2008). The misconception of having sex with a virgin as cleansing for HIV/AIDS is popularly referred to as the “virgin cleansing myth” (Townsend, 2004). Groce and Trasi, (2004) and Bowley and Pitcher, (2002) argued that the “virgin cleansing myth” has been in practice for a very long time, as far back as the 16th century, amongst a section of men in Europe who believed the myth that having sexual intercourse with a virgin could cure a person infected with a terminal disease. Leclerc-Madlala (2009) posits in a study carried out in the Kwazulu-Natal province in South Africa that traditional healers are of the notion that sex with a virgin may have the effect of facilitating a cure and the prevention of terminal disease.

Some factual studies affirmed that the virgin cleansing myth is common and a contributor to a notable number of sexual abuse cases (Townsend *et al.*, 2004). Mitibo, Kennedy and Umar (2011) carried out a study in a Malawian prison among men who were convicted of sexual violence crimes and found 58 offenders who mentioned that it occurred as a process to cure or avoid HIV/AIDS infection. Similarly, in some African countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya, the dominance of men and the existence of patriarchy has made men

exercise superiority over females. Boakye (2009), Olley (2008) and Lalor (2004) mentioned that men are also weak and unable to control their sexual urges, which makes them have forced sexual intercourse with young girls and the less privileged in society. Sexual abuse in young adolescents or children has been found to be strong evidence for risky sexual behaviour and substance abuse, and HIV infection as an adult (Fawole, 2002). Recently in the early months of 2019, the stealing of female panties for ritual purposes by internet fraudsters in their quest to get rich has gradually replaced the killing of humans and the harvesting of human parts which used to be a norm. It is believed that the discharge from a ladies' private parts on any stolen panty is vital for money rituals (Nnauwube, 2019; Vanguard, 2019). The literature helped the researcher to seek the understanding of why men believe in the sexual myth of young girls, which helped to find other reasons, apart from HIV/AIDS cleansing, of why men sexually abuse young girls.

2.2.13 The incidence of sexual abuse in Nigeria

Recently, the incidence of sexual abuse of young girls in Nigeria is on high increase (Akinlusi, 2014; Ogunfowokan, 2012; Akin-Odanye, 2018; Omosefe, 2018). Nonetheless cases of sexual abuse and violence against women has become a regular fixture in the Nigerian media reports (Punch, 2016; Daily Post, 2016). Kunnji and Esiet, (2015) and Daru, (2011) noted that it has become regular for young girls between 13-19 years of age and even younger (as young as infants in Nigeria) to be victims of sexual abuse or assault. Young adult women and adolescents fall victim to sexual abuse. Nonetheless older women are not spared from being victims of this crime. According to the Child Right Act (2003) in Nigeria, a child is considered as an individual below the age of 18 years, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) went further by stating that everyone under the age of 18 years, regardless of the gender origin, religion or possible disabilities is regarded as a child. It also stated that sexual acts with adolescents under the age of 18 are considered a criminal offence. It asserts that a child's rights should be protected against all forms of sexual violence. Esedi (2015) posits in his study that there are several cases which are very displeasing. Now and then, it has been reported that teachers rape students; armed robbers rape victims; religious leaders rape members of the congregation; a man rapes his daughter-in-law or sister-in-law; masters raping housemaids; a security man sexually abusing his master's wife; a boss

sexually abusing his staff; fathers sexually abusing daughters; a young man sexually abusing a grandmother; minors abusing minor mates; and old men sexually abusing young girls.

From these assertions, it is striking that sexual abuse is a shocking reality in Nigeria. Achunike's (2014) study notes that it is quite glaring that the prevalence of sexual abuse is on the high side in Nigeria. According to a report by Punch newspaper, a department under the Lagos State Ministry of Justice has raised an alarm over the increase in the rate of sexual abuse and rape within the state (Punch, 2012). Another report by the Nation newspaper on October 5, 2012, shows that a 70-year-old was banished for defiling a three-year-old child in Imo State. Additionally, a father was alleged to have raped his own eight-year-old daughter and murdered his wife for reporting the plight of the daughter to the police (Punch, 29th November 2012). The Lord Bishop of Osun State in Nigeria, Rev Afolabi Popoola, linked the increasing rate of sexual abuse of minors by men in the state to rituals. He went further to state that such an act of sexual abuse on young girls by men is an unpleasant act which could be linked to ritual practices in the quest for material acquisition (Punch, March 20th, 2012).

To shed more light on this, in Nigeria the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development raised a voice on the high increase of sexual violence against women and young girls in Nigeria (Punch 30th January 2012). In another review on the incidence of rape in a city in Nigeria, from police records, it is indicated that 124 cases were reported, and all the victims were females whose ages were less than 15 years (Balan, 2004). There have been many notable occurrences of sexual abuse lately in Nigeria. Igbokure in the Sunday Punch of April 28, 2007, reported that a number of female students in some parts of the country in primary and secondary schools protested to the then Minister of Education, Dr (Mrs) Ezekwesili, about the sexual harassment which they had been experiencing from their male teachers. The students expressed to the minister that they are in school to learn and not to be sexually humiliated. Young girls and women at all stages of their lives are often the victims of sexual abuse. However, in Nigeria, much attention has been drawn to female children and adolescents. The south-western part of Nigeria consists of the Yoruba ethnic group where many traditional customs disregard the coercion of females on sexual issues (Akanle, 2011). It is believed that a male could force sex on a female if he has spent a lot of money on her (Smith, 2018). Even if a woman reports the sexual violence, the society tends to blame the

female. The economic crisis and poverty in Nigeria are linked to the exposure of females to sexual violence, making them increasingly vulnerable to sexual coercion and unable to resist pressure from older men who provide money in exchange for sex. Some parents encourage and force their female children to partake in early marriage even if it is against the wishes of the young girls (Agege, 2018).

Baby factory in Nigeria

The prevalence of abuse and sexual violation in Nigeria cannot be discussed without mentioning the growing practice of the baby factory (Alabi, 2018). The escalated growth of the 'baby factory' is alarming. Eseadi, Achagh, Ikechukwu-Ilomuanya and Ogbuabor, (2015) claim that the term baby factory refers to a location where women and young girls are encouraged/forced to get pregnant for selling their new offspring. Alabi (2018) attests to the fact that baby factories in Nigeria have weakened the fundamental human rights of some women and young girls whereby they are held hostage and turned into a baby manufacturing engine. Nonetheless, human trafficking has also been penetrating the system in Nigeria as a way of persuading young girls into prostitution. Literature has established that the baby factory has become a growing business in Nigeria, where females are abused by unknown men and are turned into a sex machines to manufacture babies for those who are considered infertile. This study seeks to understand those who might be the perpetrators of such sexual abuse.

Human trafficking

The phenomenon of human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer and harbouring of persons, using threats or force or other forms of abduction. It is an enormous, driven global business with a huge market (UNESCO, 2006; Nagle, 2008; Wheaton, Schauer and Galli, 2010; Scarpa, 2008; Nagle, 2007). Iyanda (2016) probed further and explained trafficking as the trading of humans by moving an individual, after recruiting the person from a particular location, to another with the promise of a good job or an offer of a good life through the use of deception, force or fraud to persuade the individual. In statistical evidence on human trafficking in Nigeria, Okojie (2009) stated that more than 100 girls between the ages of ten and 15 years are transported from Nigeria to Togo to Europe. In Italy, 1880-2500 minors have worked as street prostitutes in Italy, and in recent years there has been a high

increase in reported cases (UNICEF/CRC/UNILAG, 2009). Edo State in Nigeria reports to have the highest number of trafficked women and young girls in the country (UNESCO, 2006). Other forms of abuse include child labour, domestic service known as house help in Nigeria and the agricultural labour of children (Omokhodion, 2010). Recently the harvesting and selling of human organs has become the latest trend (Iyanda and Nwogwugwu, 2016). Nonetheless, young girls have always encountered problems arising from gender inequality. Besides this, there are various health and socio-cultural and educational problems to which these young girls are exposed such as street hawking, which is a form of child labour in developing countries like Nigeria, whereby young females sell beverages and consumable goods in the traffic (Dada, 2013). The study of sexual abuse cannot be discussed without mentioning the human trafficking of women and young girls (Omorodion, 2009). This speaks to the study as it explains the diverse means of abuse on young girls and women.

Early/forced marriage

In Nigeria, especially in the northern states, there is a prevalence of early child marriage in rural communities (UNICEF, 2014). Young girls are given away for marriage at a very tender age in order to increase the wealth of the family through the payment of the bride's price, with a high value placed on virginity (Fayokun, 2015; Akinwumi, 2009). Nonetheless, Section 18 of the Marriage Act in the Nigerian Constitution (Braimah, 2014) established that a child below the age of twenty-one can be married only if consent is obtained from the parents. Olusegun, (2016) noted the implication of this provision is that young girls as young and early as 15 years can be married once consent is given by the parents, which conflicts with the clear provision of the Child Right Act in Nigeria (Child Right Act of 2003). Literature has made it clear that the early marriage of young girls has become a popular debate amongst members of the public in Nigeria (Nnadi, 2014). This study seeks to understand the possible perpetrators of sexual abuse in the society.

Chibok girls

The abduction of 276 schoolgirls by Boko Haram has remained a shocking and unforgettable incident in Nigeria and the global community, and which became a popular phenomenon on Twitter, with over 3.3 million tweets across the world. However, very little is known about the abuse of these young girls by Boko Haram. Many of the abducted women and young girls

were exposed to sexual abuse; physical abuse; psychological abuse; forced labour; forced marriage with a reputed “bride price” of 2000 Naira each (\$12.50/£7.50); forced participation in military operations including carrying ammunition; and sexual abuse including rape (Agbibo, 2014; Buba, 2015; Oriola, 2018).

A few cases of gang rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence by Boko Haram terrorists against women and young girls in the north-eastern part of Nigeria were recorded, but a countless number of victim’s fear speaking about it or are too humiliated to talk about it. A leader of a newspaper, correspondent Kareem Haruna, argued further that there may be hundreds more women and young girls who have been raped in their homes, some may have been infected with some sexually transmitted disease or left with unwanted pregnancies (Buba, 2015). Many of the victims have been challenged with psychological problems and may not be able to get a remedy for a long time (Ikpeazu, 2014). It has been highlighted in the literature that sexual abuse has an effect on the victims, which is relevant to the findings as it explains the effect of sexual abuse on the victims.

Sexual abuse of the disabled

The incidence of sexual abuse against children and adults with disabilities is becoming recognised and is causing serious concern. Females with disabilities tend to be more exposed to abuse of various kinds, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence and exploitation (Arulogun, 2012). Disabled females are also victims of sexual exploitation because they are in a state of physical, social and economic dependency (Driedger, 1996). Hugues (2012) and Jones (2012) argue that people with disabilities are at a higher risk of sexual abuse compared to the general populace.

This has led to increased vulnerability to exploitation and violence. It has also been testified that because of the relative segregation and concealment in which females with disabilities live, the chances of physical and emotional abuse are high. Reports estimate that having a disability doubles an individual's likelihood of being assaulted (UNDP Reports 2012; Arulogun 2011). Children/adolescents with disabilities, including deaf children, have been found to be at greater risk of sexual abuse both in schools, at home and within the community. Arulogun (2012) posits in a study on deaf and hearing children at a language institute in Nigeria that 54 per cent of deaf boys are sexually abused as compared to ten per cent of

hearing boys. Deaf girls reported a 50 per cent rate of sexual violence as compared to 25 per cent of hearing girls. The literature affirms that sexual abuse is also perpetrated on disabled young girls and adult women. This is relevant to the study as it positioned the researcher to understand the extent of sexual abuse perpetrated on females generally.

2.2.14 Sexual abuse in Ibadan

Recently, there have been severe reports of sexual violence in urban south-western states in Nigeria, such as Ibadan city (Osungbade, 2011). Media reports that over 20 cases of sexual abuse were reported every month in Ibadan city alone (Punch, 2016; Daily post, 2016). Various legal practitioners in Ibadan city explained that the Nigerian society was in a serious immorality crisis with different degrees of disintegration in social values and norms (Onyelemelam, 2013; The Eagles, 2013). The legal advisor to the Nigerian Union of Journalists in Oyo State, Ibadan chapter, based on a survey which was carried out in Ibadan city, mentioned that sexual abuse is one of the social vices currently damaging the society (Premium Times, 26:2013). The review conducted found that the menace is now affecting under-aged girls, which is leaving victims with terrible experiences.

Onyejekwe (2009) maintains that the Nigerian constitution defines rape and spells out the penalties for offenders, which range from two to 14 years jail term depending on the severity of the crime and the discretion of the court. A non-governmental organisation (NGO), Love Clinic in Ibadan city, has also raised an alarm over the increase of sexual abuse, especially of young girls below 18 years (Sterzing and Johnson, 2017). For instance, in Ibadan city, a man was arrested for raping a 10-year-old girl, while a 29-year-old adult male was also alleged for sexually abusing a six-year-old girl, which has a psychological effect on the victims (Ogunwale, 2017). Nevertheless, not enough investigative evidence has been gathered on why adult men are sexually attracted to girls of these age groups. Arulogun (2012) and Olaleye (2007) made it known that the sexual abuse of girls with disabilities is also prevalent in Ibadan city but only a few cases eventually get reported and less attention is given to such cases at police stations (Fawole, 2008). From the literature on sexual abuse, the review has helped to understand the prevalence of sexual abuse, which is perpetrated mainly by men in the Ibadan community and Africa at large.

2.2.15 Impact of sexual abuse on the victims

There have been various research studies in the past two decades on the impact of sexual abuse on a victim, which can have a short and a long-term negative impact including somatic and psychological health problems leading to emotional instability, depression, low self-esteem, a sense of helplessness, self-blame, suicide, substance abuse and distress (Mannon and Leitschuh, 2002; Molnar *et al.*, 2001; Nurcombe, 2000; Paolucci *et al.*, 2001). Sexual abuse contributes a higher risk of sexual and reproductive health problems, mental health problems, increased health problems and other behavioural problems (Jewkes, Penn-Kekana and Rose-Junis, 2005).

Molnar, Buka and Kessler's (2001) study proved that sexual abuse causes disruption in an individual's life, leading to difficulty in relating to others due to the stressful event and emotional challenges. Cash and Snow (2001) extenuate the impact of sexual abuse as emotional difficulties and behavioural problems resulting in depression, anxiety and inappropriate sexual behaviour. Cash and Snow (2001) suggest that if these negative impacts are not treated at an early stage, then the problem will escalate and cause more problems for the victims. Lalor (2004; 2008) affirms that HIV is transmitted to victims through incest, rape, prostitution and the exploitation of young girls, which has become a growing distress in many African countries, predominately in the sub-Saharan nations. However, of the 53 countries in Africa, sexual abuse has not obtained a great deal of critical analysis. Groce (2005) noted that sexual violence on young adolescents has augmented the possibilities of mental health problems throughout their lives. Apart from detachment from people and other forms of mental health disorders associated with sexual abuse. Collin-Vezina (2013) maintains that victims who have been abused demonstrate high levels of mental and mood disorders. To shed more light on this, teenage girls who have been victims of sexual abuse often engage in substance abuse and suicide attempts. Collin-Vezina (2013) and Pasha and Nyokangi (2012) posit that apart from mental illness, victims may have the impression of being troubled, disgusting and powerless in the society. Banks (2013); Maxwell, Belser and David (2007) proved that a young girl who has been a victim of sexual violence may not be considered suitable for marriage. Women as victims of this sexual violence may be held responsible for the attack and for the moral failing of the community. The impact of sexual abuse such as physical, psychological and social consequences may stay with victims for years, whereas in the immediate aftermath, a victim is likely to bear pain from the injuries from the

incident. This is relevant to the study as it seeks to uncover the impact of sexual abuse on young girls.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Introduction

Theories in a research work help to identify and construct ideas to the problem under study. The theoretical aspect of research enlightens and broadens the scope of knowledge, which enables the area of research to be understood. Bickely and Beech (2001) went further and agreed to the fact that sociological and biological theories have been able to describe different sexual behaviour, but this has not clarified the appealing factors which make an older person have sexual intercourse with a young girl. Therefore, sexual abuse can be studied through a combination of theories with the aim of understanding different perceptions and the reasons behind why men abuse young girls. Thus, this study is steered by two theories; the Radical Feminist theory and Hegemonic Masculinity. These theories investigate and help understand why men sexually abuse young girls. These theories help to expound the body of knowledge and relate the theories to the sexual abuse of young girls and why men abuse them. Brownmiller (1975) maintains that various researchers have influenced the wave to address violence against women and young girls and to examine the power that leads men to commit sexual crimes against females. Studies also try to fathom why women and young girls are subjected to being victims. The idea of men as perpetrators and women and young girls as victims has been under study for decades and is still demanding both within academia and the public/legislation. Melrose (2013) is of the opinion that there is a need to understand the causes of sexual crimes perpetrated by adult males on young children. Before addressing the theory, there is a need to understand the meaning of masculinity and feminism. Masculinity can be described as those characteristics of behaviour associated with a man, which he is expected to display or attain as a social construct (West, 1987). Feminism is a social movement commonly shared to achieve social equality of the sexes (Hawkesworth, 2006). This includes education, professional prospects for women and equal rights to men.

This theoretical perspective provides a proper foundation to examine the concept of sexual abuse. This was achieved by identifying the main tenants of the theory which gave a clear understanding of the research problem and its relevance to the study. The theories contributed

to the study by identifying patriarchy as a major means of oppression to females, as men exhibit patriarchal, oppressive and aggressive traits against women and young girls. It also gave a proper understanding on victimisation of females, not only in Nigeria but also on the African continent.

2.3.2 Radical Feminist theory

The radical feminist movement began during the women's liberation movement in the 1960's which was motivated by the second wave feminist movement as a result of dissatisfaction with the liberal and Marxist feminists (Tong, 2013). This opened the space for an invigorating human view into the field of feminism. The primary players of the second wave feminist movement who influenced the movement of radical feminism include: Kathie Sarachild, Shulamith Firestone, Ti-Grace Akinson, Judith Brown and Carol Hanish Ryan *et al.* (2013). Radical feminists grew to influence the civil rights of women (Sarah, 2001). The arguments of radical feminists were on gender oppression and patriarchy. This assertion implies that gender oppression is the root of all other oppression that can be observed in society. According to Jaggar (1983), women were historically the first group to be systematically dominated in society. Therefore, the subordination of women is a form of domination that should be tackled first. Radical feminists claim that gender oppression certainly penetrates the life of every woman, regardless of whether she recognises it or not. Oppressive gender roles are so deeply entrenched in the traditions and customs of society that they are virtually unseen, except to the person who is actively trying to see them. The radicals also posit that gender is the most powerful social structure and method of cultural control in society. Radical feminists argue further that gender inevitably affects an individual's experience in the legal sense, the workforce, family structure, education and psychological perspectives. The radical thought emphasised the social distinction between men and women as part of the oppression that women are facing, arguing further that women are both controlled and subordinated through the regulation of gender norms, reproductive duties and the denigration of traditionally female-centered values. The theory was able to contribute to the study by identifying patriarchy as a major cause of oppression over the females.

In-depth explanation of the radical feminist argument

Radical feminists focus on the difference between a woman and a man. They identified a significant and biological difference between men and women, especially in the reproductive

aspect. The theory adheres to a postulation that discrimination against women as a “sex class” is at the root of all other oppressions, economic or political (Eisenstein, 1984).

