

PREVAILING ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN NIGERIA: LOOKING INWARDS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

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ABSTRACT: *The quest for solution to the prevailing rate of sexual abuse in Nigeria has been the focus of the government and relevant stakeholders lately. There have been efforts at various quarters to curb this act of sexual abuse, especially against women and the girl child, but it continued in perpetuity. It is in the light of this that the research examined the theoretical context of sexual abuse and recounted some recent reported incidents of rape and sexual violence in Nigeria. The aim of the research is to identify ways of curbing the trend of sexual abuse in Nigeria and, relying on both primary and secondary sources, the research adopted a doctrinal methodology. The result of the research revealed that, to effectively address the issue of sexual violence in Nigeria and curb its rampancy, pre-occurrence measures (preventive solutions) and post-occurrence solutions (curative) are efficient mechanisms to use. The research therefore recommends proactive steps on the part of the Nigerian government and relevant stakeholders in the fight against sexual violence in the country.*

KEYWORDS: rape, sexual abuse, preventive measures, curative measures

INTRODUCTION

The incessant occurrence of sexual violence and sexual molestation lately in Nigeria have been a thing of major concern to human rights activists, legal practitioners, nongovernmental organizations, government at various levels and other relevant stakeholders. These acts of sexual abuse and sexual violence do not only constitute criminality but likewise amount to gross human rights abuse. Unfortunately, it appears all efforts and policies put in place to curb this nefarious social menace have not yielded much fruits because the rate of sexual violence keeps increasing. Worst still, many of these cases are unreported largely due to cultural and social factors, most especially stigmatization, police extortion and lack of confidence in the Nigerian judicial process.

Furthermore, it is important to state that sexual abuse can be perpetrated by either male or female, and the two genders can likewise be victims of the act. This, by implication, means that not only the females are victims of sexual abuse, male, especially male children, are sometimes at risk of sexual abuse although this is scarcely reported. The reason for this may not be farfetched, it is believed that the factors of power and control reside more with the male and they are generally not regarded as fragile or vulnerable. Hence, the most commonly reported cases of sexual violence are such against the female gender. It is against this background that this discussion focuses on female sexual abuse and molestation in Nigeria and the way to end it.

Sexual Abuse in Context

The concept of sexual abuse has been seen from different perspectives from authors and writers. However, the concept is a merger of two different words, sexual and abuse. The word sexual is generally ascribed with anything related to sex, sexual behavior or sexual organs. Abuse however connotes something more broad and relative. According to the NSPCC Research in Practice Action for Children, abuse is the improper use or treatment of an entity, often for unfairly or improperly gained benefit, and takes many forms including physical and verbal maltreatment, injury, assault, violation, rape, unjust practices, crimes and various other form of aggression.¹ The Law Dictionary likewise define abuse as an intentionally cruel or violent act of ill treatment that can cause harm or have damaging effects on the safety, wellbeing or dignity of a person.² It must further be stated that abuse can be in any form, including the form of violence. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines violence as all forms of physical or mental harm, injury, neglect, negligence, maltreatment or exploitation which includes sexual abuse.³ From this definition, it is very clear that the Convention on the Rights of the Child subsumes and explains sexual abuse as a form of violence in itself. Art 1(j) of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples rights on the Rights of Women in Africa likewise defines violence as all acts perpetrated against women which cause them physical, sexual psychological and economic harm, including threats to take such acts or impose restriction on or deprivation of fundamental freedoms in public or private life in peace and during situation of armed conflict. This definition is quite broad and elaborate enough to capture every form of abuse, violence, threat or harm against a woman (inclusive of the girl child) and the harm could be physical, sexual, psychological or economical. Arising from the above definitions of violence, it is easy to draw the conclusion that child marriage falls in the category of violence against women (the girl

¹ See the report of the Statutory definitions of neglect, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, and guidance on harmful sexual behaviours NSPCC Research in practice Action for children, accessed on 26 February 2020

² The Law Dictionary, 'What is Abuse' Available at <http://thelawdictionary.org/abuse/> (accessed 26 February 2020).

