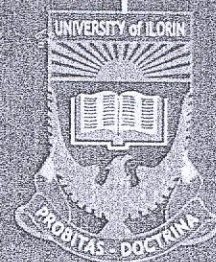


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PREVALENCE OF FATHER-DAUGHTER INCESTUOUS RELATIONSHIP AS PERCEIVED BY LITERATE ADULTS IN GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Incest is one of the salient sexual abuses that society pays less attention to because of the secrecy involved, most especially, those occurring between biological father and daughter. Gombe State is one of the leading states in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria where father-daughter incestuous relationship is high. Thus, this study investigated the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults in Gombe State, Nigeria. Variables of gender, age and family type were introduced to the study in order to examine their influences on respondents' perceptions. This study is descriptive in nature and a multi-stage sampling technique procedure was adopted to draw a total sample of 783 literate adults from the three senatorial districts of Gombe State. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire developed by the researchers entitled "Father-Daughter Incestuous Relationship Questionnaire (FIRQ)". Percentage was used to present the demographic data of the respondents while the null hypotheses were tested using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there is high prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship in Gombe State. The hypotheses tested revealed no significant difference in the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults based on gender, age and family type. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that strict law and enforcement should be made on sexual abuse, counsellors should organize seminars regularly to sensitize mothers and their children about incestuous occurrences in the family and disorientate the perpetrators of incest (fathers) against the practice, couples should show more commitment to their marriage in order to reduce to the barest minimum identified causes of father-daughter incestuous relationships.

Key Words: Prevalence, Father-Daughter Incestuous Relationship, Literate Adults.

mentally retarded girl by raping her in Cham, Gombe State.

Based on this, the study investigated the perception of literate adults on prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship in Gombe State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide conduct of this study:

1. How prevalent is father-daughter incestuous relationship in Gombe State?
2. Is there any difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on gender?
3. Is there any difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on age?
4. Is there any difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on family type?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated to assist the researcher in the conduct of the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on age
3. There is no significant difference in the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship by literate adults in Gombe State based on family type.

Methodology

Descriptive research survey design was adopted for this study to establish the perceived prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship. Survey research employs questionnaire and interviews in order to determine the opinion, attitudes, preference and perception of person of interest to the researcher (Ibrahim & Kolo, 2004). The population for this study comprised all literate adults (1,693,606) in Gombe State (National Population Commission, 2006). The target population is made up of all the literate adults in the three selected Local Government Areas of Gombe State representing the three Senatorial Districts of the State. In selecting sample for the study, multi-stage sampling method was used. At stage one, purposive sampling was used to select one Local Government Area each from the three senatorial districts of Gombe State where father-daughter incestuous relationships were mostly reported.

At stage two, random sampling method was used to select 261 respondents from Funakaye Local Government Area, 261 respondents from Billiri Local Government Area and 261 respondents from Akko Local Government Area thus, making a total of

9	occurs in both monogamous and polygamous Families	553 (70.6)	230 (29.4)
7	represents large proportion of reported sexual abuses in the court of law	545 (69.6)	238 (30.4)
13	mostly occur where fathers disguisedly touch their daughters' bodies	529 (67.6)	254 (32.4)
15	happen where fathers often touch their daughters' genital organs	528 (67.5)	255 (32.5)
5	is rampant among illiterates	504 (64.3)	279 (35.7)
3	is the most reported case by the media	501 (63.9)	282 (36.1)
14	is rampant in every cultural settings	493 (63.0)	290 (37.0)
12	occurs among hostile family	492 (62.8)	291 (37.2)
10	is usually perpetrated by 2 in every 10 fathers in the family	447 (57.1)	336 (42.9)
4	is often supported by some mothers	445 (56.8)	338 (43.2)
11	occurs among literates	435 (55.6)	348 (44.4)

Table 2 presented the level of agreement and disagreement of respondents to the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship in Gombe State. The table showed that more than 50% of the respondents agreed to all the items on the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship. This was indicated in Table 2 where 581 (74.2%) of respondents support that father-daughter incestuous relationship takes place at early stage of girl's life; 576 (73.8%) confirmed that it is the most common form of incest; is not usually with the consent of the girl child; 568 (72.5%) stated that it occurs in both monogamous and polygamous family; while 564 (72.0%) agreed that it occurs in many families. It can be concluded therefore, that father-daughter incestuous relationship is highly prevalent in Gombe State.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the prevalence of father daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults in Gombe State based on gender.*

Table 3: Mean Standard Deviation and t-test Value Comparing Respondents' Perception on Prevalence of Father-Daughter Incestuous Relationship Based on Gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	p-value
Male	466	42.37	6.97	781	1.19	1.96	0.24
Female	317	41.76	7.18				

0.76 was greater at 0.05 significant level. Thus, the hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults in Gombe State based on family type.

Discussion

The findings of the study reveals that father-daughter incestuous relationship is highly prevalent in Gombe state because it is the most common form of incest which usually takes place at early stage in a girl's life without her consent. Father daughter incestuous relationship do occurs in many families regardless of its type (whether monogamous and polygamous) Hari (2002) noted that father-daughter incest has not been widely reported in the past, but recent evidence has indicated that this behaviour does occur, possible more often than many people realize. Incestuous father usually take advantage of close relationship that exists between him and the daughter knowing full well that the daughter would not object. Sadock and Sadock (2003) noted that in many cases of father-daughter incest, the daughter may appear to be pleased when her father approaches her sexually as she has had a close relationship with him throughout her childhood.

Many of these cases go unreported as a result of secrecy among African society and the possibility that unveiling such act could affect the life of the victim in terms of problem of having a spouse without considering the traumatic effect it may have on the child and her later generation. Shittu (2011) has discovered the same finding that there is high prevalence of father-daughter incest in Nigeria. This findings also supports the report of Makinde (2015) from child Advocacy Group where a list of 95 child rape and incestuous cases in five Northern states were found, with Gombe at the top of the chart (with 50 cases), Kano (with 22 cases), Bauchi, Plateau and Nassarawa (with 11 cases respectively). In addition, Orude (2015) from Daily Sun reported Jagamin, a close family, who allegedly took advantage of his victim, a 12-year-old mentally retarded girl by raping her in Cham, Gombe State.

Hypothesis one revealed no significant difference in the prevalence on father-daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults in Gombe State based on gender. This implies that respondents' (male and female) perception is not different on the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship. This finding negates the finding of Shittu (2011) who found significant difference in the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship based on gender.

Hypothesis two revealed no significant difference in the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship as perceived by literate adults in Gombe State based on age. This indicates that the age of respondents has no influence on their perception of the prevalence of father-daughter incestuous relationship. This suggests that all respondents regardless of age could suffer painful experience of incest and some of

- sensitize mothers and parents on danger of girl-child sexual abuse and be bold enough to report such cases and stand up for the right of these children by prosecuting the offender.
5. Counsellors should orientate mothers and their children on where, when, who and how incest could be perpetrated and its devastating effects on the victims and the entire family. This could be done through organization of seminars, public lectures, distribution of hand bills and workshops.
 6. The media should help in sensitizing people on the occurrence of father-daughter incestuous relation, the need to reports such cases, prosecution of any offenders and how it can be prevented.

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