Radical feminism has a significant influence on contemporary debates on issues such as abortion, sexual abuse and/or assaults and violence against women, especially domestic violence. In the same notion, Lorber (1997) argues that the radical feminism battleground has been on rape, condemnation of women, prostitution and the sexual harassment of women. Radical feminism has the notion that most men have the potential to use physical violence against women, including rape and murder (Lorber, 1997).

The radical feminism catch-phrase is about “men’s oppression” or patriarchy and exploitation of women and young girls, which can be found whenever a woman interacts with a man in public as well as private places (Campbell, 2000). Men derive their power from their dominant social status. Okpe (2005) explained patriarchy as a broad system of hierarchical organisation that cuts across all spheres where the upper positions are dominated and controlled by men. Hence, any system that operates more disadvantageously towards a woman can be considered patriarchal. Radical feminism advocates that patriarchal power is not only positioned in political and legal institutions alone, but cuts across all spheres of society.

Therefore, the radical feminist theory postulates that in most societies, women are oppressed because of the patriarchal dominant values entrenched in most social systems (Sultana, 2010). Probing further, patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power and dominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and the control of property (Burke, 1999; Johnson, 1997). Thus, radical feminists argue that male power is the root of all social problems (Mkhize, 2012; Thompson, 2001). The theoretical argument is of the opinion that men oppress women and have the potential to use physical violence against women including rape, wife beating, murder of ex-wife/ex-girlfriends, women hating and the global exploitation of girls and young women in the prostitution of young girls in society. Makama (2013) posits that patriarchy explains the demotion of women in education, politics, business and family inheritance. Most African societies are male dominated where men create the notion that sex in their life needs to be constant and they are permitted to have sexual satisfaction and domineering power over females (Jewkes, 2005; Amadiume, 2015). The

relevance of the radical feminist theory was to contribute to the study by identifying the major cause of oppression over females, which is patriarchy. From the findings, the theory was able to identify patriarchal stereotypes of blaming the victims and not the perpetrators of sexual abuse which has helped to understand the extent of oppression on females.

Application of the theory

This theory can be applied in the Nigerian cultural society, which is a highly patriarchal society where men have the notion of a sense of ownership of a woman once he is married to her. Similarly, men are classified as the upper class in the society, while the female gender is categorised as the lower- or second-class group. Furthermore, according to Erla (2006), in the past centuries the majority of men are of the notion that women are irrational, vulnerable and incapable of being independent. They are viewed as lower class. In earlier days and in some African countries, women were considered to be one of a man's belongings, just like any property, and are expected to show a form of submission and obedience which would serve as the sign of a good wife (Eaton, 2003). The dominance of patriarchy has been entrenched in the various cultural practices, where males are the more privileged group in society and occupy positions of control within various aspects of the society, in the process subjugating and oppressing women and children (Asiyanbola, 2005). The above theory proved useful to understanding and helping to understand the domineering power of men as a conceivable means to commit a sexual crime on young girls. In Nigeria, the culture has been entrenched into the societal norms where men are classified as the major dominating group in the society, in this context Nigeria, which is a highly patriarchal society where men still have the notion that women are to assist a man when needed and where, subconsciously, women are not given the same rights as that of a man. A man is believed to be in-charge or to hold executive positions and a woman is a subordinate. Drawing this view to a family setting, this has limited females to equal rights as a man, whereas the domineering power and oppressive behaviour of a man has created a shadow of fear of the opposite sex where a man is likely to display violent traits due to his oppressive behaviour. The demonstration of this oppression can lead to the sexual abuse of young girls by proving a man's strength towards the opposite sex and showing off his domineering ability. Thus, oppression by men in society is likely to plant fear in females, especially young girls, due to the traits of violence and positions of authority men hold in society. Nevertheless, the theory states that the oppression

of women is likely to always favour men's action, even when he is wrong while exhibiting these domineering traits.

Based on these tenets, radical feminism becomes useful in understanding Nigerian cultural practices which promote men to be masculine. Furthermore, the African notion that men are in control has influenced the limitation of women's right. Even cultural practices allow men to feel superior. For instance, the notion of most Nigerians in a traditional cultural society is that men are expected to control their wives and any other females in society. These notions of men as the superior authority has led to a lot of gender and human rights imbalance in Nigerian society. For instance, the oppressive behaviour of men has led to numerous cases of violence such as domestic violence and the sexual exploitation of young girls. Probing further, some men are perceived as knowing all. They act as a counsellor and regular adviser in society to females. From these verdicts, men are likely to oppress women and deceive young girls in order to sexually exploit them. Radical feminists argue that all existing institutions such as political, economic, social and cultural institutions need to be radically transformed (Bell, 2002). Women have a painful history of legal, cultural and sexual oppression that the radical feminists understand as being a result of the devaluation of the female gender. One of the gender-based differences of the radical feminist critique is that the cultural creation of gender roles ultimately places women in a subordinate position.

Men derive their power from their dominant social status in society, which can explain the sexual relationship in a heterosexual society such as Nigeria. Consent by women or young girls is not given. This is caused by the nature of the dominance and control of men. This argument also explains the culture of silence around sexual violence whereby most parastatals are dominated by men and victims have the same notion that most men are likely to be perpetrators of sexual abuse. From a global perspective, one of the most powerful expressions of patriarchy is the oppression of women, both mentally and physically. Thus, there is a growing belief of inequality which women encounter in society, leading to their subsequent fight for the equal rights of women and men in society. However, some feminists are of the opinion that the power of patriarchy still has a hard grip (Lorber, 1997). Amadiume (2015) argues that to eradicate patriarchy will be a very hard process because it is embedded in most men who believe that women are different and inferior. In most African societies, women are not given the same privileges as men. For instance, women are limited or have no right to

inherit money, lands and properties if the father or spouse passes away. Moreover, Boyne (2013) identified that advocating for gender equality will continue to marginalise women because there are fundamental physiognomies between a man and a woman.

Radical feminism has been critiqued for ignoring diverse races, class, cultures and establishing a false universalism generalisation about the experiences of women. Mills (2018) maintains that not all men have equal access to male power. Mackinnon (1983) and Harding (2004) then suggest that men can never fully occupy the women's standpoint. Risman (2004) also maintains that whether or not men elect to use power and privilege, there is no man who does not derive benefit from the structure of male supremacy. The theory has been criticised over the concentration on gender oppression and has led radical feminism to neglect other social class differences between men and women that downplay other sources of oppression.

Oppression against women and young girls constitutes a subordination and violent position against young girls, which is a violation of basic human rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of the objective of women's equality (Downing, 2000). In Nigerian society, the oppression by men of women and young girls has been coupled with cultural norms where a patriarchal culture has been embedded in males to overpower young girls and women through abusive and violence (Balogun, 2010). As Mkhize (2016) puts it, patriarchy remains deeply entrenched within the fabric of society to such an extent that most women consider it to be a normal way of life. The oppression of females by men is perpetrated in diverse ways. One is through rape, which is a forceful act perpetrated on girls by men. The patriarchal culture induces violence against women. Hence some factors will be identified which can be linked to the expression of patriarchal traits and the oppression of women (Ozaki, 2017). From the study, various narratives were identified which explain the patriarchal traits and oppression of women in the Ibadan community. One example is the patriarchal stereotype of the men blaming the victims for the rape based on the way the young girls dress. This therefore favours the perpetrators of this sexual act. The view on women's dressing is not new as it is a widespread stereotype that blames the victims for the abuse. Feminists have criticised this impression of blaming the victim's mode of dress as the cause of the rape incident (Curchin, 2019).

Patriarchy is the prime obstacle to women's advancement and development. Oppression over women has limited women and young girls in expressing themselves and enjoying the freedom of equality which they possess but which patriarchal roles have limited (Ramazanoglu, 2012). Fitzgerald (2000) states that there is a need for a radical restructuring of society for women to rise and get a chance at equality with men. Violence against women and young girls, is due to men who still see the victims as being part of the violence and the harm directed to them. The perception of men is positioned towards sexism where there is a display of stereotypes of women. Due to patriarchy, women are deprived of their legal rights and opportunities to protect themselves. Thus, patriarchal values restrict young girls' and women's mobility and rejects their freedom over themselves.

Another linked factor is the use of alcohol and drugs. It has been indicated that drug addiction and alcoholism may be an influence on sexual abuse by men. Meanwhile, the National Institute of Justice in the United States (USA) maintains that alcohol does not in itself cause violence against women, but there exists a significant relationship between male perpetrators' problem drinking and violence against females (Ademiluka, 2018). Hence, Abbey (2001) maintains that alcohol and other hard drugs/substances are some of the causes of sexual aggression by men who oppress females when they are drunk. Mc Donald (1994) also suggests that there is a connection between alcohol, drugs and violence towards women. Another important factor to sexual abuse is aggressiveness due to unemployment and economic hardship, which has pushed many people to experience psychological problems which can be linked to why men perpetrate abuse on young girls for the quest for power and wealth in order to display their patriarchal role.

Hence, radical feminism seeks to address the root cause of feminist questions because patriarchy and biology set men at up in an advantageous position as compared to women. (Voichita, 2008). Radical feminism examines institutionalised gender inequity. Nonetheless, radical feminism argues that the oppression of women is very hard to eradicate owing to the idea that women are inferior, which is deeply embedded in most men's consciousness. The relevance of this theory cannot be denied as to the patriarchal traits and nature of men. Research established that young girls are abused by the oppressive nature of men. Ramazanoglu (2012) further argues that until there is a complete restructuring of all aspects of society, oppression and women's subjugation cannot be fully eradicated.

2.3.3 Hegemonic Masculinity

Hegemonic masculinity, part of Connell's Gender Theory, has been recognised over time. Hegemonic masculinity refers to the practices where men use their legitimate power and authority to dominate the society and consider the subordination of women. Thus, the theory proposes to explain how and why men maintain dominant roles over female gender identities in society. Hegemonic masculinity was first mentioned in Connell's (1979) paper titled "Men's bodies", published in 1983 (Beasley, 2005; Heam, 2004). Hegemonic masculinity is constructed in relation to various subordinate men as well as in relation to women. Demetrio (2001) made it clear that hegemonic masculinity is understood as both hegemony over women and hegemony over subordinate masculinities as these two are interconnected.

Before looking at how hegemonic masculinity affects females and how it can be related to sexual abuse, it is important to understand what Connell opined on the theory. Connell's writings stated that "Hegemonic Masculinity can be defined as a formation of gender practices which represent the current accepted answer to the problem of the legitimacy of patriarchy, which guarantees the position of men and the subordination of women" (2005:77). Just like most feminist theories, Hegemonic Masculinity theory also reveals a high prevalence of patriarchy in society, with males identifying as the socially constructed dominant sex and females as inferior. The theory is relevant to the study as it contributes to the understanding of men's forceful behaviour and dominations over females. From the findings, Olanrewaju mentioned that "female dressing is the reason why men perpetrate on young girls" thus this theory was able to identify the domineering power and control over females.

In-depth explanation of Hegemonic Masculinity

Understanding the writings of Connell, Hegemonic Masculinity can be linked to the dominance of men in most African societies where men are regarded as the breadwinners of the family and neglect women as subordinates, rather than elevate the feminine gender in society. Hence, HM theory does not necessarily focus on a negative impression of male violence but describes the dominance of masculinity in society (Connell and Messerschmidt, 2005). The theory further explains and states that HM embodies the most honoured way of being masculine in that it requires that all men in society position themselves towards this in order to gain the legitimate global subordination of women.

Hegemonic Masculinity maintains the structure of hierarchy and masculine identity in a society. Connell and Messerschmidt (2005) describe a set of potential behaviours that a man is predictably prone to have, forceful behaviour and a sense of domination over females. Hence, hegemony does not necessarily focus on violent and negative impressions of men but rather on the dominance of men (Connell and Messerschmidt, 2005:840-841). Thus, Hegemonic Masculinity emphasises the dominance and domination of other groups as subordinate, rather than to eliminate them (Connell, 1987:184). The theory can be applicable to Nigerian society which is highly patriarchal and limits women's capabilities.

Connell and Messerschmidt (2005:832) maintain that the theory is distinguished from other masculinities especially subordinate masculinities. Hegemonic was practised only by minority men but was normative because it embodied the most honoured way of being a man, it requires all other men to position themselves in relation to it, and it ideologically legitimised the global subordination of women to men. Rudman (2013), Mescher (2012) and Abbey Jacques-Tiura and LeBreton (2011) agree that the dominance or oppression of men has been positively linked with rape, supporting the beliefs that men are the perpetrators of sexual aggression both directly and indirectly in combination with other risk factors such as acceptance of violence against women.

Application of the theory

Hegemonic Masculinity carefully explains the aggression of men and takes on the rape of young girls by sexual offenders, which drives towards the masculine trait of aggression of men (Demetriou, 2001). From the findings, men are of the opinion that sexual offenders should be killed. This explains the aggressive portrait of masculinity, which explains further that offenders should be killed without a judicial procedure by the government. Adding to this, there is also the possibility that men, who are members of the community, follow some religious beliefs that young girls should cover their entire body, following the Islamic culture (Pereira, 2010). From this assumption, men believe that when women and young girls cover their entire body they are not exposed to sexual abuse by men. This has been criticised by feminists and is viewed as a patriarchal stereotype of men over young girls and women (Cook, 2011). Women should be free to wear whatever they want to and not be controlled by men who flaunt their masculine traits.

Recently in Nigeria, there has been a hunger for wealth by men, which leads them to abuse young girls due to the fact that it is believed that having sexual intercourse with a young girl as instructed by the voodoo doctors can be an easy way to be wealthy and powerful in society (Tade, 2013). This process is known as ‘money rituals’, which are often carried out by men. From this assertion, the aggressive nature of men is positioned towards young girls where men display their masculine traits and patriarchal thinking, which is a justification for the rape of young girls. Men also use marital problems with spouses as a justification for raping young girls. For instance, when a female partner is assumed not to be interested in sexual intercourse, men tend to rape a young girl who is probably a family member or even the daughter of the spouse. Meanwhile, women do not take such drastic actions that men portray when having marital problems. Men display their dominant traits and patriarchal thinking using aggression and oppressive behaviour on women and young girls (Hunnicut, 2009).

This concept has helped to identify the exhibition of masculine traits whereby men oppress the female gender. The theory became relevant to the study as it established and explained the masculine traits of men towards young girls. This contributes to male displays of aggression and violence as an assertion of their masculine power, which all other notions of masculinity tend to orient themselves towards (Mkhize and Njawala, 2016; Connell and Messerschmidt, 2005). Hegemonic masculinity is often criticised for being a narrow-minded view on masculinity. The concept of masculinity is therefore criticised for being framed towards a hetero-normative conception of gender that focuses on male and female differences. The concept of masculinity is said to rest logically on a dichotomisation of sex (biological) versus gender.

2.3.4 Conclusion

The reviewed literature on sexual abuse and other gender-based violence shows that it is a recurrent issue around the world, with a focus on the Nigerian society, particularly Ibadan city of Oyo State. The objective of the literature review was to identify several forms of sexual violence against women and young girls particularly, as well as to understand why men sexually abuse young girls across the world, Africa as a continent and Nigeria with a focus on Ibadan community. This was established by diving deep into different studies related to the sexual abuse of females. The literature also established the fact that men are perpetrators of sexual abuse as they rape young girls through forceful acts. The focus of the

literature is to have a full understanding of the research topics, various perspectives and various themes in order to establish gaps in the literature. As the study's focus is on sexual abuse, there is a plethora of literature on the sexual abuse of females and the victims of sexual abuse, while there is a paucity of studies covering men's perceptions of sexual abuse as most literature reviewed focused on females. Therefore, this study seeks to understand men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls as the study seeks men's views on why men sexually abuse young girls.

The theoretical aspect of the research addressed and identified the literature related to the problem of the study. Radical feminism and Hegemonic Masculinity were employed in the current study due to their similarities as both theories focus on the oppression of women and the dominance of patriarchy. Both also posit that men have the traits and tendency to exhibit violent, aggressive behaviour linked to their domineering power. Based on the literature discussed above, the main principles of the theories were identified which explained the patriarchal traits, oppressive nature and aggression of men positioned towards young girls.

Radical feminism was chosen for the study to explain the strength of how oppression by men affects females. Therefore, this theory also gave a deep insight into patriarchy and its effects on society. Hegemonic Masculinity was chosen to understand the possible masculine traits such as aggression and oppression over females. Radical feminism and Hegemonic Masculinity theory were applicable and helped to identify how oppression and dominance have been entrenched in societal and cultural norms, especially regarding the sexual abuse of young girls. Not only did the theories help to identify men's oppression of women, they also helped to identify how domineering fears are planted in the female gender. The main objective of this study is to bridge the gap and understand the possible factors of why men sexually abuse young girls. This was achieved through the application of the theory to the study. The theory also helped to understand gender inequality towards females.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology for the study, which includes the methods and design used to collect and analyse data. Creswell and Tashakkori (2007) view research methodology as being a problem worth investigating using a design procedure and how to select and develop an appropriate means of data collection. Research methodology includes a coherent group of methods that complement one another and that can fit to deliver data and findings that will reflect the research questions and suit the purpose of the research study (Henning, 2004). Research methodology provides the necessary information with regard to the strategies and designs, used to collect and analyse data. This study employed the qualitative research method. Data were gathered using the semi-structured one-on-one interview data collection tool and was analysed with the use of qualitative research thematic analysis. The objectives and research questions of the study include finding the reasons why men are sexually attracted to young girls. The study also intends to explore men's view on sexual abuse and the effect of sexual abuse on the young girls. The study seeks to find the effect of abuse on the family and the consequences. Lastly the objective of the study is to identify the steps taken by society against sexual abuse.

A description of the research design and methods; data collection and analysis tools; sampling techniques and criteria; and an explanation of how these methods were applied are presented in this chapter. Furthermore, this chapter outlines the demographics of the participants, the researcher's role, research experience and the ethical considerations that framed participation in the research study.

3.2 Research Design

A research design is a complete set of methods and procedures used in collecting and analysing measures of variables specified in a research problem (Creswell, 2017). The research design can be understood as a road map that helps in gathering data and its analysis (De Vaus, 2001). In social science, there are various types of research designs such as case

study design, casual design, descriptive design, experimental design, explorative design and historical design, to mention a few. This study adopted the exploratory research design.

The exploratory research design was chosen as it helps to explore a certain phenomenon with the aim of identifying specific solutions to research questions or hypotheses relating to that phenomenon (Bless and Higson-Smith, 2000). Explorative research design focuses on collecting either secondary or primary data using an unstructured formal or informal procedure to interpret them. In a nutshell, the major aim of exploratory research is to attain a broader “understanding of a situation, phenomenon, community or person” (Bless and Smith, 2000:41). It is because of its explorative nature that this study adopted an exploratory research design in order to explore the understanding of why men sexually abuse young girls. Using an explorative design helped to address the main objective of the study, to find out about the views of men on why men sexually abuse young girls in many African societies, using the example of Oyo State, Ibadan city, Nigeria. Nonetheless, the main objective of the study is to probe why men sexually abuse young girls by listening to men’s opinions on the issue using Ibadan city as the focus of the study. It is within the growing social concern about the sexual abuse of young girls that this study is interested in adding to the current debate and seeks to harvest the voices of male citizens. The research focused on the Nigerian society based on media reports of sexual abuse of young girls and the prevalence of sexual abuse of young girls in Oyo State, specifically in Ibadan city. Using an explorative research design helped the study to find out why men sexually abuse young girls in Ibadan city. Specifically, one of the participants linked the sexual abuse of young girls to the money ritual by men who are desperate for wealth and power. Thus, the utilisation of an exploratory research design aided this research study to address its objectives and reach related findings through the employment of qualitative research methods.