³ Article 19 Convention on the Rights of the Child

child). And Osunyikanmi even stated that it is when these forms of violence is inflicted on a child that it is described as child abuse and where it involves sex, it can be called sexual abuse.⁴ Child marriage has even been described in the category of harmful cultural practices. Art 21(1) and (2) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) mentions harmful cultural practices or discriminatory customs involving sex and expressly refers to child marriage as a prohibited practice. Article 16 (1) of the Charter further makes provision for the protection of children against sexual abuse. These provisions are not limited to the African sub-regional instruments alone but even extends to the United Nations Declarations. Article 2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines the sexual abuse of female children, marital rape and other traditional practices harmful to women as violence. An expanded definition was even provided in Article 144 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁵ that gender based violence are acts which result or likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering of women including its threat, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty occurring in public or private life, this obviously will include child marriage.

Flowing from the above appraisal of international legal instruments related to child and sexual abuse, it is obvious that the practice of child and sexual abuse is strongly condemned by international law and the international community. In fact, the practice of child marriage is seen as one of the harmful cultural and dangerous practices that state parties must discourage in its entirety. Authors have likewise contributed in the discussion of sexual and child abuse, meanwhile for the purpose of this research, the two concepts of child abuse and sexual abuse would be examined because the research focuses on the child as a personality being abused in any arrangement of child marriage.

Okebukola wrote that child abuse describes all sorts of injustice, abnormality and inhuman treatment given to the young feeble ones by the adult generation and may be intentional or unintentional, when sexual organs of the child is however involved in the act, it becomes sexual abuse to the child.⁶ Child abuse is likewise described as any action by an individual which causes significant harm to a child.⁷

⁴ Osunyikanmi “Reflections on Education and Girl Child Marriage in Nigeria” *International Journal of Sociological Sciences* 1, (2014): 2

⁵ Commonly referred to as UN 1994

⁶ Okebukola A.O. “Synopsis of Religion and Child abuse: The Nigerian experience” *Mediterranean Journal of Social Science* 3, no.15 (2012): 147-148.

⁷ Child Abuse and Neglect, “What is Child Abuse” Available at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/childabuse-and-neglect/> (accessed 19 February, 2020).

Now particularly on sexual abuse, Rudd has defined the term “sexual abuse” to mean any form of forced or coerced sexual relations between an adult and a child.⁸ Muridzo & Malianga even added that the mere fact that the child gives consent to the sexual behavior does not cure the practice from being an abuse, as long as the female child affected has not attained the age of 16 years.⁹ This research therefore sees sexual abuse as any given situation wherein a child is persuaded, lured, enticed, procured, coerced or forced into being involved in any form of sexual activities, either it is with the consent or without the consent of the child, or done under the guise of marital arrangement or actual marriage involving the child.

In addition, this research considers child marriage as a form of sexual abuse on the child and this is often caused by adults, either standing in the capacity of parents or guardian or any other position of authority influential enough to procure the girl child into a marriage with an adult. The decision and act of child marriage is often made for the child by the parents because the child naturally lacks the capacity to make reasonable and logical decisions on marital and sexual related issues that concerns her life and person. Therefore, the practice of child marriage greatly exposes the girl child to a good number of harms and the practice should be discouraged. The practice results in sexual abuse which affects the health and development of the girl child and constitutes a violation of her rights. Meanwhile sexual abuse generally is a breach of the rights of individuals as recognised under international law and international legal instruments.

It must however be stated that child marriage is not only restricted or limited to the girl child, it encompasses the two genders of both the male and the female child, although the most prevalent practice of child marriage is the situation whereby a girl child marries an adult male.

Recent Reported Cases of Sexual Violence in Nigeria

It was widely reported of the incident of a 22-year-old university student in a church who was brutally raped and bludgeoned to death.¹⁰ This disheartening incidence led to wide protest and several petitions against rape and sexual violence against women in Nigeria. There was also the reported story of one 36-year-old Wanda Ebe who suffered serial occurrence of sexually molestation from six years of age.¹¹ She reported to have been molested by her nanny, a middle-

⁸ Rudd C. “Case Studies of Child Sexual Abuse in Zimbabwe’ in *Sexual Abuse of Young Children in Southern Africa*, ed. Richter L., Daves A. and CH-Smith (2004), 400-401

⁹ Muridzo N.G. and Malianga E. “Child Sexual Abuse in Zimbabwe: Prevention Strategies for Social Workers” *African Journal of Social Work* 5, no.2 (2015): 45

¹⁰ “JusticeForUwa trends in Nigeria after student murdered in church” *BBC News*, May 31, 2020, www.bbc.com>news