3.3 Qualitative Research Method

The study was conducted using the qualitative research method. Merriam (2002) posits that qualitative research is built on the assumption that reality is not a measurable phenomenon. Trauth (2001) explains that the choice of a research method is influenced by the nature of the research problem, objectives, theoretical framework, philosophical assumptions and the researcher’s skills. A qualitative research method was chosen for this study because it allowed

for the exploration of meanings attached to social problems (Creswell, 2014). The research method explored the area of the sexual abuse of young girls by understanding why men sexually abuse young girls. Results of the use of this method, opens up room for in-depth narratives. Some of the themes derived from the area of the research study include the effect of sexual abuse on the victims and steps taken to curb sexual abuse. Qualitative research made it possible to explore men's views by engaging them in one-on-one interviews and listening to their opinions, views and reasons why men sexually abuse young girls. According to Ajuwon (2005), 15 per cent of young females reported forced penetrative sexual experiences in Oyo State. Indisputably, the prevalence of sexual violence against young girls and women in Nigeria is as high as 42 per cent (Oyediran and Cunningham, 2014; Fawole, 2008). Rose (1999:7) mentions that the qualitative research approach provides a platform for a one-another over time, making one-on-one interactions with male respondents possible (Wyse, 2011). The interactions with the male participants gave an arena for men to express their views on other men who sexually abuse young girls. It was also important in the case of violence against young girls and women as male voices are not properly researched and interacted with, and they are the perpetrators. It may be that getting male opinions on the issue of sexual abuse can contribute to the fight against violence against young girls and women. To hold men accountable, even though not all are perpetrators, but to know what they think about males who do this is crucial to research and to diagnosing the problem. In agreement, Thorne (2016) notes that it is crucial for the research to seek to understand the perceptions of the members concerned. This study attempts to understand the actions of males who constitute the majority of perpetrators of the sexual abuse of girls. In this way, the qualitative research method enabled this study to comprehend participants' different views and versions of sexual abuse of young girls and violence against children in general. For example, through the qualitative method, the study was able find out that some men are of the opinion that the sexual abuse of young girls is a wicked and heartless act that some males commit. Others felt that such abusive acts towards young girls are linked to spiritual beliefs, including money rituals. Having sexual intercourse with a young girl who is a virgin is a source of wealth and good luck. The qualitative research method helped facilitate such information and centered on the participants' views on the subject. The qualitative research gathered data was able to delve deep into the problems of the research (Tenny, 2017) by

probing men's notions on why other men sexually abuse young girls. Even though this method gave a remarkable insight into the problem under investigation, it was not free of challenges. The research method was limited to men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls. However, the research was unable to identify the perpetrators of sexual abuse as the participants were scared at first to participate in the research because of the sensitivity of the topic. This was overcome by explaining the context of the research and consent forms were signed by participants. Apart from a few challenges which were overcome by the research strategy, qualitative research was more suitable for the study and the population studied.

3.4 Population Sampling Setting

A population in a research study includes conceivable elements, subjects or observations relating to the phenomenon of interest to the researcher (Okeke, 1995). The population of the study consisted of the dwellers in Ibadan city in the Ibadan north-east local government, which is the heart and centre of the city of Oyo State, Nigeria. Hence the participants were drawn from Ibadan city the capital city of Oyo State, also known as the state capital and the third most populous city in Nigeria. Ibadan city is divided into sub regions known as local governments which helps to divide the city into smaller segments for better administration. The city has eleven local government in total, in which the research was conducted in one of the local governments. Hence, the research was conducted amongst dwellers of Ibadan north-east. Ibadan north-east local government is the centre and heart of the city which is linked to all other parts of the city and other states across the country. According to statistics, Ibadan city has a population of 3.1 million dwellers (Fourchard, 2008). Ibadan city is also known as the home of many firsts in Nigeria such as the first University in Nigeria, first television station, first high-rise building in Nigeria, among many others (Vanguard, 2015). The city covers a total area of 3,080 square kilometers (Olabode, 2015). The city is predominately dominated and populated by the Yoruba tribe whereas other ethnic groups such as the Hausa and Igbo also reside in the city. The native language in Ibadan is Yoruba language. The city is the home to several ancient buildings (Ojo, 1996). The majority of the dwellers are civil servants, business-owners and farmers.

There have been reports of various notorious criminal activities such as cybercrime, thuggery, sexual violence, kidnapping and drug-abuse, abuse of chemical substances and stealing of female pants for money rituals. In 2017, the economic and financial crime commission arrested over 100 undergraduate students who were involved in various cybercrimes in Ibadan (The Nation, 2017). A report from the Tribune (2019) also confirmed that recently female panties have been trending as the new mode of ritual money-making amongst internet fraudsters. Various legal practitioners in Ibadan city explained that the Nigerian society is expressing a serious immorality crisis with different degrees of disintegration in social values and norms (Onyelemelam, 2013; The Eagles, 2013). According to Premium Times (2013) over 20 cases of rape are reported in Ibadan monthly. Kunnji and Esiet (2015) and Daru (2011) note that it has become regular for young girls between 13-19 years of age and even younger (as young as infants) in Ibadan city and across Nigeria to be victims of sexual abuse.

The rationale for choosing Ibadan north-east local government in Ibadan city was based on the increasing rate of sexual abuse of young girls (Richard, 2018). Another reason stemmed from the researcher's interest to add to the limited male voices in studies on sexual abuse and violence against women and children at large (Hiese, 2018). Hence, the review of literature (presented in Chapter 2 of this thesis) found limited studies on sexual abuse that investigated men's perception towards the sexual abuse of young girls and females at large. Therefore, the study aimed at addressing the existing gaps in literature on female sexual abuse and violence against women and children by targeting males, especially African (Nigerian) men where the majority display their domineering power, known as patriarchy (Dare, 2019), as the research informants. To protect the informants, the study did not intend to and did not ask for perpetrators' identities. The researcher just wanted to know if the informants were aware of girls' sexual abuse. If yes, had they heard anything about perpetrators being punished? The study sought their views as men of what they think should happen to perpetrators, who also happen to be males. Thus the key questions posed included men's opinion about other men who sexually abuse young girls, Men's narratives of sexual abuse; the factors contributing to males' abuse of young girls; the effect of sexual abuse on the young girls were explored in order to understand the consequences on sexual offenders, if perpetrators get punished, and to identify the community response to sexual abuse. Briefly, the study explored the perceptions of men without linking them to sexual abuse or stereotyping them as perpetrators.

The study was more concerned about the views of men on other males' who perpetrate violence against and inhumane behaviour to girls and women in general. The study did not sample the young girls nor the perpetrators. The main objectives explored men's views on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men to find out the reasons why men are sexually attracted to young girls, to find out what men think are the effects of sexual abuse on the young girls; as well as what men think should happen to the perpetrators, and men's opinions on how to curb the incidence of sexual abuse.

3.5 Sampling Method/Techniques

The study employed a non-probability sampling technique which allowed the construction of samples and helped to provide valuable information and data on the sexual abuse of young girls in the area under study. It is recognised that the data gathered from a small number of participants using the non-probability sampling technique in the study will help to understand men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls. Using non-probability sampling, a purposive and convenience sampling technique was applied to obtain a sample of men in Ibadan city. Purposive sampling was appropriate because it allowed the researcher to deliberately select targeted participants due to their qualities or characteristics, based on the main research objectives. Garcia (2007) affirms that purposive sampling is a non-random method that is used to identify key informants. Thus, participants were selected due to their knowledge of the research topic (Bernard, 2017). The researcher selected men within Ibadan city who are above the age of 18 years old. This age is justified based on the literature regarding the age of men who have sexually abused young girls. Moreover, in Nigeria an adult is referred to as anyone above the age of 18 years. Convenience sampling is also a non-probability sampling method where members of the target population who meet certain practical criteria, such as accessibility, geographical proximity, and availability at a given time or the willingness to participate, are included for the purpose of the study (Talmy, 2010). Given (2008) affirms that convenience sampling is also referred to as researching subjects of the population who are easily accessible to the researcher. Hence convenience sampling and purposive sampling were selected for the study on the principle that these allowed easy access to the participants, availability of participants and the selection of individuals who are proficient and well-informed of the phenomenon of interest. The selected participants provided data which represented their views and opinions on the study. The reason for

choosing this type of method of the studied population is that it helped the researcher to access participants easily in order to save time, costs and to approach participants in their spare time and in places convenient to them.

3.6 Sampling size, participants characteristics and recruitment

Conducting research amongst an entire population in an area could be costly and time consuming. In the same vein, most research is conducted amongst human beings; places, or any object that focuses on the sample as a chance of studying the entire population. The representative sample of the population was therefore selected, and the information collected from the selected sample used as data. Samples can be referred to as a selection of a representative group of a population to obtain data from which can be used for research. Fink (2003:1) describes samples as a population or a subset of a large group called a population. Hence the sample size of this study was a total of 20 males who are above the age of 18 years who reside in Ibadan city, Oyo State, Nigeria. The age of 18 is considered adulthood in the Nigerian Constitution. This age range was justified because the majority of men who abuse young girls are within this age range (Daru, 2011). The justification for selecting 20 participants was co-opted as the researcher was limited in time, cost and accessibility of participants by the researcher. The study included members and residents of Ibadan city. The demographic interview questions revealed that the study had participants from different spheres of men in Ibadan city, which consisted of 15 per cent businessmen; 15 per cent students in universities; ten per cent computer scientists and IT personnel; ten per cent unemployed men; and ten per cent mechanics. It also consisted of ten per cent site and construction engineers; five per cent accountants; five per cent cleaners; and five per cent tailors and barbers (hair stylist). The residents of Ibadan city who also participated in the research included teachers, who made up five per cent and lastly, it included civil servant who are government officials in Ibadan city consisting of five per cent.

A majority of the participants were married. The study found that 12 participants in the population were married, while eight were single. A majority of the participants expressed their opinions about what they have heard about sexual abuse. Thirty per cent of participants confirmed that they have heard about sexual abuse in their community. However, three participants shared what they have heard or witnessed happening to the victims and the

perpetrators. From the demographic data obtained from the participants from the interviews, it was found that three participants were between the age of 18 – 24 years, while seven participants were between the ages of 25- 34. A majority of participants who were interviewed were between 35 and 44 years old (eight participants), and lastly two participants were between 45-54 years of age.

Data obtained was volunteered by the sampled population through the signing of consent forms. People participating in research have the right to know what the research is all about. In the same vein, they have the right to know if they are going to be implicated in any way by participating in the research (Bless, 2006). Each participant was approached at a convenient area of relaxation, local bars and motor parks in Ibadan. Each participant was presented with an informed consent form with full details of what the research entails. It also mentioned that they have the right not to participate in the study if they are not comfortable in any way. The researcher understood the sensitivity surrounding the topic regarding sexual abuse and anticipated that some people would not be comfortable, which made it difficult for the recruitment of participants. The signing of the consent form was achieved by explaining the details of the research to each participant, which was focused on men's opinions on the sexual abuse of young girls. During the process of the interview, different perceptions of the participants were examined by taking their demographic profiles into account (age range, occupation, level of education and gender). This was carried out to test the demographic profile of each participant before the actual questions of the research were passed.

Semi-Structured Interview Participant Profile

Table 3.1: Interviewee Profiles

PI	Participant name Pseudonyms	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Group	Level of Education	Occupation
1.	Ajayi	35	Male	Married	Yoruba	HND (Polytechnic)	Businessman
2.	Sunday	39	Male	Married	Yoruba	NCE (College of Education)	Businessman Buying &selling cloths
3.	Gbenga	22	Male	Single	Yoruba	Tertiary institution/Student	Nil/student

4.	Saliu	28	Male	Single	Yoruba	Masters	I.T Personnel (Computer)
5.	Yinka	25	Male	Single	Yoruba	BSc.	Nil
6.	Kehinde	40	Male	Married	Yoruba	Primary school	Trader (Cement business)
7.	Adegoke	22	Male	Single	Yoruba	HND(Polytechnic)	Computer scientist
8.	Sodiq	45	Male	Married	Yoruba	Primary school	Mechanic
9.	Olarenwaju	42	Male	Married	Yoruba	Secondary school	Barber
10.	Taofeek	39	Male	Married	Yoruba	Secondary school	Mechanics
11.	Timileyin	22	Male	Single	Yoruba	Secondary School	Tailor
12.	Dare	29	Male	Single	Yoruba	University student	Nil(student)
13.	Rufus	28	Male	Single	Yoruba	Msc.	Nil
14.	Matthew	25	Male	Single	Yoruba	University Student	Student
15.	John	49	Male	Married	Igbo	Primary School	Cleaner
16.	Daniel	31	Male	Married	Yoruba	Msc.	Teacher
17.	Folorunsho	35	Male	Married	Yoruba	Bsc.	Accountant
18.	Abiodun	34	Male	Married	Yoruba	Tech Education	Engineer/Building Contractor
19.	Leke	38	Male	Married	Yoruba	Bsc.	Engineer/building contractor
20.	Samuel	41	Male	Married	Yoruba	Bsc.	Government Official

3.7 Data Collection Strategy

Data for this study was collected using semi-structured one-on-one interviews. A face-to-face semi-structured interview is an interaction between two or more individuals using specific questions with a specific purpose. Tylor and Bogdan (1998) define an interview as the one-on-one interaction between the researcher and the informant, directed towards achieving and understanding the informant's perspectives or situations as expressed in their own words. Similarly, Casley and Kumar (1998) describe semi-structured interviews as the most preferred means of qualitative data collection because it accommodates a free flow of ideas of the participants who can express their ideas. The nature of the study requires participants to freely express their views and perceptions. The use of a semi-structured interview made it possible for the realisation of the objectives of the study as the semi-structured interview opened a space which was conducive for the informants to express themselves and substantiate their perceptions of why men sexually abuse young girls in the city of Ibadan. The use of the local language (Yoruba) made it possible for the interviewees to open their minds and prevented them from withholding necessary information. Participants were drawn from virtually all areas in Ibadan north-east, which include Iwo road, Basorun, Agodi gate, Idi Ape, Aremo and Holy Trinity.

Data collection began in December 2018 after the study received ethical approval from UKZN's ethical committee. The researcher conducted preliminary meetings before the commencement of the interviews. This process was to create a mutual interaction between the researcher and the participants which helped participants to express themselves better when the interview was held. Staudinger and Gluck (2011) and Yow (2014) mentioned in their studies that a preliminary meeting between the interviewer and the interviewee is essential since it helps to break the ice and create confidence. Immediately after the preliminary meeting with each participant, an agreement was made on the time and day to meet for the interview, which took place at the local bars, relaxation centres, motor parks and motorcycle parks in Ibadan north-east local government. People participating in research have the right to know what the research is all about. They have the right to know if they are going to be implicated in any way by participating in the research (Bless, 2006). Thus, the participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity during the data collection, as well as in the data presentation and discussion process and reports respectively. This was done by

informing participants that information that could be traced back to an individual participant would not be used and that pseudonyms (instead of their original names) would be used. Participants were also assured that the audio recordings would be stored in a safe place for a period of five years, after which they would be destroyed.

3.8 Data Analysis

According to Marshall and Rose (1990:150), data analysis is a process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. A qualitative research analysis begins with the process of data collection. Antonius (2003) briefly states that the word data is positioned to the information that is collected in an organised way and recorded, which will make it easier for the reader to interpret the information directly. The study made use of thematic analysis to sort the data collected from the field. According to King (2003), thematic analysis is viewed as analysing data according to the themes that emerge from the data gathered, also thematic analysis permits the identification of themes and patterns. Also, Clarke (2006:79) explains thematic analysis as “a process whereby the data are identified and analysed resulting in the identification of patterns or themes within a data set”. The emerging patterns and themes were then analysed. Thus, the data analysis started by listening to the interview clips at the end of data collection by the researcher in order to establish the strengths and weaknesses in the questions and the responses of the participants. Most of the interviews were accurately translated from Yoruba and transcribed into English, which is the language of instruction at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The translation was done by the researcher based on his proficiency in both languages and was also proof checked by trained personnel who are proficient in both languages. According to Slembrouck (2007), transcription in research involves a translation or transformation of sound or image from recording to text in a study. Transcription involves a close observation of data through repeated careful listening and this is an important step in data analysis.

This helps the researcher with the familiarity of the data (Pope, 2000). Each participant's interview audio tape was listened to repetitively for the researcher to become familiar with the content and to be able to remember the content of the information provided by each participant. The process was carried out several times to ensure reliability in decoding the information from the audio recordings of the in-depth interviews. The rich and valuable

information from the interviews resulted in the identification of essential themes and topics. Similar ideas and shared information that developed from the participants were examined. For example, during the course of the interview, Gbenga, Yinka and Adegoke explained sexual abuse as a forceful act committed without consent. Related and contrary ideas and patterns were identified and analysed according to their significance to the objective of the study. Themes were identified and the irrelevant themes were discarded. The following themes and sub-themes were derived:

Table 3.2: The main themes and Sub-themes from the data

	Main themes	Sub-themes
1.	Dominant men's opinionated narrative on sexual abuse	Societal awareness of rape as a local and global form of sexual abuse Men's perceptions of rape Hearsay narratives on sexual abuse Characteristics of sexual offenders Men's reaction towards victims
2.	Factors contributing to men's abuse of young girls	Patriarchal stereotypes attached to sexual abuse Myths associated with/linked to sexual abuse General factors: unemployment and substance abuse
3.	Effect of sexual abuse on young girls	Psychological trauma Lack of confidence Pregnancy Shame
4.	Narratives on community response	Community response to sexual offenders The role of young girls in combatting sexual abuse

5.	Views on the consequences to perpetrators	What should happen to the perpetrators? Effectiveness of government structures
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The relevant themes were compared with the findings from the literature review (Walsh, 2005). The themes were analysed and interpreted and the findings from the analysis were recorded. The raw data from the interviews were used to formulate the findings and were analysed thematically.

3.9 Researcher's role and experience in the research study

The researcher's role in the study was to conduct the interviews and listen to the hidden silence of the voices of male citizens in Ibadan city, Oyo State, Nigeria. The researcher's involvement was to travel down to Nigeria to conduct the interviews in the city of Ibadan. The experience of conducting the interviews among men in the city was easier for the researcher as an insider because he has a good knowledge of the culture and traditions of Ibadan city dwellers. Having grown up and resided in Ibadan city helped the researcher to produce much information during the interviews. The researcher's role as an insider gave him many advantages. The knowledge of Yoruba language made for easy discourse with the participants during the interview. The researcher was also aware of the cultural context when talking about sex in public, which is regarded as a taboo. The researcher's role was to start the interview by initiating a conversation with each participant about reports of rape incidents mentioned in the news broadcasts and newspapers, after which there was a free flow of expression concerning such incidents which interconnected the researcher and participants during the interview process.

After these were done, the researcher's role was to start asking the participants the research questions for the study. Another advantage as a male researcher conducting a study about men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls allowed the men to express themselves better on what they think are the causes of men sexually abusing young girls. Some disadvantages were identified during the course of the research. Some participants found it irritating talking about sexual abuse, which was regarded as a taboo to them. With such

participants, following ethics and not to deviate from the research, the interviewer started by asking such participant what they think should happen to the perpetrators of sexual abuse. Thus, with this strategy, participants began to express their opinions, which led to other questions in the interview schedule. The study on sexual abuse is viewed as a woman's issue. Few participants saw it that way while majority challenged the researcher as a male conducting research on sexual abuse on young girls; the researcher's response to them was to make such participant understand that there are few studies that speaks on men's opinions about other men who sexually abuse young girls as most studies focus on the victims and women. Hence, after the interviews, each participant saw the uniqueness of the study which focused on men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls. After the overall interviews had been conducted, the researcher transcribed and translated the data.

The transcribed interviews were read repeatedly for the researcher to become familiar with the data, which would be helpful in the analysis process. Continuous reading was done and recording of themes that emerged from the transcribed data, which ensured that any form of omission was ruled out. Hence, the familiarisation with the data helped the researcher to gain a vast understanding of the data. Accuracy in understanding the data was achieved and it facilitated accurate transcriptions and analysis to reach accurate findings. Information received through observations such as gestures, facial expressions and the tone of voice supplied rich and supplementary representations of informants regarding the issue of sexual abuse. In the analysis and discussion of the research, information acquired through observation will be integrated with the information provided by the informants. However, during the cause of the interviews, the researcher experienced four major challenges in the field. Firstly, as a male, researching the sexual abuse of young girls and interviewing men, the participants were surprised and asked various questions concerning the researcher's interest in that area, which they refer to as women's issues. The researcher was able to answer their questions and made them understand that the sexual abuse of women and young girls cannot be eradicated by women alone, men are also needed to eradicate all forms of sexual abuse on the female gender. The second challenge was studying at a master's level outside the country. Most of the participants viewed the researcher as a foreign breed with a silver spoon. It is assumed that anyone who has been out of the country is rich and exposed to several opportunities which will make him/her superior to others residing in the country, but

this is most times not the case. The researcher maintained his professionalism and did not take anything personally.

The third challenge was logistical issues. The researcher spent over a month in Nigeria for the research to be conducted within the festive period of December and the early part of January, which was very strenuous. The researcher interviewed four to five men per week. The fieldwork for this study was self-funded and time constraints were experienced because the research was conducted during the festive period. Also, two of the participants, after confirming the respective locations and times to meet, had a change of plan and the researcher had to reschedule with said participants for the research to be conducted.

The final limitation was the length of the interviews. Some lasted less than 45 minutes due to participants' schedules and the researcher had to quickly ask the questions. In the course of the interviews, by asking the key questions, a majority of the participants took their time to explain their own perceptions towards sexual abuse. A majority of the participants during the interview process also took their time to share their thoughts on questions like what they think should happen to men who sexually abuse young girls? Different opinions were gathered. This came with various views and perceptions towards this question. For instance, in the interview, a participant made the following statement, "I think such men should be forgotten in jail or they should cut off their private part (penis) as part of their punishment". Apart from the identified challenges, the methodology had a positive impact as the field work enabled the researcher to engage with participants in their own environment. Thus, the face-to-face, semi-structured interviews yielded much richer data than a questionnaire would have done. The interviewer was able to derive deeper understanding, meaning and interpret the participants' thoughts in the research.

3.9.1 Procedure

The interview was conducted with 20 participants who were carefully selected for the study using purposive and convenient sampling. The interview was conducted during the period of December 2018 - January 2019. The researcher had to travel to his home country, Nigeria, to conduct the research. The researcher resides in Ibadan city, which made it easier for him to meet the population sampled. Each participant was visited at the agreed convenient places where men relax and discuss issues, such as relaxation centres, local bars, motor parks and

motorcycle parks, which made it easier for the researcher to be accessible to each participant at their own convenience as agreed during the preliminary meeting with each participant. Participants were approached in local bars, motor parks, motorcycle parks and places of relaxation for men in Ibadan. Each participant was interviewed in this convenient area. Eight participants were approached and interviewed at relaxation centres in the evenings, which was a convenient time for relaxation by men. Five participants were interviewed at motorcycle parks and motor parks in the early hours of the day, where the conversion of passengers was taking place. The target number of the research schedule was to interview 20 participants. Therefore, seven participants were met at the local bars around Ibadan north-east community and were approached in the evenings, which was regarded as a convenient time for relaxation for the participants. After a careful selection of the 20 samples, each participant was asked permission to be interviewed. The validation of procedures of the research were all explained to each of the participants. In the same vein, the consent form was explained in the English language and Yoruba, which was understood by the participants. Each participant was asked to sign the consent form to acknowledge that they understood the content and purpose of the research. The participants who understood the research had no objection to participating in the study and they agreed to be interviewed.

Each participant was requested to participate in a one-on-one, in-depth semi-structured interview where several questions were posed with regard to their knowledge of sexual abuse. Most interviews took less than 45 minutes. This was due to the time constraints of the participants. In the interviews which took a short time of only 10 minutes, the researcher tried to make it interesting by commenting about ladies passing and talking about ladies generally because there is an assumption that most men find it interesting to talk about women. This helped the participants to express themselves better. This strategy made such participants have an interest, since they were talking about women. Both English and Yoruba were used based on how the participants express themselves on the study topic. Some participants digressed out of the research area by giving long hearsay stories of what they have heard about sexual abuse. The role of the researcher was to allow them to express themselves and pose the research questions again, which allowed the participant to answer the actual research questions.

3.9.2 Procedure followed to gain access to the study site and participants

An application for permission to conduct the research was submitted to the local government chairman of Ibadan north-east local government, which was granted. As an indigene of Ibadan city, it was possible for the researcher to gain access to the participants because the researcher understood the Yoruba language, the culture and traditions of Ibadan city dwellers. Participants were approached at different places, such as motor parks and other places of relaxation for men. In conducting the research, the researcher spoke Yoruba and English, which allowed a free flow of information by participants and which helped them to express themselves. Some participants insisted on being interviewed after the purpose of the study has been explained to them. They agreed to sign the consent form and declaration and were interviewed at the time that was convenient to them. In the course of the research, some challenges emerged during the process of data collection. The researcher carefully identified those challenges and ensured that the objective of the study was achieved without compromising the validity and reliability of the findings. One of the challenges that was identified was obtaining a permission letter from the local government chairman, which was not easy. The researcher had to communicate with the office of the chairman of Ibadan north-east several times until permission to carry out the research was granted. This process was achieved by sending emails and calling the secretary of the chairman separately. The study was carried out during the festive periods from December 2018 to January 2019, which was a big challenge for the researcher. However, it was possible to carry out the research properly within that short period of time. At the same time, it was strenuous conducting research during the festive period and in the early part of the first month of the year. Involvement of participants during the interview was achieved by a preliminary meeting at bars, places of relaxation and motor parks after involving men in a discussion of sexual abuse on news broadcasts and newspaper articles. This process drew a lot of attention and participants were ready for the interview. A convenient time was mentioned by each participant to meet to conduct the interview.

3.10 Reliability and Validity

Reliability and validity in a research study are two factors which any qualitative researcher should be concerned about while designing a study, analysing results and judging the quality

of the study (Patton, 2001). Fox and Bayat (2007) also maintain that reliability and validity in qualitative research can be obtained through trustworthiness and authenticity. Johnson (1997:283) also affirms that “if validity or trustworthiness can be maximised or tested, then the more credible and defensible the result”. The researcher built a bond of trust with participants. Thus, this study’s individual characteristics were carefully obtained through the consent form in which the participants were given enough information about the whole process of the study. To ensure reliability, audio recordings were supplemented with additional details jotted down on a notepad. Hence, validity and reliability in the research were ensured by maintaining the research questions, objectives of the research and the method used in collecting and analysing data.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

When conducting studies using humans as subjects it is important to adhere to ethical principles for the research to be conducted. If those ethical considerations are not followed, conducting the research without approval by the ethical committee of concerned institution is unacceptable (Mphatheni, 2016). Thus, conducting research without the full approval of the ethics committee of a concerned institution is unacceptable (Richard, 2014). To ensure the ethical concerns which were maintained throughout this study, the researcher first sought permission from the UKZN research committee, which was granted. The researcher explained the scope of the study and the rights of the participants through the consent form, as it is important in research for people participating in the research to know what the research is all about, they also have the right to know if they are going to be implicated in any way by participating in the research (Bless, 2006). Each participant needs to be aware of the risks and benefit of participating in the research (Bless, 2006:140). Participants were told that they have the right to decline to participate if they wish to do so. Each participant was presented with an informed consent form with details of what was expected of them. It was also mentioned that they have the right to withdraw from the research if they are not comfortable in any way. The researcher understood the sensitivity surrounding the topic regarding sexual abuse since the study was about the perceptions of males on the sexual abuse of young girls. The informed consent also mentioned that participants would not be reprimanded if they withdrew from the study in the middle of the interview. Each participant of the study was

also aware that an audio tape-recorder would be used. During the process of the interview, the researcher took handwritten notes to jot down some points of interest.

The participants in the research were assured of their confidentiality and anonymity during the data collection and in the presentation of the data. This process was done by informing the participants that pseudonyms would be used instead of their original names. Participants were also assured that audio recordings would be stored in a safe place for a period of five years, after which they would be destroyed. The participants were repeatedly assured that their participation was entirely voluntary. A brief explanation of the study was discussed with each participant. They were made aware that the interview would be recorded on an audio tape recorder, which would be visible to the participants during the interview. Furthermore, the ethical aspect of the study also entailed guaranteeing all participants both privacy and confidentiality regarding all the information they disclosed during the study, which includes data collection, analysis and the production of the report. The researcher took full responsibility for the wellbeing of the participants during the interview and ensured each participant of adherence to the agreement of the interview and not to go out of ethical bounds. For instance, some participants became very aggressive when they were asked what they think should happen to men who rape young girls. With the guidance and mentorship of the research supervisor, the researcher abided by the research proposal submitted to the University Ethics committee, for which the researcher had received full ethical approval. No alteration was made regarding the research topic, questions, interview schedule, informed consent form, location of the study or research method after full approval had been received to conduct the study. Participants were assured that they would be provided with a copy of the thesis once completed. Smith (1999) notes the importance of reporting back to people and sharing the knowledge, based on the principle of reciprocity between the researcher and the people who have helped to make the research possible.

3.12 Limitation of the Study

The aim of the research design is to construct the research in a way that will ensure the ultimate validity of the research findings. This study employed a qualitative research method, an explorative research design and semi-structured interviews. On a final note, this information collected was analysed using thematic data analysis. Thus, these methods

explored the issue of sexual abuse of young girls by men. The research explored many areas on sexual violence, which also had its limitations. For instance, the semi-structured interview used to collect data was limited to explore certain areas in the research. Another limitation of the research was identified as being that the study was limited to men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls. The researcher was unable to identify the perpetrators of sexual abuse. Most studies focus on women's voices hence this study took a step further to listen to the voice of men. As a male researcher, interviewing other men on the issue of the sexual abuse of young girls was challenging based on the happenings in Ibadan city. Some participants became reluctant to communicate about such issues, thinking that the researcher as a male should know all the answers to the questions. The researcher explained that the intention of the research was to get males' opinions about the incidence of sexual abuse since they are males and since perpetrators are males they should have an idea of the why men who abuse young girls and what they think of these abuses. During the interviews, participants feared expressing themselves concerning what has been happening in the community of a young girl who was abused. The participants were assured that their identity would not be revealed and that pseudonyms would be used during the analysis process. Without any conformity, a participant expressed himself when he was asked about the rape incident he heard about in the community, where the participant gave details of what had happened and the current situation of the girl. Also, each of the participants was assured that this research was for academic purposes for a master's degree thus, the consent form was signed after explaining the purpose of the research.

3.13 Conclusion

This chapter described the research methodology which focused on the research methods used in collecting data during the field work. The research methodology identified the role of the researcher, sampling techniques, sample population of the study, the research design employed, demographics of the participants and the procedure followed to gain access to the study site. The qualitative research method was able to address the objectives of the study and was able to answer the research questions as the study explored men's perception towards the sexual abuse of young girls in Ibadan community. The advantages and disadvantages of being an insider and a male researcher interviewing men about the sexual abuse of young girls was identified. The advantage of being an insider was that the researcher was familiar

with the area and participants were able to express themselves better with the researcher because the researcher was able to speak the Yoruba language fluently with the participants and they were able to express themselves better. The disadvantage of being an insider and a male researcher was that some participants found it difficult to communicate about such issues. Thematic analysis was used to analyse data, thus transcripts were read, and themes were identified. Based on a feminist qualitative research method, this chapter presented the process employed to gather and analyse data and identify the challenges the researcher encountered in the field. Ethical considerations and limitations of the study were also discussed in the methodology aspect, which made the researcher adhere to the ethical considerations for the study. All ethical considerations were maintained throughout the study. No alterations were made regarding the research topic, questions, interview schedule, informed consent form and the location of the study. The study was limited to men's perception of sexual abuse on young girls, as the focus of the study is to hear the voices of male citizens on why men sexually abuse young girls in the Ibadan community.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a discussion of the research results and findings based on the qualitative research that was conducted in Ibadan's north-east community. The main research objective was to find out about men's views on the troubling issue of the sexual abuse of young girls by men in Ibadan, Nigeria. According to Akin-Odanye (2018) it is affirmed that there has been a high incidence of reports on sexual abuse in different parts of Nigeria. It has become a regular fixture in the media reports across the country. The sexual abuse of young girls in Ibadan city has gradually increased in the past few years, with reports of over 20 cases of rape every month (Premium Times, 2013; Punch Newspaper, 2016). This chapter's discussion of the research results and findings underpins the themes that emerged from the interview data analysis. The following theme was derived from the objectives of the research which includes dominant men's opinionated narratives on sexual abuse which was derived from men's view on sexual abuse of young girls. Another theme is the factors contributing to men's abuse of young girls which was derived from the reasons why men sexually abuse young girls. The effects of sexual abuse on young girls were also derived from the objectives which was to explore the effect of sexual abuse on the young girls and the family. The narratives of community response were derived from the steps taken by members of the society on the sexual abuse of young girls. Lastly, the views on the consequence of the perpetrators was also derived from the consequence on males who sexually abuse young girls. Using qualitative data analysis methods, the research data obtained was thematically analysed. The qualitative analysis aimed to give a detailed description of a phenomenon with the aim of comparing several views on what they have in common or the difference between the various phenomena of study (Flick, 2013). However, thematic analysis was applied to identify the themes and patterns which are important to the study, and to address the research problems (Braun, 2006). Various themes emerged during the data analysis.

According to Joffe (2012), themes are patterns that are derived from data sets that are important to the description of a phenomenon, which are associated with specific research questions. The themes that emerged from the participant's explanations were gathered to form a comprehensive picture of the collective perceptions of the community. The study

found that there is an overall knowledge of sexual abuse from the participants interviewed, whereby they shared their experiences and thoughts about the sexual abuse of young girls by men. From the data analysis, the themes that emerged from the interview are discussed simultaneously, thus research results are summarised into five main themes with the sub-themes, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.1 The emerging themes and sub-themes from the findings

THEMES	SUB-THEMES	Percentage of sub-themes
Dominant Men's Opinionated Narratives on sexual abuse	Societal awareness of rape as a local and global form of sexual abuse	100%
	Men's perceptions of rape	75%
	Hearsay narratives on sexual abuse	35%
	Characteristics of sexual offenders	50%
	Men's take on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men	75%
Factors contributing to men's abuse of young girls	Patriarchal stereotype attached to sexual abuse	60%
	Myths associated/linked to sexual abuse	25%
	General factors: unemployment, Alcohol and substance abuse	45%
Effects of sexual abuse on young girls	Psychological trauma	15%
	Lack of confidence	15%
	Shame	20%
	Early pregnancy	5%
Narrative on community response	Community response to sexual offenders	65%
	Advice on the roles that young girls can play in combatting sexual abuse	95%
Views on the consequence for perpetrators	Men's sentiments of sexual offenders	75%

	Effectiveness of government structures	45%
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4.2 Dominant Men's Opinionated Narratives on sexual abuse

The main objective of this study was to get men to voice their opinions or views on the increasing sexual abuse of young girls in Africa, with a specific focus on the Ibadan community. The incidence of sexual abuse has become a social concern to the public in Ibadan city (Desmennu, 2018). Dubowitz (2017) notes that it has also become a serious issue to tackle in sub-Saharan African countries and across the world. The study surprisingly found that men are aware of this troubling and violent issue of the abuse of young girls in the community, even though they may not specifically know the offenders' identities. Briefly, all men interviewed knew that the abuse of young girls is an unjust situation that should be stopped. This implies from the semi-structured interviews conducted in the study, that there is an overall knowledge and understanding of sexual abuse. However, many participants expressed themselves, giving different views on what they understand by sexual abuse. What stood out was the participants' acknowledgement of rape as a sexual abuse and as a global issue.

4.2.1 Societal awareness of rape as a local and global form of sexual abuse

In this study, participants were asked how they heard about rape and from where they have heard about sexual abuse incidents specifically. The study found that there is overall knowledge on sexual abuse and other rape related issues by the participants. From the semi-structured interviews each participant discussed the mode of awareness of rape related issues. There were different answers and expressions by participants. Many mentioned the radio as a form of societal awareness of rape in the Ibadan community. One participant, for example responded: "I have heard of young girls' rape. I know it is a very bad behaviour for men to abuse young girls below the age of 18 years" (Sunday, interview, December 2018). Another said: "I have and again it is always a re-occurring news on the radio, television and newspapers around" (Kehinde, December 2018). This response provided a vivid understanding of the radio programme, which is a form of societal awareness and stated: "I have heard a lot about it, especially on radio programme on Fresh FM radio station by 2.00

pm called Ogbenutan” (Taofeek, Interview, January 2019). It was evident that most participants had not witnessed sexual abuse happening but had heard about it in one form or the other. According to Timileyin who was interviewed in January 2019, “No, I have not seen it happening, but I normally hear about these on the radio almost every day”. Some participants also affirmed that the awareness of rape to them was from social media and newspapers, including the radio stations broadcast news. This is evident in the transcript from the research. Rufus responded: “I have not heard about it personally, (sexual abuse) but I hear a lot about it on the radio and other social media platforms”. (Rufus, interview, January 2019).

Rufus’ response implies a societal awareness of sexual abuse (rape), which can be through any form of social media, through the radio broadcast news, TV programmes, newspapers, Instagram, YouTube channels, friends and hearsay from people in society. Affirming this, the mass media has been recognised as one of the most major means of identifying, monitoring and exposing the incidence of sexual abuse (Mc Whirter, 2007). Another participant, Olanrewaju, stated: “I have heard a lot about it on the radio, television and other social media platforms such as YouTube and Instagram” (Olanrewaju, December 2018). This assertion was supported by an interview with Matthew, who said: “I have heard about sexual abuse from social media, through friends and hearsay from people around me (but) I have not witnessed it happening” (Matthew, January 2019). In the interview with Dare, when asked about rape, his response was:

Yes, I have heard about rape severally, especially when I was introduced to the concept of paedophilia and rape reports on YouTube channels. I knew about these with the help of my mom, especially on men who find pleasure raping young girls. Well young boys too are raped but the girls are the dominant victims. (Dare, Interview, January 2019).