¹¹ Nduka Orjinmo “WeAreTired: Nigerian women speak out over wave of violence” *BBC News*, June 04, 2020, www.bbc.com>news

aged woman, who forced her to oral sex. As if that was not enough, Ms Ebe was also sexually abused as a 21-year-old student by a doctor who raped her, having made an excuse to take her to his house for an appointment instead of the hospital.¹² A 12-year-old girl was also raped in North-West Jigawa state.¹³ Also, one Barakat Bello was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in south-west Oyo state.¹⁴ A 16-year-old girl was likewise gang-raped in south-west Ekiti state.¹⁵ More disheartening however, several other cases are unreported or settled within the community without public awareness. Meanwhile, a close look at these reported cases reveal that the act of sexual violence is not peculiar to a particular region or geopolitical zone of the country, it spread across. More worrisome is that the unreported cases outnumber the reported ones, so no definite statistics give a precise record of sexual violence in Nigeria.

The Nigeria Bureau of Statistics gave a statistics of sexual offences in Nigeria in 2017 to include: 2,279 reported cases of rape and indecent assault; and 1,164 reported cases of "unnatural offences" (like oral and anal sex).¹⁶ Unfortunately however, there has been no recorded conviction reported by police.

The current reality however is, sexual assault has greatly increased beyond what was obtainable in 2017. The NOI Polls of July 2019 revealed that one of every three girls in Nigeria has likely experienced indecent assault one way or another.¹⁷ It is therefore crystal clear that sexual violence and rape is a major threat to social existence in our society. The question is, how can this be curbed or drastically reduced? This article thus seeks to carefully and practically address the challenge of sexual violence and possible solutions to it in Nigeria. The solutions however would be categorized into two for the sake of clarity. The first is the pre-occurrence measures (preventive) and the post-occurrence solutions (curative).

METHOD

The research adopted qualitative method. While adopting this method, doctrinal and non-doctrinal approach were used. For the doctrinal approach, primary and secondary sources were

¹² ibid

¹³ Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo, "Shocker! 12 men rape 12 year-old girl for 2 months in Jigawa" *Vanguard Newspaper*, 01 June, 2020, www.vanguardngr.com>

¹⁴ "How my daughter Barakat was gang raped, killed – Father" *Premium Times News*, 4 June, 2020, www.premiumtimesng.com

¹⁵ Rasaan Ibrahim, "Ekiti CP Petitioned over Rape of 16-yr-old groundnut hawker" *The Nation Newspaper*, 13 August, 2020, www.thenationonline.net

¹⁶ Statistics sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics Report. Available at www.nigerianstat.gov.ng

¹⁷ NOI Polls, "Public Perception Poll Report on Nigeria pdf" www.noi-polls.com>2019/07

used. The primary sources are treaties, conventions, legislations, constitution and case law. Secondary sources were drawn from are books, journals, reports, magazines and other relevant electronic materials.

Pre-Occurrence Measures (Preventive Solution)

To address the pre-occurrence solutions, some points will be addressed.

Public Enlightenment

This is a common preventive measure for most social anomaly. Meanwhile, for public enlightenment to achieve meaningful results on sexual abuse, it must be done holistically. Each and every family must be reached, just like every household is reached for immunization or census, since the family is the smallest unit in the society. Educators and teachers should likewise be saddled with the responsibility of incorporating sexual abuse prevention studies in schools' curriculum and should even teach same on school assembly grounds.¹⁸ This is necessary because it is very important to demystify societal belief on sexual abuse starting from the mind of young children. Young children may unconsciously believe the prevailing practice of sexual abuse in their immediate environment is how it ought to be, when in reality, it is not.

Social associations are also helpful gatherings to aid public enlightenment especially social groups, campaign groups, religious houses and cultural groups.¹⁹ These associations play dominant role in influencing beliefs and norms. In fact, if religion is negatively used, it has far-reaching consequences like indoctrination and fanaticism.²⁰ Therefore, the campaign against sexual abuse can utilise the weapon of religion to teach followers against the practice of sexual abuse and the preventive measures to take in the possible event of its occurrence.²¹

Furthermore, a lot of cultural re-orientation and sensitization needs to be done to diffuse obnoxious and repugnant cultural beliefs that have spanned from time immemorial in the minds

¹⁸ Defend Innocence, "7 Ways Teachers can Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse" www.defendinnocence.org/child-sexual-abuse-risk-reduction/proactive-preventing/build-support/ accessed 30 April, 2021

¹⁹ Nnaemeka Madumere, "Public Enlightenment and Participation- A Major Contribution in Mitigating Climate Change" *International Journal of Sustainable Built Environment* 6, no. 1 (2019): 11

²⁰ Odey Simon Robert, "Religious Hypocrisy and Fanaticism in Nigeria. The Apex Problem of a Religious Nation" Polemic Paper 2017 available at <https://www.grin.com/document/3586> accessed 30 April, 2021

²¹ Ushe Mike Ushe, "Religious Approaches to Preventing Gender Violence and Sexual Abuse in Nigeria" *International Journal of Gender and Women's Studies* 3, no. 1 (2015): 109-110

of people.²² For instance, the culture that women are less of a human being, and are inferior to men should be jettisoned.²³ The cultural perspective that sees women as objects thereby giving men some sense of entitlement should likewise be discouraged. Interestingly, the position of law has swiftly moved in favor of women with recent legislations and case laws.²⁴

In addition, with the current global realities, the social media is now a veritable means of information dissemination among youths and adults.²⁵ Beyond entertainment updates and social hangouts, the awareness on sexual abuse should be on every social media handle till it reaches every social medial user. This awareness shouldn't however be restricted to stickers on sexual abuse but should include statutory punishment for violators and defensive measures to avoid being a victim. More so, rapid response lines should be included in the event of an impending occurrence.

Education

Education, no doubt, remains a powerful liberator from social and mental slavery. Education of children, especially girl child, even though not given utmost priority by the government, goes a long way in giving women sense of self-actualization, self-determinism, and boosting socio-economic status of women in the society.²⁶ Women education is inherently women empowerment.²⁷ Women education elevates women from the status of being disadvantaged to the status of being empowered.²⁸ Unfortunately, ignorance and poverty are major challenges to

²² Fons J. R. van de Vijver, "Cultural and Gender Differences in Gender-Role Beliefs, Sharing Household Task and Child-Care Responsibilities, and Well-Being Among Immigrants and Majority Members in The Netherlands" *Sex Roles* 57, (2007): 813-824

²³ Sylvia Paull, "Women are still Considered Inferior to Men" Edge available at <https://www.edge.org/response-details/11723> accessed 30 April, 2021

²⁴ See Omidoyin T.J. "The Enactment of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Acts, 2015: A Positive Step to Eradicate the Negative Trend of Domestic Violence in Nigeria" *Nnamdi Azikiwe Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence* 9, No.1 (2018): 45

²⁵ Anita Medhekar, "The Role of Social Media for Knowledge Dissemination in Medical Tourism: A Case of India" in *Harnessing Social Media as a Knowledge Management Tool*. Edited by Ritesh Chugh Hershey, PA:IGI Global, 2007

²⁶ Michelle Fleming, "The Importance of Early Childhood Education" Philips Brooks School available at <https://www.phillipsbrooks.org/post> accessed 30 April, 2021

²⁷ James Ojobo, "Education: A Catalyst for Women Empowerment in Nigeria" *Ethiopian Journal of Education and Science* 4, No. 1 (2008): 95

²⁸ Odili, etal "Gender Equality as Development Framework of Women Integration in Economic Development" *African Journal of Social and Policy Studies* 1 No.2

girl child education.²⁹ The male counterparts are given more educational priority than the females.³⁰ The failure to enroll girl child in basic education make them quite vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse. Some parents rather prefer to use female children for street hawking and other economic activities.³¹ Furthermore, women empowerment through skill acquisitions will make women less dependent and less vulnerable to petty enticement that would eventually lead to sexual abuse.

Legal and Policy Framework

It is no longer news that Nigeria has plethora of legislations on criminality, especially sexual exploitation and abuse but implementation has always been the challenge.³² But with the prevailing and alarming rate of sexual abuse and violation, implementation of legal policy framework on sexual abuse and sexual violence does not even fit in the preventive category, rather curative. However, from the preventive perspective, awareness and enlightenment on these policies is more important and urgent before the deed is done and the injury is inflicted. This article strongly suggests the translation of relevant laws and policies on sexual exploitation to different local languages and distributed across various localities, just like electoral of materials. This will make the laws more availability and accessible to people, either in the city or village, educated or illiterate.