The interview with Dare affirms that apart from social media platforms, there is also an awareness of sexual abuse right from home with the help of the parent/ guardian. This confers that sexual abuse is a recognised problem across all spheres and is not limited to young girls alone as young boys are also abused.

Another participant expressed this notion by saying: “There is rape in this community, and it is not only limited to Ibadan alone. It is a worldwide problem. Even in India, it’s one of the big issues they are facing, even though there are so many unannounced reports of rape

globally” (Folorunsho, January 2019). In agreement with the participants, literature finds rape a form of sexual abuse against girls and women that is global (Dawes, Richter and Higson-Smith, 2004). From the studies of Bourdillon (2000), Onah and Abraham (2014) explain sexual abuse as a global problem with women and young girls being most vulnerable to the incidence of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse goes beyond abusing young girls alone, and also affects adult females and married woman. From the interview, a participant shed light on this when he affirmed that sexual abuse goes beyond abusing young girls. He explained further and stated:

Rape or sexual abuse generally does not only affect young people. Even married people are also affected. I mean husband and wife. Sometimes it happens it might be that one party is not happy with it or not ready for such at that time, which will be forced on the woman in order for the man to satisfy himself by all means (Leke, interview, January 2019).

These responses provided positive evidence of the existence of sexual abuse in Ibadan city, which goes beyond abusing young girls and adult females alone and which shows there is the existence of marital rape. According to Nwosu-Jariba (2006), marital rape is non-consensual sexual abuse in which the perpetrator is the victim’s spouse. Nevertheless, Garner (2000) and Kolade (2018) also buttress that spousal rape is one of the most serious violations of a woman’s bodily integrity. It is further described as a husband’s sexual intercourse with his wife by force or without her consent. It is regarded as an unwanted sexual act committed by a spouse without her consent or permission. Thus, this sexual act could be forced, induced by threat or intimidation, which could be painful. Navjil (2018) disputes this by stating the fact that in some past traditions and in some countries a man cannot rape his wife, and marital rape cannot be seen as an offence as it was widely believed that the essence of contracting a marriage is to have sexual satisfaction whenever needed.

From the interviews, many participants responded or demonstrated being aware, hearing from the news and hearsay, that most girls and women are victims and survivors of sexual abuse by men in Nigeria (Sunday, Interview, December 2018). Olaleye (2007) maintains that in Nigeria adolescent girls have always fallen victim to sexual abuse. Akpoghome (2016) and Okonkwo (2013) also made it known that there is a high prevalence of reports of women and young girls as survivors and victims of sexual abuse across Nigeria. Lalor (2004) buttressed

further on the sexual abuse of young girls and women as a wide-ranging problem across Africa. Collins (2013) also posits that sexual abuse is a global phenomenon that affects girls and women of different identities. Sexual abuse cuts across age, race, class, cultures and geographical categories. The argument of Intersectionality Theory became relevant to the study as it explains the oppression of women across all ages, class, ableness and location. The theory explains all types of discrimination and the oppression of women, stating that all women can be oppressed based on their gender, race, class, sexual orientation, ableness, religion and location as all of these are positioned towards the oppression of women (Mkhize, 2012). Most individuals (women) living with a disability are also oppressed. According to Lober (1994:5), people living with disabilities are stereotyped as having less power, prestige and economic rewards than individuals considered abled. Mkhize (2015) avers that femaleness is viewed as a subordinate identity based on sexism, patriarchy and heterosexism, which is positioned as a source of oppression to women. According to Collins (2000) and Crenshaw (2000), Intersectionality Theory states that African women are not only victims of patriarchy, but also of race and class. Theorists of intersectionality have conceded that all women are victims of oppression and male domination, nonetheless the experiences of oppression are not the same (Mkhize, 2012). The theory becomes crucial to feminists and notes that diverse women are faced with multiple types of oppression. The theory of intersectionality then becomes a useful tool in explaining the situation of oppression on women. It recognises that there are interlocking social constructs that affect women based on their diverse identity, sexuality, ethnicity, race, class, age religion and disability (Crenshaw, 1991).

In addition, looking at the explanations provided by the participants, it shows that virtually all participants have a foreknowledge about sexual abuse (rape) from different media platforms, especially from radio stations, newspapers, news broadcasts and the internet. In this study participants were also asked about what rape means to them and the type of rape incidents they have heard about. It is important to be well-informed about sexual abuse. The communication and social awareness of sexual abuse is used to inform and educate people about sexual abuse. According to the media reports in Nigeria there have been continuous reports of sexual abuse in the daily news broadcasts, newspapers and other social media platforms (Makinde, 2016). The media is being flooded with different cases of sexual abuse

(Akin-Odanye, 2018). The media has a vital part to play in developing an accurate and wide-ranging understanding of sexual abuse amongst the general public. Tactics to support the media in its representation of sexual violence should be considered as part of the public awareness campaign (McGee, 2002).

4.2.2 Men's perceptions of rape

The men interviewed indicated various perceptions of rape. Hence, Nurcombe (2000) posits that sexual abuse has been perceived and examined by people in different approaches and concepts, based on diverse understandings of it. Regarding this aspect of individual perception of rape, most participants shared their notions and expressed themselves by giving different definitions of sexual abuse (rape). Each participant came up with their concept of defining sexual abuse and what it means to them. From interviews, each participant provided their own understanding of the concept. One participant said: "Rape, this is an act of force of having a sexual desire with a lady which involves sex and assaulting her in some areas or parts of her body which are referred to as unpleasant" (Sunday, interview, December 2018). This is in line with the findings of Akanle's (2011:132) study that rape refers to:

The act of forcing or attempting to force another individual through violence, threat, verbal pressure, deception, cultural expectation and economic circumstances to engage in sexual activity against their wish.

Another participant expressed his opinion and said "rape is a kind of sexual act without consent or the will of a person, be it a teenager or between husband and wife and once force is used, it can be referred to as rape" (Yinka, Interview, December, 2018). From this participant's explanation, sexual abuse does not just affect young girls alone, married women are also abused by their husbands if there is no mutual agreement at that point, since one party is ready and the other is not ready and uses a forceful act which is rape.

According to Chika (2011), marital rape or spousal rape is a non-consensual sex act where the perpetrator of the act is the victim's spouse. This has been defined as any unwarranted, undesired sexual act by the spouse which is committed without consent or against the person's will. In this instance sexual abuse/rape happens between two opposite sexes. This emphasis was raised by Timileyin, who explained the sexual abuse he has heard about by stating:

“The ones I have heard is about men who abuse young girls and women, I have not heard about female raping a man” (Timileyin, interview, January 2019). However, another participant disputed such reasoning, instead arguing as follows:

“Rape incidents can happen to any person, be it a male or a female, because our generation is changing. We can say its particular to females, but it is happening both to males and the females” (Adegoke, interview, December 2018). Jewkes (2002) agrees that sexual violence can be directed to both men and women.

Buttressing further, another participant (Taofeek, interview, 2018) viewed sexual abuse as:

“A serious crime which God and humans are not happy with, which is a serious offence” (Taofeek, Interview, December 2018). It appears that sexual abuse is an offence which is not supported by society. Another participant (Olawejaju) perceived rape as “a big crime”. These findings are commensurate with the Violence Against Persons (prohibition) Act of 2015 in Nigeria which defines sexual abuse to mean any conduct which violates, humiliates or degrades the sexual integrity of any person (Onyemelukwe, 2015). Apart from stating that sexual abuse is a crime, another participant perceived it as a “taboo which should not be happening” (Timileyin, interview, January 2019). This means that it is a violation of social laws in the society. However, most participants explained their view of what they understand by sexual abuse as being a forceful act. Sedlak *et al.* (2010) affirms that sexual abuse is the forcing or enticing of a young person to take part in sexual activities which do not necessarily involve a high level of violence, whether the victim is aware or not of what is happening.

In Nigerian society, the discussion of anything sexual is seen as taboo, and which should not be discussed in public (Oshi, 2005). This view was supported by the definition of sexual abuse by the World Health Organisation as the involvement in sexual activities of a child, as he or she does not comprehend and is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society (WHO, 1999). Looking at this definition provided above, sexual abuse is a violation of the law in society.

By looking at the definitions provided by participants on their different views of sexual abuse, participants expressed their understanding of sexual abuse based on their awareness of the incidence of sexual abuse in their community and across the world. It can be put forward

that most definitions provided are in line with literature that sexual abuse is a forceful act perpetrated on young girls. It is also perceived as a taboo which is against the cultural norm of the dwellers of Ibadan community and is also a violation which is positioned as a criminal offence perpetrated by men. Harper (2018) posits that sexual abuse can be regarded as an unwanted sexual activity through force. Rape of young girls is forceful sexual intercourse which involves penetration carried out without consent, which is a criminal offence. This is comparable to the Radical Feminist theory and Hegemonic Masculinity theory. The radical theory states that men oppress women in all areas, which can be a form of violence that includes rape (Bryson, 2016). Men oppress these young girls by expressing their patriarchal traits, in this case a young girl becomes a suitable target to a sexual offender. Hegemonic Masculinity also explains the aggressive traits carried by sexual offenders as the reason behind the rape because of masculine traits and displays of aggression by men, which explains the forceful sexual gratification of men with young girls. Despite all the awareness of sexual abuse (rape) in societies as a violation of societal laws, men continue to perpetrate against young girls and oppress women as an expression of their masculinity and patriarchal traits. Rape can be used by men as an instrument of communication by the rapist himself to assert his masculinity and power (Jewkes, 2005). From the findings the radical feminist theory became very relevant as it explains rape as a forceful patriarchal embedded tendency, used to oppress and dominate women, females and girls. Radical theory therefore helps uncover the oppression of men and their patriarchal traits in the society toward women.

4.2.3 Hearsay narratives on sexual abuse incidents

From the 20 participants involved in the in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted in the Ibadan community on the sexual abuse of young girls in the community, another sub-theme emerged on the hearsay narratives on sexual abuse incidents. A notable 35 per cent of participants expressed the hearsay, media reports and town rumours on the sexual abuse of young girls and the steps taken by the community. In line with this aspect, various narratives were heard. One participant expressed:

People do talk about rape in this community. There are rumours of young housekeeper girls who are forced to have sex by their male bosses, who are old and married. These are very wicked and heartless men. Some of these girls are around the age of 15 and 16 years. (Kehinde, Interview, December 2018).

Evidently, the sexual abuse of young girls by older males are conversation of the town, meaning that, the community is in one way or the other aware of the abuse of girls. The researcher had to probe to find out if the participants were aware of any actions taken against the housekeeping bosses, the alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse in this case. The participant stated that there were no known consequences as the cases of such sexual abuse go unreported.

These are incidents that people talk about with no evidence and reports made. Young girls do not report these sexual incidences as they are scared because these are older males and with money, paying their salaries for working in their homes. So, nothing happens to them and no one knows them. No girl ever comes out that she is raped and names the perpetrator. No one goes to the police. It becomes just a street talk. (Kehinde, Interview, December 2018).

The argument and narrative explanation from the participant show that there are few reports on sexual abuse. A lot of victims are stigmatised and stereotyped by the male perpetrators who are much older than the victims. Most of these young girls rely on these men who pay their salaries and would not want to jeopardise this opportunity by reporting their bosses and making an official report. Moore (2007) states that the victims of sexual abuse do not disclose the crime as the perpetrators threaten the victims against disclosure. Therefore, there is a culture of silence around the issue of sexual abuse, especially in a society where sexual matters are not discussed in public. Non-disclosure of sexual abuse by victims, especially young girls, can arise from fear of further harm from the perpetrators or of being blamed, feelings of shame and cultural inhibitions, which also mask the true burden of sexual abuse perpetrated on young girls (David, 2018).

Another participant, Folorunsho, also highlighted that the media publicised rape incidents where the perpetrator was punished:

Sexual abuse of girls and women is not new in Nigeria. There was a media report about a military general's daughter who was raped and killed. She fell as a victim of rape and was killed by the men who were business people. The offenders of the crime were later apprehended because of the victim's father's position in the military; the investigation was serious (Folorunsho, interview, January 2019).

This implies that sexual abuse is not limited to age and class. In this case, a woman from a prominent family was also affected. Thus, the crime can be perpetrated by several means such as luring business partners, even friends can be perpetrators of sexual abuse. Similar to

this study, Lang (1998) found that sexual violence can be perpetrated through various means such as promising a girl a gift or luring children to take money from the perpetrators.

However, it has been argued that a difference in class can play a role in reporting, investigating and getting the perpetrators punished. There is a response to their problem because of societal influence and these people are also capable of getting certain things done based on their influence. Thus, there is a lack of response to support the poor class who are victims of sexual abuse. Poverty is one of the major problems which affects the disclosure and investigation of sexual abuse (Kemi, 2011). There is a lack of response in supporting victims who are not from prominent/wealthy families due to the rigorous system of investigation which requires self-funding and influence with government officials.

As an aspect of the hearsay on girls and women being sexually abused, 30 per cent of participants revealed in the study and presented that women and young girls are sexually abused because the perpetrators are on substances such as hard drugs. A participant voiced the following pattern regarding the hearsay and town rumours of sexual abuse/rape in the community:

I have heard about (the) rape of a very young girl who was below the age of ten. According to town rumours, the offender was on drugs and weed (cannabis), which influenced him to rape the young girl. The offender was apprehended and taken to the police station, the last thing I heard was that he was arranged to face the final penalty at the court (Sodiq, interview, December 2018).

This implies that offenders find pleasure in perpetrating violence on young girls due to some factors such as the use of hard drugs and alcohol which could blind them. In stressing the influence of substances, Collins and Messerschmidt (1993) mentioned in their study that at least one-half of all violent crimes involve alcohol consumption by the perpetrators. In addition to the hearsay of rape, Samuel was probed further, stating the following:

I have heard (of) the case of an 11-year-old girl getting pregnant nowadays and giving birth. There (is) another one I heard about in Bayelsa state in 2008 the girl was between ten and 11 years of age, she got pregnant and then she was in primary school (Samuel, interview, January 2019).

Patterning to this study, participants expressed further that rape is also perpetrated by members of the family. Jamal (2012) and Duru (2014) made it known that in most cases of rape incidents, the perpetrators are known to the victims and might be someone close to them,

or a member of the family. This participant shared and expressed their knowledge by stating the following:

These days, rape can be perpetrated by members of the families such as uncles. It is not limited to outsiders or external people alone, and it even happens between friends, I mean trusted friends (Folorunsho, January 2019).

Following this argument, Moore (2007) expresses further that abuse by family friends or close friends is very frequent, as such friends take advantage of the closeness of the family to perpetrate the crime in complete secrecy.

The participants' narratives reflecting on the rumours and media reports of the sexual abuse of girls and women in and around the community speak to the prevalence of sexual abuse in Nigeria. Sexual abuse is a well-known issue in Nigeria, which a lot of people talk about. This menace has become normal talk and rumours, which are not publicly confronted by members of the community, apart from this there is a lack of reporting of sexual incidents because some victims are scared of being ridiculed by members of the society (Oseni, 2016). Despite the fact that sexual abuse is a well-known issue to the public, the incidence of sexual abuse continues to increase and is not publicly confronted, despite the awareness. Alhassan (2013) laments that over one hundred cases of rape and violence against females in Nigeria often go without any of the perpetrators being prosecuted. Folayan (2014) stressed further that sometimes the police do not take appropriate actions by not making official reports of rape incidents. The Nigerian Criminal Code of Law section 357 of the Criminal Code Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recommends life imprisonment for rape convicts and 14 years imprisonment for attempted rape (Igwe, 2015). In some cases, rape is not reported because the families and victims feel that reporting rape incidents would circulate the news of the victims' defilement, which may result in shame, ridicule and social stigma. Subsequently, many families prefer to conceal rape that involves their family members in order to save themselves from shame, backlash, rigorous legal procedures and public embarrassment, amongst others (Mbaku, 2019).

Pertaining to the hearsay on the age range of victims of sexual abuse, participants shared their opinions giving a lot of insight and understanding of the age groups of victims. From the interviews, participants stated the following: Ajayi gave an insight on the girls that he has heard fall victim to rape, stating: "Girls of 18 years old are even old. I have heard of girls of

13, 14 years who are victims of rape in this city. Thinking and hearing of this is a big surprise to me” (Ajayi, interview, December 2018).

Another participant also confirmed:

I do not have or know the statistics to prove on the age range, but sexual abuse is common within the adolescents and children. This is not limited to adults and teens alone because we hear unpleasant news of kids of two years old being raped (Yinka, Interview, December 2018).

From the explanation above, sexual abuse affects infants and is not limited to young girls and women alone. Based on literature, the statistics on sexual violence in Nigeria varies. One report observed by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) that there was a report of the rape of a three-year old girl by her biological father in 2013. The sexual act was perpetrated when the father was changing his daughter’s diaper (Vanguard Newspaper, 2013). The World Health Organisation on child abuse prevention stressed further, stating the following:

Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society (WHO, 2002;Krug;2002).

Another participant buttressed further on the age of victims and stated the following:

Usually it depends. I think cultures differ. For example, I have heard from the media report of a man who married a 12 year old girl in the northern part of this country, in fact the man is an influential man and I know that is their culture over there but to me I count that as rape because a girl of 12 years does not know if that is right or wrong (Daniel, Interview, January 2019).

This is evident in some parts of Northern Nigerian cultures where marrying a girl or having sexual intercourse with her before the age of 18 is not a crime but is a genuine way to express the culture. Young girls are given away for marriage at a very tender young age in order to increase the wealth of the family through the payment of a bride price, with a high value placed on virginity (Iyabode, 2011; Olusegun 2016). Sexual abuse takes several forms. For instance, giving away young girls into marriage even before the onset of their menstrual cycle is still being practiced, especially in the northern part of Nigeria, for religious and economic reasons (Akin- Odanye, 2018). Every society and culture has some basic norms and beliefs that guide people, in Nigeria for instance, specifically northern Nigeria (Hausa-Fulani

dominated) the early marriage of a girl-child is allowed. Erulkar and Bello (2007) explain the reason for the acceptance of early marriage amongst Northern regions as being to preserve the value of virginity; fears about marital sexual activity; to reduce promiscuity of the girl-child; and other socio-cultural and religious norms. Nevertheless, due to the ignorance and selfish nature, more often than not they tend to forget the effect it has on the girls, as well as their development in the community. It is worrisome that these girls have no power to counter the perpetrators.

Kyari and Ayodele (2014) also agree that early marriage influences the wellbeing of the young girls and that of the society, which includes educational training, economic empowerment and awareness of reproductive health services, which would enable them to take conversant decisions. Factors such as poverty, peer pressure and parental pressure lead to the early marriage of young girls, which has a harmful impact on the young girls who are not developmentally ready for pregnancy, and has a destructive impact on their mental wellbeing, emotional stability and education (school drop-out).

Another participant shared insight into the sexual abuse of young girls based on hearsay in social media and stated the following: “There was one I read on the social media about a man who lured a six-year old girl with twenty Naira. It was mentioned that the girl is innocent and naïve. The man just lured her to lay with her” (Folorunsho, interview, 2019). This implies that the rape of young girls has taken various dimensions, not only in Ibadan community but various parts of Nigeria and Africa (Mbaku, 2019; Agbo, 2017). Young girls are often the victims of this sexual abuse by men.