The law can also prevent matters of sexual abuse and exploitation to be settled out of court, which by implication, family arrangement and community settlement would not be applicable to cover up incidences of sexual violence, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. Furthermore, it is generally difficult to establish the offence of rape or sexual molestation where the victim refuses to testify as a witness in court. This makes conviction on rape a little stringent. It is therefore recommended that relevant but compelling material evidence should suffice to secure conviction for rape and other sexual offences.

Also, it has been observed that there are legislations that make it easier to try the offence of rape and sexual assault, unfortunately however, many states across Nigeria have not implemented these new laws. A typical example is the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act of 2015

²⁹ Eniola Bolanle Oluwakemi and Mubangizi John Cantius, "The Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Women's Reproductive Health Rights in South Africa and Nigeria: Some Comparative Lessons" *Journal of Social Welfare and Human Rights* 5, No.2 (2017): 1-12

³⁰ Sako R, *Women Empowerment and Advancement Manual*, Kaduna: League for Democratic Women. United Nations Development Programme (1995), Human Development Report New York, Oxford University Press

³¹ Omidoyin, (note 24 above)

³² This includes the Criminal Code Act/Law, Penal Code Act/Law, Child's Right Act/Law, Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act and a host of other legislations.

which has provisions to try and convict offenders of sexual violence but many states of the federation have not legislated and adopted it as a state law.

Institutional Framework

Closely related with legal framework is a functional institutional framework. Comprehensive institutional framework is needed for a successful fight against sexual abuse in Nigeria. This framework should possess the element of functionality, expertise and qualitative service delivery in accordance with international best practices. This institutional framework should go beyond the traditional criminal justice system but should extend to the inclusion of sexual assault services, social services, rehabilitation services and other related services. These services should be free, comprehensive, community based, largely informal and complaint friendly. Once there is a synchronization of these services, strength and courage will be restored to women to speak out, support will be enhanced to sexual assault victims, understanding of the nature and crime of sexual assault will be increased, and perhaps, a good step in eradicating the prevalence of sexual molestation in Nigeria.

Orientation on the Male Children

From the Christian Holy book, it is stated that “train up a child in the way he should go and when he’s old, he will not depart from it.”³³ Male children need sexual orientation from childhood.³⁴ They need orientation that females are as equal as male, and female are not objects of sexual pleasure. Asides, male children should be oriented on the heinous nature of the crime of sexual molestation and the need to be absolutely refrain from it. More so, male children should be inculcated the culture of self-discipline, self-control and self-restrain even in the face of sexual pressure or enticement from female counterparts. This will help allay the excuse of indecent dressing or sexual enticement as reasons for sexual molestation. It must also be added that male children should be taught to treat females with respect, obtain appropriate consent for sex and accept “No” as “No.”

Suspicion and Exposure of Persons with Sexual Violence Tendencies

Early intervention and prevention of the occurrence of sexual exploitation is also another measure that can checkmate sexual violence. Any individual or group who exhibit signs or tendencies of sexual violence in the community should be reported early enough to law enforcement agencies and the community should jointly checkmate such, hence the need for

³³ Holy Bible, Proverbs 22 verse 6

³⁴ Joseph Harry, “Parental Physical Abuse and Sexual Orientation in Males” *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 18, (1989): 251-261

community watch. Therefore, for a successful fight against sexual violence in Nigeria, residents in the community should be their brothers' keepers.

Post–Occurrence Solutions (Curative)

At this point, having examined some pre-occurrence measures, it is important to also review solutions or steps to take after the occurrence.

Secrecy of procedure

To all extents and purposes, sexual exploitation is a criminal offence and should be tried in a criminal court, and by constitutional provision, criminal trials are generally conducted in open court. This procedure however will defeat secrecy and privacy of the identity of the victim and witnesses at the trial. Significantly, because of socio-cultural values in Africa, Nigeria particularly, women or girl child do not openly disclose or complain of sexual assault neither do they come to open court to testify at the trial. This apparently makes conviction very difficult and it is often to the benefit of the sexual assailant/rapist. Just like in the trial of juveniles, it is highly recommended that the administration of criminal justice in matters relating to sexual offences be done behind closed doors with less publicity and utmost secrecy.

Gender Sensitivity in Examining the Victims after the Occurrence

It is always advisable for victims of sexual violence to visit any available medical centre for prompt medical attention. This is not only for the treatment of the victim of the crime but to also preserve evidence needed for criminal prosecution. More often than not, a conviction of rape usually entails production and tendering of medical report in evidence. Meanwhile, experience has shown that some victims often refuse medical test mainly because of the trauma they experienced in the course of the act. The victims become gender sensitive on who attends to them in the hospital. This is because the incidence often leaves a very negative mindset about men and this is often transferred to the male doctor conducting the medical test, especially when it requires examining the victim's private organs. It is therefore highly recommended that only female medical practitioners should be stationed to conduct medical examination on victims of sexual assault. In the possible event that it is difficult to get a female medical practitioner or none is readily available, the consent of the victim should be sought and obtained before conducting the test. This is to ensure maximum cooperation on the part of the victim. It must also be added that the idea of many hospitals refusing treatment without seeing police report is very unreasonable because, by the nature of the offence of sexual assault, the need to urgently test and treat victims, and also preserve evidence is very important beyond police report. Furthermore, something must be done by the government and relevant stakeholders on the fee payable for medical test and treatment of victims of sexual assault.

Availability of Medical Rehabilitation and Mental Care Centres

From research, the largest percentage of victims of rape and sexual violation among women are those with mild mental retardation or with some mental incapacity. Unfortunately, women suffering from this condition are kept in closed doors by family members, thereby exposing them to molestation by men around the neighborhood. It is therefore recommended that mental rehabilitation centres be opened at community level to cater for vulnerable people in this category and safe them from sexual molestation from assailants who may want to take advantage of their condition. Furthermore, there should be effective and functioning rehabilitation centres for victims of sexual assault before moving back to the wider society, especially when the victims are minors. There is no doubt that the act of sexual violence have psychological damaging effects, hence the need for mental rehabilitation of victims.

Online Complaint System

The current technological era of internet network has effects and impact on almost all facets of human endeavor.³⁵ The complaint and feedback mechanism of the internet is not only efficient but very satisfactory. Hence, the internet can be a very good and dependable means of lodging prompt complaint on sexual violence by the victim almost immediately after it occurred. The internet is the fastest means of information dissemination and communication in the modern day world. The benefits are enormous. There is privacy of communication, fast delivery of information and non-physical communication method. It is also worthy of note that the online complaint system would be cost-saving and guarantees privacy,³⁶ especially on the part of the complainant or victim, who would have ordinarily been required to spend money on transportation logistics to the police office to physically lodge complain, and may also be subjected to unnecessary bureaucratic procedures. It is therefore important to leverage on the benefits of the internet in the fight against sexual violence. This discussion therefore suggests devising an internet platform wherein complaint on sexual assault can be lodged in confidentiality and steps should be taken in that regard.

Recommendations for Victims of Sexual Violence in Nigeria

Having examined the possible ways to curb the prevalent menace of rape and sexual exploitation in Nigeria, below are steps advisable for victims to take in the event of its occurrence:

- i. Don't bath or wash any part of the body after the act.
- ii. Visit the nearest hospital with immediate effect.

³⁵ Omidoyin T.J. (2016) "Internet and the Law: Online Dispute Resolution Mechanism as an Alternative to Dispute Resolution in Nigeria" 3rd EKSU International Conference and Research Fair. Book of Proceedings-Humanities Based Disciplines p102

³⁶ Robin M. Kennedy, and Jon Michael Gibbs (2002) 'Frontiers of Law: The Internet and Cyberspace: Cybermediation communications Medium Massaging the Message' 32 N.M.L. REV. 27, 42

- iii. Do not change cloth or tamper with your appearance as at the time of the act.
- iv. If any item is used by the rapist, like a condom, take it along to the hospital and not destroy it.
- v. Visit the police station to lodge complain. Go to the police station with every material left behind by the rapist or used by him in the course of the act.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is crystal clear that sexual violence is on the increase in Nigeria and this research has addressed pragmatic steps to be taken to curb the continuing prevalence of the menace of sexual violence in the country. If the above highlighted steps are followed and there is proactive response from all relevant stakeholders in the fight against the pervading acts of sexual violence in the country, the menace will drastically reduce, if not totally eradicated. It is therefore suggested for further research that the above addressed issues should be legislated on and incorporated into a legal framework which is enforceable at law.

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Ushe Mike Ushe, “Religious Approaches to Preventing Gender Violence and Sexual Abuse in Nigeria” *International Journal of Gender and Women’s Studies* 3, no. 1 (2015): 109-110