From the assertions of the participants above, they are commensurate with the literature that sexual abuse affects young girls the most in society because they cannot comprehend the sexual crime comprehensively. Thus, men oppress and express their patriarchal traits by taking advantage of this and assaulting these girls. Audu (2009) is also of the opinion that girls who are younger than 12 years are more vulnerable to becoming victims of sexual abuse in Nigeria. Lalor (2005) is of the opinion that perpetrators of sexual abuse perpetuate acts on young girls because it is believed that young girls are not exposed to sexually transmitted diseases. However, this assertion does not give men the right to abuse young girls and take advantage of them.

4.2.4 Characteristics of sexual offenders

Examining the characteristics of the perpetrators of sexual abuse found that half of the participant had opinions on the characteristics of the perpetrators. The first was through the age gap between the victims and the perpetrators. It was found that most perpetrators of sexual abuse are adult males above the age of 18. As part of the interview conducted, participants expressed their opinions about the perpetrators of sexual abuse. Gbenga argued that:

Looking at the age difference between the perpetrators and young girls, the perpetrators are always very much older than the girls and the men who perpetrate against young girls are restless, roaming around the street observing and doing nothing meaningful. Such idleness affects them mentally, which makes them rape young girls. An individual who is always busy will not have time for this menace of luring young girls around, even if such a person has an urge for sex. There are sex workers around from where he can buy and satisfy himself. A right-thinking man who is always busy with a daily task rushing out to work and getting home late will not have the time to rape a young girl just to satisfy himself (Gbenga, December 2018).

From the interviews another participant made it known that the sexual offenders cut across different age groups, stating the following: “It cuts across all age groups both young and old men sexually abusing young girls, but it seems men who perpetrate the most are from age 18 years and above” (Leke, January 2019).

Another participant classified the possible age of sexual offenders, stating the following:

The age of men I have heard raping young girls, I have heard of men in their 40s, 50s and 60s normally perpetrate these girls and I have never heard of a youth or a teenage young man raping his female mate except for students in schools especially in the university who are in a cultist group, those are the ones who rape their mates or even anybody (Olanrewaju, December 2018).

According to a news report on the rape incidence, a 65-year-old man was arrested for raping a two-year old girl child (Punch Newspaper 2016). Another participant disputed the fact that sexual offenders are only men in their 40s, 50s and 60s and stated that it varies, some might be young, but the ones heard about most are old (Timileyin, interview, 2019). Based on this fact, Mbaku (2019) makes it known that the age of sexual offenders varies as both old and young men are perpetrators of sexual abuse. From a report of rape, a 16-year-old boy was arrested for raping a four-month-old baby (Vanguard, 2017).

Another participant's argument was in another direction stating that rape is perpetrated by influential men in the society. According to his statement:

Usually it depends on, I think, the culture. For example I heard of a man who married a girl of 12 years of age in the north in fact the man is an influential man and I think that is their culture over there, but to me I count it as rape because a girl is 12 years (Daniel, January 2019).

Based on the fact that in the northern part of Nigeria, child marriage is a tradition cultural practice which is heavily influenced by Islam, a religion which has historically been practiced in the region and which continues to be a practiced in the northern part of Nigeria (Braimah, 2014). Another participant Samuel maintained that:

The cases I have heard are about men of 70, 75, 80 years old men raping a young girl, and then we used to hear about some other ones such as young men of around 50, 40 something those are the ones I think want to use the raping of girls for money rituals. What is a man of 70 years looking for that is why I'm saying that some of the people doing this have psychological problems for instance someone close to 80 years of age and doing such, it means something is actually wrong with the person or such an individual wants that opportunity to renew his money ritual sacrifice. This is based on my observation. (Samuel, January 2019).

This implies that men who fall between these ages may be involved in money rituals.

In Nigeria the concept of ritual killing is no more regarded as an unusual thing and everyone is aware of its existence. Hence the threat to human life by ritualist has increased tremendously in Nigeria (Ani, 2018). For instance, the desperate power and money seekers are required to have sexual intercourse with a young girl or provide human parts such as human heads, female breasts, and private parts or take a blood bath which will be carried out by the ritualist (voodoo doctors) (Lazarus, 2019). From the findings, hegemonic masculinity theorising became relevant to the study as it helped explained the characteristics of the sexual offenders, who were all said to be men capitalising on masculinity and masculine attributes to oppress young girls, women and females in most spaces, including those of Nigeria.

4.2.5 Men's take on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men

Another sub-theme which emerged was men's take on the sexual abuse of young girls by other men pertaining to the men's reflection on the victims of sexual abuse. Participants shared their reactions regarding the girls who are victims of sexual abuse by men in the community. In line with this aspect various opinions were raised. This is essential to understand other men's reactions towards men who sexually abuse young girls, and since

they are also men it will provide a better understanding as participants express their reaction towards victims and the perpetrators. Nevertheless, from the data gathered one participant argued as follows:

It is something that saddens the mind. We should look at the ladies in town now with the way they are set. I am not talking about underage girls; I am talking about matured ones. In fact, they are willing to have proper sex with a man to me. But when a man stoops so low to approach a young girl, that's a sexual abuse (Sunday. December 2018).

Another participant argued that, "some men find pleasure in raping young girls and some men actually lack self- control. When they lose their mind, they cannot control themselves" (Yinka, December 2018).

Sodiq (December 2018) also stated that, "men who partake in this act are heartless and wicked, who do not have good thoughts on their mind". His opinion was that such individuals should be given life imprisonment because these men have done more harm than good, which has made some girls very restless and confused.

Another participant voiced the following:

It is pathetic. For instance, someone I follow on Instagram was sharing a story of an unknown lady who was sexually abused when she was younger, which makes her mentally unbalanced, which affected her mentally, which makes such individuals go into their shell (hide themselves/be alone). They cannot do things or venture into life it takes something out of them. With what I have observed, she was affected psychologically (Saliu, December 2018).

This view was supported by another participant who added:

First is that she is going to be ashamed of herself, she will be afraid and timid to walk around the community where the incident occurred. What will be in such a victim's mind is to find a way to just leave that community/area (Timileyin, January 2019).

Another participant voiced the following:

I think I see them to be unfortunate to fall victim of such because of the trauma and the challenges they will pass through, so I think it is unfortunate for them to be exposed to such a kind of experience because if care is not taken, they can be affected like emotionally and even other aspects of life (Rufus, January, 2019).

Nonetheless, John mentioned that such an individual will feel bad about it because any girl who has been raped is damaged. "Even to find a man to marry her might be very difficult because when a man hears about such an incident about his lover, he might be disgusted"

(John January 2019). Another participant shared his opinion on men's take on sexual abuse by other men and stated the following:

It is a very terrible scenario. A lot of people position the blame on the victims for being raped. When we have a look at it and analyse it, we are going to find out a lot of men are very traditional and just blame the innocent victims. This makes them traumatised and that's the reason why a lot of this does not get reported to the rightful authorities and again they do not speak about it because the society will blame them. Such an individual will have a negative impression about all men (Dare, December 2018).

Another participant buttressed on this:

Men who perpetrate this sexual act are ungodly with immoral acts and wicked. It is unfortunate for young girls to fall as victims at a very young age because for them to be exposed to such sexual acts at a very young age can affect them emotionally in relating with others and other aspects of life (Rufus, January 2019).

From this explanation above, another participant explained it from a spiritual aspect saying:

From an African perspective, especially from the spiritual aspect of it, naturally in nature it is abnormal for a man to sleep with a very young girl and anything abnormal is not from this world. So, I feel something is sponsoring them spiritually (Adegoke, December 2018).

Another participant's view was expressed thus:

It always saddens my heart when I hear about the sexual abuse of young girls by men, in fact if I see a man doing such, I can beat such a person up. That will be the thought that will come to my mind because these men damage the young girl's future and plans. It is very sad. (Kehinde, December 2018).

Another participant expressed himself, in what can be described as an expression of a patriarchal trait, stating, "sexual abuse is a wrong offence, but if someone should tell me now she was raped in one way or the other, I will ask some questions to know if she was raped actually or she has an interest in it" (Yinka, December 2018). From the statements of the participants, there is an expression of masculinity, patriarchy and blaming of the victim, which diverts attention from perpetrators to the victims of sexual abuse. Men tend to attribute more blame to the victims and less blame to the perpetrators (Posch, 2016).

The above assertion highlights the participants' reaction towards girls who are victims of sexual abuse. It shows the expression and take of men on the perpetrators of sexual abuse of young girls by explaining their reactions; feelings towards other men who perpetuate this sexual act by oppressing young girls; blaming the victims instead of the perpetrators of sexual violence, which is an expression of patriarchal traits by the participants. Nonetheless, the

male voices are essential to the incidence of sexual abuse and other gender-based violence perpetrated by males towards young girls and women in society. Even though most men expressed their patriarchal traits, their voices are still crucial and will enable the researcher to understand other gender-based violence issues in which blame is diverted to the victims. The sexual abuse of young girls has caused a lot of severe damage to the victims which puts them in psychological depression and trauma, and which adversely affects these girls. According to Nelson (2002), rape is one of the most extreme forms of trauma which affects a young child and often causes serious and long-term emotional damage on the part of the rape victim.

4.3 Factors ‘viewed’ as contributing to the sexual abuse of young girls

Another sub-theme emerged which examines the factors that contribute to men sexually abusing young girls. The study found that factors contributing to why men sexually abuse young girls linked to patriarchal stereotypes and social myths: 60 per cent of the participants linked the sexual abuse of young girls to patriarchal stereotypes, while 25 per cent linked it to social myths, with a particular reference to the Ibadan community.

4.3.1 Casual causes of sexual abuse

The men interviewed gave some embedded patriarchal stereotypes as factors. Data collection for this study found that sexual abuse is mostly perpetrated on young girls by men on a causal basis. Therefore, 80 per cent of the participants identified the causal contributors of sexual abuse, referred to as the cause of the situation which contributes to a behaviour. Hence, Russo (2019) affirms that understanding the causes of sexual abuse on females is generally complex and is often in various forms. The first patriarchal stereotype was viewing the dressing of young girls as sexually provocative to men.

4.3.2 Young girls dressing style as a factor

From the interviews, 60 per cent of the participants linked the causes of sexual abuse of young girls to their mode of dressing. One participant stated: “To me the dressing of some ladies is a cause of sexual abuse. Some girls dress and wear skimpy cloths around, which usually tempts men and increases their urge for sex” (Taofeek, December 2018). Another participant mentioned that “this mode of dressing attracts men” (Saliu, December 2018). In this same notion, another participant expressed further stating that, “sometimes when you see the way

some ladies dress you will be shocked, in fact some can just wear net alone, which reveals a lot” (Leke, January 2019).

Another participant buttressed further by stating that, “the exposing and revealing clothes young girls wear nowadays, men are easily attracted to that, which makes them rape young girls” (Olanrewaju, December 2018). However, another participant disputes the fact and expressed it differently stating, “the dressing of a young girl or a woman is not a reason to justify rape” (Daniel, January 2019). The dressing of young girls and women has been used as a justification for rape by men. From the feminist perspective, it has been criticised as a patriarchal stereotype against women and young girls concerning the dressing of young girls by blaming the victims for rape and not the men. Adult males particularly, express patriarchal traits which cause their actions to go unquestioned. On the other hand, young girls and women are easily criticised or ostracised if they behave contrary to the societal norms and commit a socially undesired deed. In many instances, Jekwes (2005) says that the blame of rape is placed on the women and not the men. Victim blaming is a phenomenon that has been happening and which is perpetrated by sexism. Schollkopf (2012) explains that perpetrators who blame the victim commonly enjoy the privilege of social status opposite that of the victim, and their blame typically involves use of stereotypical negative words. Therefore, the dressing of young girls is not a justification for rape. The patriarchal traits of men are used as an oppression over women which generally hinders the gender equality rights and expression of women in the society. It is within such context that this research study found radical feminist and hegemonic masculinity theories relevant to unpack and describe patriarchal power and control exhibited by most males in sexually abusing women and girls. The theories assert that various patriarchal attitudes and practices play a chief role in oppressing and violating the rights of women, females and girls in most African and global societies; and this was the case with the study conducted with some men in Ibadan Nigeria. All male participants pointed at patriarchy as a predicament in violence against women and girls in societal, family and marriage institutions.

4.3.3 Marital issues as a factor

Another patriarchal stereotypical factor is one of blaming sexual abuse of young girls on marital issues. Ten percent of the participants interviewed mentioned marital issue as a factor. One participant stated:

I think when men have marital issues with their wives and have some sexual urge, they tend to abuse or assault these young girls and if the wife is denying a man of sex, there are possibilities for him to assault a young girl (Gbenga, December 2018).

This view was also supported by another participant as the causes of sexual abuse of young girls, stating, “I think the cause of this is the sexual urge of some men and I think they could not control themselves” (Adegoke, December 2018). This assertion above shows that self-gratification is one of the factors contributing to men sexually abusing young girls by satisfying themselves whenever they have marital problems.

From the statements made by the participants as to marital issues being a factor which contributes to the rape of young girls by men, Jewkes’ (2005) study argues that when men are sexually aroused, it is imperative to have sex. It is argued further that men might find it convenient to have sexual pleasure with a young girl when aroused for sexual desires. This explains the marital problem of men whereby they showcase masculinity and patriarchal traits by oppressing and controlling young girls.

4.3.4 General factors

Unemployment

On the causal factors of rape, some participants identified and related it to the unemployment in the country which makes men restless, leading some men to rape young girls. From the interviews, 15 per cent of the participants expressed themselves on this issue, with one participant stating the following:

Unemployment is a reason for rape to me. Looking at it properly, an individual who is not employed and doing nothing has the tendency of sleeping around, and when such an individual does not get what he wants at that time, he can rape a girl. Meanwhile, if such a person is busy with work, such will not come to his mind. For instance, one who is always running to beat the traffic and gets back home very late, where is the time? (Kehinde, December 2018).

Another participant mentioned that, “unemployment is one of the reasons why these men rape young girls. Joblessness can lead to a lot of things” (Daniel, January 2019).

It was argued that underprivileged jobless men who are not able to get jobs roam around the community and unable to get an adult sexual partner, would turn to young girls for prompt sexual pleasure. Moforah and Jewkes (1998), cited by Jewkes (2005) state that men are sexually aroused and unable to control themselves, which could often be used as an excuse for rape. From the above explanation, unemployment in Nigeria leads to depression, which makes men drink excessive alcohol and other forms of drug abuse. Thus, they lose their consciousness, which makes them rape young girls.

Alcohol/Drug abuse

Adding to this view, another participant linked unemployment to the excessive drinking of alcohol and the use of hard drugs. However, from the interviews, 30 per cent of participants identified excessive alcohol consumption and drug abuse as one of the general factors associated with the rape of young girls. A participant mentioned the following:

A lot of things are associated with sexual abuse. One of them is (the) excessive consumption of alcohol beverages which makes men misbehave and their mission after taking excessive alcohol will be to assault young girls and women, which can even make them more eager by even beating up the opposite sex (Sunday, December 2018).

Another participant voiced the following:

Nowadays, there are a lot of these substances such as codeine, reffnor, tutolin which are cough syrup but excessive use of it with mixtures of other substances such as cannabis, vodka, spirit, Alomo bitters and gin makes them unconscious. This mixture is called 'gutter water' because of the mixture of different drinks and substances. This makes men have an urge for sex. The drugs are meant to be for cough and flu, and I think the misuse of it damages the brain, which makes people who take it not to think straight and might have reasons to misbehave around (Ajayi, December 2018).

Another participant buttressed further on this by saying, "from what I have heard in the environment, a lot of people who take hard drugs such as cocaine are always aggressive and by this, they can force sex on a young girl" (Abiodun, January 2019).

It was found that alcohol created susceptibility as it has shown that perpetrators were often under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Consuming excessive alcohol and hard drugs retards intellectual thinking. Hence, supporting the views above, alcohol and other hard drugs/substances are sometimes the cause of sexually aggressive behaviour by men (Abbey, 2001; Berkowitz, 1992). Grisso (1999) states that alcohol and drugs have been shown to play

a role in the assaulting of the female gender. Mizeck (1993) links alcohol and violence, which are complex issues, thus Mc Donald (1994) suggests that there is a connection between alcohol, drugs and violence.

Psychological problems

Likewise, ten per cent of the participants also stressed that rape can be caused by psychological problems, stating the following:

I have never understood the logic why people do that. To me such people have a psychological problem (mental disease), especially those who rape young girls. They need psychological evaluation and that needs to be dealt with because it something traumatic and a very bad behaviour (Dara, January 2019).

The dominance of men is given as one of the causes of sexual abuse, whereby men exercise their domineering power through aggressive means over females. Aina (1998) confirms that Nigerian society has been a patriarchal society which has been the structure of the traditional society. According to Kekana (2005), sexual abuse is associated with an increase of mental health problems and behavioural problems.

4.3.5 Myths associated with sexual abuse

In this study, some participants linked the sexual abuse of young girls to some societal myths, for example 25 per cent identified that spirituality was a predominant myth. One participant said:

To me some men use sex to renew their money rituals. There is a societal myth that having sex with a virgin brings one fortune. Thus, some men have sex with young girls who are virgins so that they can be wealthy (Taofeek, December 2018).

Another participant attested to this by stating that, “some men are involved in the rape of young girls for money rituals because they are told by the herbalist (voodoo doctors) to have sex with a virgin or a young girl as the source of their wealth” (Saliu, December 2018). Another participant linked sexual abuse to the spiritual aspect and mentioned that, “naturally in nature rape is abnormal and anything abnormal does not come from this realm, which is a spiritual problem. And I believe something is sponsoring them” (Adegoke, December 2018). Moreover, another participant stated that, “some men sexually abuse young girls to renew

their money rituals and gain more wealth so that they can be well-known in the society” (Timileyin, January 2019).

In Nigeria, due to unemployment, acute economic recession and corruption there has been more thirst for high rates of materialism and evil rituals (suggested by voodoo herbalists) in the country, with the hope of accumulating more wealth (Mbaku, 2019). In supporting the statement made above, recently in Nigeria there has been an increase in the outrageous crime of stealing female panties which are used as a source of wealth by cybercrime offenders known as ‘yahoo boys’ (Lazarus, 2019). According to Soewu (2009), some people believe that when women especially virgins (children) are raped, the destiny of the victim is transferred to the perpetrators through magical means. Recently, there has been a drastic increase in the rape of young girls due to those who believe that having sexual intercourse with a virgin can cure HIV/AIDS (Adelman, 2010). The virgin myth accounts for the reason for young girls and infant rape. In some African countries local traditional healers advocate that having sexual intercourse with a virgin is an effective way to acquire wealth, greatness and success in business and to receive a cure and protection against sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS (Lalor, 2008; Mnqundaniso, 2008). Townsend (2004) states that this misconception of having sex with a virgin or young girl is popularly referred to as the ‘virgin cleansing myth’. Similar to this Mitibo, Kennedy and Umar (2011) carried out a study in a Malawian prison amongst men who are convicted for sexual violence crime and found 58 offenders who mentioned that it occurred as a means to cure or avoid HIV/AIDS infection. From the findings, hegemonic masculinity theorising explained the ego of men and the normalised heterosexual belief in male superiority and female inferiority (Mkhize, 2015). Such patriarchal male privilege and othering of females make most men to believe that they are superior beings and can do whatever they want to females and girls, such as being abusive to them. From this, most men feel violence is one of the tools of demonstrating their power and control over women, females and girls.

4.4 Effect of sexual abuse on the victims and family

The incidence of sexual abuse has become an outrageous event that takes place without anyone knowing, either within the family or the society. Sexual abuse has numerous effects on the victims and the family, which can be a big challenge for the victims to overcome. From

the interviews 15 per cent of the participants identified that sexual abuse has a psychological effect on victims; 20 per cent of the participants also made mention of shame; another 15 per cent identified that it creates a lack of confidence for the victims; and five per cent of the participants mentioned unwanted pregnancy. Thus, from the interviews various ideas were gathered on the effects of sexual abuse on the victims. The disclosure of sexual abuse and the reaction of the family towards the incidence of sexual abuse was also highlighted. Regarding the disclosure of sexual abuse, one participant mentioned that “it depends on the victim, once the victim does not keep quiet or silent about it, thus necessary actions are taken immediately” (Gbenga, December 2018).

The studies of Priebe and Svedivm (2008) and Walsh *et al.* (2008) it is noted that sexual abuse remains undisclosed until the survivor feels comfortable to speak out or notify an agency about what has happened. This means that the disclosure of sexual abuse depends on the victim and when she is ready to notify anyone about the incident which has taken place. Opinions were also shared on the effects of sexual abuse on the victims and the effects on family members, such as the parents/guardians of victims. A participant mentioned the following about the effects of rape on victims, stating that a girl who has been abused will not be happy about it, secondly her pride is taken away from her and such a victim will not be confident in herself (Olanrewaju, December 2018).

This means that sexual abuse can damage a victim psychologically. In buttressing this point, by sharing an experience of a victim with his own personal observation, one interviewee said the following:

It is pathetic. For instance, someone I follow on Instagram was sharing an experience of a lady who was sexually abused when she was younger, which has affected her mentally in relating with others. Such individuals find it difficult to express themselves, which makes them to go into their shell (hide themselves/be alone) they can't do things or venture into life, it takes something out of them. With what I have observed it is something that affects them so much (Yinka, December 2018).

In view of supporting this statement, sexual abuse has an impact on a victim which can be a short- and a long-term negative impact, including somatic and psychological health problems leading to emotional instability, depression, low self-esteem a sense of helplessness, self-hatred, suicide, substance abuse and distress (Mannon and Leitschuh, 2002; Molnar *et al.*, 2001; Nurcombe, 2000; Paolucci *et al.*, 2001). From the study, another participant noted that:

Such victims are going to be ashamed of herself and would be afraid to walk around the community where such incidence took place and rape cannot be hidden forever. When the parent eventually gets to know about the incidence of rape/sexual abuse, they will be ashamed to talk about it even with members of the family (Timileyin, January 2019).

Agbo (2017) concurs that many families and rape victims feel that reporting rape incidents would circulate the news of the victim's defilement, which may result in shame, ridicule and social stigma. From the interviews another participant conversed that:

Sexual abuse affects victims in a lot of ways it sends a signal message to them as victims, which affects her psychological thinking, where such a victim is going to have the wrong impression about men because of the incident, which brings shame and has damaged her thinking psychologically (Leke, January 2019).

Another participant stated the following:

Sexual abuse has an effect on the victims and the family because members of the family will be disgraced and will feel very bad about it. Also, a girl who has been raped has been damaged and might be pregnant after the incident, again such can ruin a lot of plans made by the parent and victims, which can affect her future and it might be very difficult for her to even get married because some men find it annoying hearing about the rape or sexual scandal of their partner (Rufus, January 2019).

Collins-Vezina (2013) made it known that rape has a negative effect on victims, which affects the cognitive development of a victim as the victim may develop a distorted self-concept. Similarly, Perry (2001) argues that the effect of abuse on a young child affects the psychological and social wellbeing of such a victim. Rape affects the cognitive development of a victim (Stone, 2016) therefore, a victim might develop a distorted self-concept and emotional orientation of the environment. Putnam, (2006) also argues that abuse has a negative effect on young girls as it affects the development of the brain with consequent cognitive psychological and social impairment.

4.5 Views on the Consequences for Perpetrators

According to data collected, even though the participants do not know the perpetrators, based on hearsay and news reports, they are often portrayed as adult males and members of the community and some are even family members. From the findings, 50 per cent of the participants explained that the perpetrators are adult males.

Accordingly, one participant explained this:

It cuts across all age brackets, both young and old men who are adult rape young girls. But it seems that a male who is above the age of 18 years has the possibility of raping

young girls because an 18-year-old young man can be referred to as an adult in the Nigerian context (Leke, January 2019).

In this same view, another participant stated that, “adult males who are around 40 and 50 years of age are normally the perpetrators of rape on young girls” (Olanrewaju, December 2018). Similarly, Briere (2016) and Finkelhor (1990) observe that adult men are often the perpetrators of sexual abuse on women and young girls. Another participant mentioned that sexual abuse can be perpetrated by members of the family or someone close to the victim. From the interviews, a participant stated the following:

I have read about a case of rape like that from the newspaper where the father was the one who raped his daughter for almost a year and impregnated her. To me, such a man is heartless, his reason was that his wife died some years back and the daughter looks so much like the mother and he could not control himself (Samuel, January 2019).

In asserting this view, Moore (2007) mentions that the rape of young girls by family friends or close friends is very frequent as such individuals take advantage in order to perpetuate the crime in complete secrecy. Nonetheless, most of the victims of rape know their perpetrators. Rape is a punishable offence in the Nigerian Constitution. In this aspect of the discussion participants shared their various sentiments on what they think should happen to sexual offenders, the actions taken by the government on the offenders, the happenings of the perpetrators they have heard about and individual judgmental actions on the perpetrators.

4.5.1 Men’s sentiments of sexual offenders

The interviewed shared their views on what they think should happen to sexual offenders. From the interviews, 75 per cent of participants expressed themselves on what they think should happen to sexual offenders.

A participant mentioned that, “sexual offenders should be taken to jail and spend some time over there” (Abiodun, 2019). This participant believes that prison is the best way of punishing sexual offenders. Another participant claims that, “offenders should be given life imprisonment with hard labour so far as it is a rape offence” (Gbenga, December 2018). From the interviews another participant criticised that prison is not a proper place or punishment for sexual offenders, stating the following:

If I am to decide on what should happen to the sexual offenders when they are caught in the act of rape or aftermath of the incidence, the best thing to do is to use sledge hammer

to break their private parts (penis) and I believe that will serve as a good example to other men who abuse young girls (Mathew, January 2019).

Another participant buttressed further on the same view, stating that “the prison is not a punishment for sexual offenders because by looking at the offence they have committed, they should be killed with immediate effect” (Timileyin, 2019). However, from the assertion above, another participant perceived it from another direction and stated that:

There are two things I think should happen to the sexual offenders, first they should be punished severely by the law that is they should be dealt with, and secondly offenders should be taken for psychological evaluation which will help to check on what is actually sponsoring this sexual act committed by men on young girls (Dare, January 2019).

Taofeek (December 2018) also expressed his view and stated the following:

In my own view I think what can be done to such perpetrators is that they should be killed immediately, but I know killing is a crime in the constitution and if that cannot be done they should be forgotten in prison for while or there should be a law on anyone who rapes young girls such as cutting off their private part, I mean penis, as a punishment - that is my opinion.

From the statement above, it seems that some men find rape to be a serious crime against humanity, especially when it comes to the rape of young girls by adult men who are old enough to be their fathers in the society. According to the law made by the federal government on any form of rape from the Criminal Code of Law section 357 of the Criminal Code Act, the law of the federation recommends life imprisonment for rape, and 14 years imprisonment for attempted rape (Itoro, 2015). Apart from this law, the members of the community take the law into their hands by punishing the offenders of the crime (Uzoanya, 2015).

In this view another participant explained his own perspective from another direction, stating that, “when some offenders are caught, they should be beaten by members of the community before reporting the victims to the law enforcement agencies” (Ajayi December 2018).

Another participant explained the following regarding men’s sentiments towards sexual offenders and stated:

They should be separated in a secluded area and orientate them and not to condemn them. There is something about condemnation. You don’t condemn people and expect them to change. You take the odds of them to change them, put something in them to change them. You add value and speak positive things to them then they start thinking deep, by that you are shaping them. Well there is nobody that you shape it is the function to broaden their thinking (Adegoke, December 2018).

In this view, Koeppel (2014) makes it known that it is necessary to orientate men about rape which will be a good procedure to curb sexual violence incidents by men on young girls and women.

Another participant was probed on what he thinks should happen to the sexual offenders and stated that, “the sexual offenders must be punished and arrested, offenders should even be banished from the vicinity the incidence happened and even be killed” (Folorunsho, January 2019).

It was obvious that most of the participants were angry about the sexual abuse of young girls. The researcher tried not to probe and just allowed them to vent their anger. Some of the men interviewed are fathers. Thus, this was a very serious issue to them as fathers and community members who are very concerned about this issue. This is evident in Folorunsho’s assertion of wanting the offenders to be banished or even killed. In this case, as this issue of the sexual abuse of the young is a concern for most community and family members, violence cannot be the answer to violence. Audrey Lorde (2003:25) states that “the master tool will never dismantle the master’s house.” Therefore, there is a need for a strategic fight against sexual violence and not the use of physical or aggressive violence to stop the menace. Immediate reports of sexual abuse should be handled by the law enforcement agencies on any sexual violence incidents. Community activism should also take place to create more awareness campaigns and radio jingles, which will enable young girls to have a free space to report any form of abuse happening to them. Members of the society sometimes take the law into their own hands on the offenders of sexual violence.

4.5.2 Effectiveness of governmental structures in dealing with sexual offenders

From the participants interviewed, 45 per cent believed that the law enforcement officials such as the police force are not doing enough to deal with the sexual abuse cases reported to them and cases are not given the necessarily attention. From the interviews, a participant made it known that the necessary attention is not given to the reports of rape cases, stating the following:

There is a need to re-educate our law enforcement officials. For instance, if a lady goes to a police station to make a report that she was raped by a man, from the investigation the first question that will be asked will be where did the incident take place, and if it took place at the man’s house late at night, the victim will be blamed for staying late. Now the question is not what she was doing there, but that does not give a man the right

to rape the lady because she is in your house. So, our law enforcement officials should be re-educated. When a case is reported, they should make it easy for people to come to them so that people don't think of the stress they have to go through and then we paint these things as bad as it is, and we attack it headlong and not do against them or side (with) them because they are men (Dare January 2019).

Similarly, Agbo (2017) mentions in his study that the Nigerian police demand rigorous documents such as the medical report within a short period of time to prove that the victim was abused before attending to such a case. Another participant made it known that police officials are corrupt by stating that:

In this our present-day Nigeria, there is nothing like punishment. Even when one is caught and reported, when you have money to bribe you can find your way and that's the current situation in this present Nigeria (Leke, January 2019).

Another participant mentioned that, "when offenders are arrested and taken to the police stations, they tend to bribe the officers and find themselves out in most cases, especially when the perpetrator is rich and influential" (John, January 2019). From John's argument, it shows that law enforcement agencies such as the police are corrupt because they can be bribed to neglect a case of rape that has been reported to them. In the same notion, another participant expressed the following:

When sexual offenders are caught and arrested, the government prolongs on the case in court for a long time. Most times we hear about it when it gets to court, after a while we would not hear anything about the case again, I mean the case just dies silently, so I have not seen a form of action or proper punishment by the government (Samuel, January 2019).

From this view, this participant feels that the police are failing in the execution of their jobs in protecting the lives of citizens against any criminal act. Participants went further to mention that police officials need to be trained on how to address rape reports and to attend to victims immediately. Progressively, the Nigerian senate has also approved life imprisonment for rape of children under 11 years and people who have sexual intercourse with minors (Agbo, 2017). However only a very few persons have been convicted since the enactment of the law in 2018 (Eyong, 2019). According to Uzoanya (2015), the governmental prosecution on sexual offenders may have not encouraged reports of sexual offenders. In some cases, the members of the community find it comfortable to punish the offenders, which is contrary to the stipulated laws. Mofoluwawo (2017) perceives the Nigerian law to victimise

and humiliate females as they do not bring justice to them immediately concerning sexual violence, which involves the requirements of producing dependable evidence of rape. For instance, before a rape case is established, the victim must get a medical report to confirm that the rape has taken place, as well as getting a police report. Nonetheless, some Nigerian police request bribes 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 rapist (Agbo, 2017).

4.6 Narrative of community responses

Another theme which emerged is a narrative of community responses to the sexual abuse of young girls by men in the Ibadan community. Participants expressed their views as members of the community. Two sub-themes emerged which expressed participants' views. The sub-themes include community responses to sexual offenders and advice on the role that young girls can play in combating sexual abuse.

4.6.1 Community response to sexual offenders

Megee (2012) describes a community as a geographical area where people stay together and share common norms, religion, values or identity. The community plays a vital role in reporting sexual offenders to the rightful authorities. From the interviews, participants expressed their responses when they sense something abnormal in their community. In this view, one participant mentioned what has been going on in the community and stated the following:

When members of the community see someone strange loitering around the community, they challenge them immediately and ask them questions in order to know what they are looking for in the community, Even if the sexual abuse is happening/is going to happen, we make sure it is far-away from our community (Gbenga, December 2018).

Following the argument above, another participant also made it known that, “members of the community report rape cases that happen in the community to the nearest police station in the community” (Rufus, January 2019). From the interviews, another participant shared hearsay on the community response to sexual offenders, stating the following:

I have heard about efforts being made by the community on the response to rape and the offenders of rape - what I heard was that the offender was apprehended by members of the community and was reported to the police authority and the young girl that was raped

was below the age of ten years. According to the hearsay, I heard the members of the community found out the offender was under the influence of hard drugs (Yinka, December 2018).

This shows that efforts are being made by members of the community on the incidence of sexual abuse in the Ibadan community, this assertion is from the interview carried out with Ibadan community dwellers. Another participant mentioned that:

Cases of rape or any form of sexual assault should be reported to the police. Also, community members should not put the law in their hands because the community cannot do anything itself to stop the menace, they will need the help of the police to stop any form of sexual violence by bringing offenders to Justice (Samuel, January 2019).

Another participant viewed the response of the community in another direction, stating:

The community is not helping matters because our culture is fading out gradually because we have imbibed the western culture. So, we are in a community where anything goes on, even in schools. For instance, when you are trying to correct someone's child in the community, the parent can come for you and ask what is your business? That culture of togetherness is gone out of us. So, the community itself is not helping matters, anything goes on there (Saliu, December 2018).

From the interviews, another participant also made it known that, “the members of the community should set certain rules and right judgements on anyone found raping young girls in the community, which will serve as a warning to anyone who has an intention to abuse any young girl or adult woman in the community” (Yinka, December 2018).

Following the assertion above, another participant stated that, “as members of the community, we cannot take the laws into our hands and the best (thing) to do is to hand over the sexual offenders to the law enforcement agencies” (Samuel, January 2019).

Following the ideas of the participants, Opekitan (2019) agrees that sexual abuse will remain a problem until the community put in place an institutional framework to deal comprehensively with the actual offenders of rape in the community. Therefore, this approach involves a functional, skilled service which also includes the criminal justice system in the community, social services and sexual abuse services.

4.6.2 Advice on the role that young girls can play in combating sexual abuse

Research participants had some advice to offer to the young girls and their families. From the interviews, 95 per cent of the participants shared some advice with the young girls, which

can help to combat sexual abuse in the Ibadan community. The participants voiced that young girls and their families can play a role in combatting the sexual abuse of young girls. Some suggested a change in dressing style, for girls not to wear revealing or short clothes. A concerned participant mentioned, “the way I see it is that they (the girls) should improve their dressing and cover the most attractive parts and not to reveal their special gifts around because it tempts men and makes them sexually attracted to these girls” (Kehinde, December 2018). Another participant stated that, “young girls should be very careful and at the same time be mindful of what they wear around the community” (Olanrewaju, 2019). Probing further, another participant stated the following:

Rape can be prevented by monitoring the young girls and my advice for them is to put on cloths that will cover their body and not expose their hidden gift to the public. For instance, hardly will you hear about a man sexually abusing a Muslim woman who uses hijab to cover themselves. I am not saying everyone should dress like that, but if a lady dresses very well to covers some basic parts of her body, a man will not be seduced. Again, when men are seduced, not all can control themselves (Yinka, December 2018).

Another participant stated the following:

The way I see it, young girls should just improve on their dressing and cover the most attractive parts of their body and not to reveal their body to the public because men are easily tempted with the way some young girls dress (Rufus, January 2019).

From the assertions above, participants blamed the dressing of young girls. This can be viewed as an expression of the dominance of patriarchy whereby men are of the opinion that they can set certain rules and make decisions for women and young girls. Feminists are critical of this assertion as it is a patriarchal stereotype of women and young girls, in this circumstance, the patriarchal values are entrenched in men and perpetrators of rape to blame the victims. Victim blaming is simply an easy way for perpetrators to avoid the consequences of wrong-doings and shift the blame to the underprivileged victims (Anderson, 1999). Gill, (2019) states that victim blaming is a phenomenon that has been happening for a while, which is perpetuated by sexism. This stereotype has led to and validates victim blaming, even when they have been abused and oppressed (Schoellkopf, 2012). Nonetheless, some participants when probed further gave notable advice and recommendations to young girls in the community, which will help them to avoid sexual abuse from men in the community. From the study, a participant made a recommendation by pointing out that “young girls should be conscious of the environment in which they dwell. It is very important when the environment

is not safe and very sensitive to various sexual acts” (Daniel, January 2019). Another participant stated the following:

There is a need for proper sex education by parents/guardians. Parents should stop misleading the young ones by giving wrong identifications for their sexual organs, such as the male sex organ (penis) they call it a bug or insect (Kokoro) they should stop that and make this children understand what it is meant for, such as urine and I believe with that I think they will know what is good and bad by being able to identify themselves (Abiodun, January 2019).

Supporting this view, another participant stated the following:

Everything is from the home; parents should be able to discipline the child in such a way that she will put on proper clothes when she is leaving the house. Also, the friends she hangs out with, bad company is part of it. That is, when the child is wayward (Ajayi, December 2018).

Another participant shared his view, stating that “parents should lecture their wards about sexual abuse, and monitor the movement of their children, especially if they are young girls” (Gbenga, December 2018).

Another participant shared advice which was directed to the young girls and stated that:

My advice to them is that they should have a forgiving spirit so that they can move forward and forget about the past because remembering such incidents can affect them mentally, and health-wise it is also bad (Leke, January 2019).

From the assertion above, which entails the notable advice given to young girls from the findings, it has been found that most of the blame for sexual abuse is towards the victim, while less attention is given to the perpetrators. Therefore, notable advice should be given to the men on how they can also stop perpetuating abuse on young girls, which will also help to curb sexual abuse on young girls in the community. Schollkopf (2012) made it known that sexual abuse incidence blame is always diverted from the perpetrators and pushed toward the victims of sexual abuse, thus the advice in combatting sexual abuse is also diverted towards the victims and not the perpetrators of abuse. This is perpetuated by sexism as an oppression over females. Hence notable advice should be considered for the perpetrators of sexual abuse, and not focus on the victims alone.

Another participant mentioned that “sex education is very important, and parents/guardians need to educate their wards to be aware of sexual violence. Also, there is a need for them to be close with their children so they would not hide anything from them” (Folorunsho, January 2019).

According to Alldred, (2017), sex education is important, which helps individuals to be aware of sexual activities and sexual exploitation. From the findings, sex education is positioned towards the young girls, which is patriarchal and oppressive towards women and young girls. Therefore, sex education should not be positioned towards women and young girls alone. Men also generally need sex education in order to understand the menace and effect of sexual abuse towards themselves, victims and members of the community.

4.7 Conclusion

The use of thematic analyses facilitated the meaningful presentation and discussion of the data obtained from the interviews. Major topics that were constructed from similar or commonly shared opinions formed the themes that were presented, analysed and discussed in this chapter. The themes that were identified provided an insight into men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls perpetrated by other men. It appeared that community members knew much about the nature of the sexual abuse of young girls. Most of them shared their opinions about sexual abuse. Those expressed were patriarchal, since the participants interviewed were men. Thus, the study is positioned towards the feminist argument, which critiques the oppressive and aggressive nature of men as an expression of masculinity and patriarchal traits. From the findings, gender inequality is likely to lead to sexual abuse due to the patriarchal nature of men. From the findings, men dominate and oppress young girls who are victims of sexual abuse. Generally, from the study on the causal factors of sexual abuse participants expressed views from a patriarchal stereotype, diverting the blame of sexual abuse to the victims for the cause of sexual abuse. However, men have used sexism and power to dominate and over-power in all areas.

Participants expressed their views on the causes and effects on the young girls. The participants pointed out various reasons why men would have sexual desires for young girls, which are linked to alcohol, martial problems, substance abuse, money rituals and unemployment. Other opinions that were gathered from the study were towards the reports of sexual abuse that seemed to be determined by the frequency of this crime reported in the community. It is clear that some members of the police force do not give the necessary attention to reports of rape. However, men's opinions on the disclosure of sexual abuse were also shared. Participants acknowledged that the effects of sexual abuse on these young girls

could affect such a victim's mental health, which could lead to psychological problems, fear, self-isolation and a loss of trust.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of findings, the conclusion, recommendations, and amendments with the evaluation of policies and recommendations for further studies. This chapter also offers a conclusion on the entire study.

5.2 Summary

The study explained men's perceptions of sexual abuse. The study comprised members of the Ibadan community. This chapter summarises the study process and provides appropriate conclusions based on the findings. The recommendations section concludes the discussion in the chapter.

The study aimed and explored men's perceptions of the sexual abuse of young girls in the Ibadan community. The objectives included:

(1) The reasons why men are sexually attracted to young girls: From the findings on why men are sexually attracted to young girls, the study was able to garner men's opinions towards this as some participants stated different reasons as to why men are sexually attracted to young girls. Some of the findings from the participants mentioned that the dressing of young girls attracts men, also some men are attracted to young girls for sexual pleasures, while others are sexually attracted to young girls for spiritual purposes such as voodoo for wealth.

(2) To explore men's view on the sexual abuse of young girls: From the findings, the research was able to explore men's narratives on the sexual abuse of young girls. Different definitions and views were achieved from the study. Participants explained sexual abuse as being a forceful act on young girls. From the findings, participants were also able to mention how they heard about sexual abuse. Various participants made mention of social media as a means of awareness and reports of the sexual abuse of young girls. It was mentioned from the findings that radio was a major means of awareness and reports of sexual abuse.

(3) To understand the effect of sexual abuse on young girls: This objective was achieved as participants described the effects of sexual abuse on young girls such as early pregnancy, shame and lack of confidence of the victims of sexual abuse. Men perceived this as a major

problem for the young girls, as young girls who have been victims of sexual abuse have been damaged by other men in the society.

(4) To explore what men, think are the effects of sexual abuse on young girls: From the findings the study was able to explore what men think are the effects of sexual abuse on the young girls. Participants expressed their views of the victims, such as pity for the young girls and blaming the men for abusing the young girls.

(5) The consequences for males who sexually abuse young girls: From the findings, participants expressed what they think should be the consequences of abuse for the perpetrators. Some participants mentioned that perpetrators should be killed immediately; others mentioned that perpetrators should be jailed with hard labour. Also, from the findings, a participant made mention that such offender's private part (penis) should be cut off after perpetrating a young girl. Participants made it clear that sexual offenders should definitely face the consequences of sexual abuse on the young girls.

(6) To identify and suggest measures that can be taken by the society, governmental and non-governmental organisations towards sexual abuse: From the findings, the participants made mention of numerous suggestions that can be taken by the society, which include parental control and interaction with their children. Members of the community also suggested that young girls should speak out about the incidences of sexual abuse in their community. The law enforcement agencies should also take necessary actions when dealing with the issue of rape in the community. These suggestions may help to curb the abuse of young girls in the society.

The study had various questions that broadened the research and the researcher was able to delve deep into the research problems. The study aimed at exploring men's views on the sexual abuse perpetrated by other men in Ibadan. From the findings, several factors were linked to why men are sexually attracted to young girls. Several perceptions and views were identified on what men think are the causes of the sexual abuse of young girls. The findings also established men's sentiments towards the perpetrators of sexual abuse, the effects of sexual abuse on the victims and it identified various procedures and recommendations to tackle the sexual abuse perpetrated by men on young girls. From the findings of the study, young girls are still faced with various challenges. There is still a lot of oppression and gender

inequality. It is also clear from the findings that patriarchy is entrenched in most men, where men are believed to be the breadwinners and the most powerful in society. This shows the patriarchal values of men with a display of aggression and oppression, there is a tendency towards violence against females. The findings also show that a huge number of young girls have become victims of sexual abuse by men.

5.3 Conclusion

The study was able to delve deep and was able to understand why men sexually abuse young girls in the Ibadan community of Oyo State, Nigeria. The study found that there are various reasons which could lead men to sexually abuse young girls, based on the various perceptions of different men that were interviewed during the course of the study. The study also allowed men to share their opinions on the issue of sexual violence in their community, where different perceptions were gathered. The Radical Feminist theory and the Hegemonic Masculinity theory established an understanding of the influence of patriarchy in the day-to-day activities in society. Radical feminists postulate that female oppression is the root of all oppressions and social problems. The theory also makes it known that most men have the potential to use physical violence, murder and rape on women (Lober, 1997). Hegemonic Masculinity theory also focuses on masculine traits and the oppression of women. It explains the male dominant position in society and explains why men maintain dominant social roles over women. Radical feminists claim that most men have the potential to use violence against women, which may lead to the rape of young girls and women. The threat of violence and rape, the radical feminists theorise, is the means through which patriarchy controls all women.

In Nigeria, patriarchy is entrenched in the culture as a man is referred to as the breadwinner of the family and he is also in charge of various activities and institutions. For example, from the study, there were patriarchal embedded stereotypes where male participants were diverting the blame to the victims of rape. Men tend to oppress and exploit women and young girls. Radical feminists argue that patriarchy is deeply embedded in most men's consciousness. Such practices increase the incidence of sexual abuse perpetuated by men in the society.

The study was about young girls and sexual abuse by men in society: Examining why men sexually abuse young girls by investigating the men in general. The study did not seek out or

highlight the perpetrators of sexual abuse. Hence, the study aimed to get different opinions by gathering different perceptions of the issue of sexual abuse of young girls from men in the Ibadan community. The study's aim was not to focus on the perpetrators or victims of sexual violence, but rather it investigated adult men's opinions on the issue. Regarding the general perspectives about rape, the study found that all of the participants were aware of the incidence of rape of young girls in the community, which has become one of the major highlights on the news. On the other hand, the study found causal factors of sexual abuse on why adult men perpetrate abuse against young girls. Nonetheless, some recommendations were made on how to prevent the sexual abuse of young girls and to promote the successful prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the research findings, the study was able to delve and establish the fact that there is an urgent need for governmental institutions and non-governmental institutions to develop an awareness programme for men, women and young girls about sexual violence incidents and the effects thereof on the young girls in society. Furthermore, law enforcement agencies' officials should give the necessary attention to reports of sexual crime. Educating these officials is needed by establishing workshops and educating them concerning how to address reports of rape by members of the society and the victims themselves. Necessary attention should be given to reports of any form of sexual violence. Thus, the prevalence of sexual abuse should be tackled by members of the society, non-governmental organisations and the government.

Necessary campaigns and radio jingles towards addressing issues related to sexual abuse awareness should be carried out in Ibadan city and across Nigeria, which will help to reduce the prevalence of sexual violence in the community. Sexual abuse should also be tackled by other institutions such as schools and other learning centres to prevent the sexual abuse of young girls. Educating young girls goes beyond what they have learnt at various institutions. It goes a long way to boosting the socio-economic and socio-cultural status of girls in society. Governmental parastatals dealing with human rights should come up with new policies concerning the punishment of perpetrators of the crime. Hence this will help to reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse by men.

The study indicated that for the prevention of the sexual abuse of young girls, society must put in place an institutional framework to deal comprehensively with the actual cases of sexual violence. This method involves functionally synchronised skilled services, criminal justice systems, the police, social work services and sexual assault services to tackle the incidence of sexual abuse of young girls.

Furthermore, from the findings of the research, this study identified that to curb sexual violence much attention should be given to the sexual predators and other men in society. The research findings indicated that adult men are recognised to be perpetrators of this sexual abuse. In other words, there is a need to create a forum to educate men generally concerning the sexual abuse of young girls, which has become a common phenomenon in the Ibadan community. In preventing sexual abuse, victims/survivors should be encouraged to break the silence to the institutions provided to curb sexual abuse. Such services should be community-based and should be free of charge. There should also be successful prosecution of perpetrators which will serve as a deterrent and hopefully prevent young girls from falling victim to rape. Based on the findings, it is strongly recommended that further studies should be conducted on the policy directions and governmental responses towards sexual abuse, such as the police, the courts, social development structures and gender-based violence organisations, in addressing sexual abuse.

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19 December 2018

Mr OT Adegbenjo 218086415
School of Social Sciences
Howard College Campus

Dear Mr Adegbenjo

Reference number: HSS/1987/018M

Project title: The voice of male citizens : Why do men sexually abuse young girls? A study of men in Ibadan City in Oyo State, Nigeria.

Full Approval - Full Committee Reviewed Application

With regards to your response received 14 December 2018 to our letter of 29 November 2018, the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee has considered the abovementioned application and the protocol have been granted **FULL APPROVAL**.

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. Please note: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

The ethical clearance certificate is only valid for a period of 3 years from the date of issue. Thereafter Recertification must be applied for on an annual basis.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours faithfully

Dr Shamila Naidoo (Deputy Chair)

/px

cc Supervisor: Dr G Mkhize
cc Academic Leader Research: Prof M Naidu
cc School Administrator: Ms N Radebe

Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Professor Shenuka Singh (Chair)

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Informed Consent Document

Dear Participant,

My name is **Oluwapelumi Temitope Adegbenjo (218086415)**. I am a Masters candidate studying at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College campus. The title of my research is: “**The voice of male citizens: why do men sexually abuse young girls? A study of Ibadan city in Oyo state” Nigeria**. The aim of the study is to probe why adult male citizens sexually abuse young girls in Nigeria. I am interested in interviewing you so as to share your experiences and observations on the subject matter.

Please note that:

- Information that you provide will be used for scholarly research only.
- Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have a choice to participate, not to participate or stop participating in the research. You will not be penalized for taking such an action.
- Your views in this interview will be presented anonymously. Neither your name nor identity will be disclosed in any form in the study.
- The interview will take about (45-60 minutes).
- You have a right to agree or not agree to recording. You will not be penalized for not agreeing to recording.
- The record as well as other items associated with the interview will be held in a password-protected file accessible only to myself and my supervisors. After a period of 5 years, in line with the rules of the university, it will be disposed by shredding and burning.
- If you agree to participate please sign the declaration attached to this statement (a separate sheet will be provided for signatures)

I can be contacted at: School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban. Email: adegbenjooluwapelumi37@gmail.com
Cell: +27760838498

My supervisor is Dr. Gabsile Mkhize who is located at the School of Social Sciences, Howard College Campus, Durban of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Contact details: email mkhizeg2@ukzn.ac.za
Phone number: 0312607614

The Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee contact details are as follows: Ms Phumelele Ximba, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Research Office, Email: ximbap@ukzn.ac.za, Phone number +27312603587.

Thank you for your contribution to this research.

DECLARATION

I..... *(full names of participant)*
hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project,
and I consent to participating in the research project.

I understand that I am at liberty to withdraw from the project at any time, should I so desire. I
understand the intention of the research. I hereby agree to participate.

I consent / do not consent to have this interview recorded (if applicable)

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

.....

Translation

Fun iwe aṣẹ aṣẹ

Olufẹ Olukoni,

Oruko mi ni Oluwapelumi Temitope Adegbenjo (218086415). Ọmọ-ọdọ Masters mi ni ẹkọ ni University of KwaZulu-Natal, Ile-iwe giga Howard College. Awọn akọle ti iwadi mi ni: **"Ohùn awọn ọkunrin ọkunrin: kilode ti awọn ọkunrin fi ẹ ibalopo iwa ibalo awọn ọmọbirin? Iwadii ti Ilu Ibadan ni Ipinle Oyo "Nigeria.** Ero ti iwadi naa ni lati sawari idi ti awọn ọkunrin agbalagba agba ibalopo iwa ibalopo awọn ọmọbirin ni Nigeria. Mo nifẹ lati ẹ ijomitoro fun ọ ki o le pin awọn iriri ẹ ati awọn akiyesi ẹ lori koko ọrọ naa.

Jọwọ ẹ akiyesi pe:

- Alaye ti o pese yoo ẹe lo fun iwadi iwadi nikan.
- Ikopa ẹ ẹ atinuwa laileto. O ni ipinnu lati kopa, kii ẹ lati kopa tabi daapa ninu iwadi naa. Iwọ kii yoo ni ipalara fun gbigbe iru igbese ẹẹ.
- Awọn wiwo ẹ ni ibere ijomitoro yii ni a gbekale ni asiri. Beni a ko fi oruko tabi idanimọ ẹ han ni eyikeyi fọmu ninu iwadi naa.
- Ijomitoro yoo gba (45-60 iṣẹju).
- O ni ẹto lati gba tabi ko gba lati gba silẹ. Iwọ kii yoo ni ipalara fun ko ẹ deede si gbigbasilẹ.
- Igbasilẹ ati awọn ohun miiran ti o ni nkan ẹ pelu ijomitoro yoo waye ni faili ti a fipamọ si ọrọigbaniwọle nikan fun ara mi ati awọn olutoju mi. Lẹhin akoko ti ọdun marun, ni ibamu pelu awọn ofin ti yunifasiti, yoo ẹ dida nipasẹ gbigbon ati sisun.
- Ti o ba gba lati kopa jọwọ fi ami si asọye ti a so si ọrọ yii (iwe ti a fi sọtọ fun awọn ibuwọlu)

I can be contacted at: School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban. Email: adegbenjo@luwapelumi37@gmail.com
Cell: +27760838498

Oruko Olukoni mi ni is Dr.Gabsile Mkhize ti o un be ni ile iwe ti School of Social Sciences, Howard College Campus, Durban of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Contact details: email mkhizeg2@ukzn.ac.za Phone number: 0312607614

The Fun Alaye lekurerere nipa akokuko yi Humanities ati Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee contact details are as follows: Ms Phumelele Ximba, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Research Office, Email: ximbap@ukzn.ac.za, Phone number +27312603587.

Eseun fun ipa ti e ko ninu ise iyadi

IDERỌ

Emi (Awọn orukọ kikun ti alabaṣe) bayi jẹrisi pe Mo ye awọn akoonu ti iwe yi ati iru iṣe iwadi, ati pe mo gba lati ṣe alabapin ninu iṣe iwadi.

Mo ye pe Mo wa ni ominira lati yọ kuro lati inu iṣe naa nigbakugba, o yẹ ki emi fẹ. Mo ye itumọ ti iwadi naa. Mo ti ṣe alabapin lati kopa ninu bayi.

Mo gba / ko gba laaye lati gba ijomitoro yii (ti o ba wulo)

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

.....

Research Interview Schedule

Demographics

Age:

Sex:

Marital status:

Ethnic group:

Occupation:

Education:

Icebreaking questions:

1. Where do you stay? Whom do you stay with?
2. What are your daily tasks?
3. What do you do during your spare time (hobbies)?
4. Do you have children? If yes, how many? What is their sex? How old are they? If no children, why (only if the participant is willing to respond)?

General Research questions:

5. Have you heard about rape? If yes, what did you hear? If no, why?
6. What does rape mean to you? Or what type of rape do you know or heard of?
7. Have you heard about rape in this community or Nigeria in general? If yes, what you have heard?
8. Have you heard about young girls rape or any form of sexual abuse in this city? If yes, what did you hear? If not, why?
9. In your opinion, who (not names but sex/gender/seniority) normally rape or sexual assault/abuse these young girls?
10. Are these sexual offenders of young girls known to community? Based on what you have heard/know, what type of people are they (family status, class, social status, religion, etc)?
11. Do you directly or indirectly know some of the girls who have been raped (or someone who may be older now but was raped when was young)? If yes, what happened, can you share? Also, if yes, how is that person surviving (if you know)?
12. Based on your experience/observation/hearsays, what happens to girls who are victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault in this community?
13. Do their families know about such incidents? If yes, what do they do? If not, why?
14. What does community do (have done) about these sexual offenders (known or not known to them)?
15. Do these sexual offenders get punished? If yes, how by who? If not, why?

Men on men research questions:

16. As a man, what is your opinion about men who rape or sexual assault young girls (and women)?
17. What do you think makes men rape young girls? How do you feel about it?
18. Are there any reasons/beliefs associated with men raping and sexual abusing young girls?
19. How do you feel about girls who become victims of sexual abuse (how do they get abused, in your opinion)?

20. What do you think about the fathers (other males siblings, in family) with abused children or who think their children may be abused?
21. What do you think about the mothers (women in family and community) who have children that were abused and think their children may be abused?
22. What is the society's (members of community) views (things they say) about girls who get raped or sexually abused?
23. What type of men are mostly associated with raping and/or sexual abusing young girls? Why?
24. What has been done by men in society about other men who rape and sexually abuse girls?
25. What do you think should happen to these men?
26. Any other actions by community, government or the law? If yes, what?

Concluding research questions

27. What do you think should be a role of men in this society in ending and preventing such abuse of young girls by men?
28. What do you think should be the role of women in this society in ending and preventing such abuse of young girls by men?
29. What do you think should be the role of families (and parents/guardians) in this society in ending and preventing such abuse of young girls by men?
30. What do you think should be the role of law enforcement and government in this society in ending and preventing such abuse of young girls by men?
31. Is there anything you think the young girls can also do? What?
32. Overall, as a man, what is your final message to male sexual offenders?
33. Overall, as a man, what is your final message to all men of Ibadan?
34. Overall, what is your message to all young girls who have been abused and sear to be abused in Ibadan?

Once again, thank you for participating in this study. Your opinion is valuable. As promised in the consent form you signed, your identity will be kept confidential – and all information you provided will be used for the purpose of fulfilling research requirement for my degree.