INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND THE CURTAILMENT OF RAPE IN NIGERIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT
Rape has become a menace across the globe. Nations are utilizing both local and international instruments to combat the epidemic. Despite the existence of numerous legal frameworks and agreements designed to address sexual violence, the prevalence of rape remains alarmingly high in many parts of the world. The hazard is much more worrisome in climes such as Africa, with the high incidences of rape that occur on a daily basis. In Nigeria where national instruments for maintaining law and order appear inefficient following the continues surge of crimes and violence across the nation, there have been recent calls for international interventions. Nigeria is signatory to such international conventions for eradicating violence against women with the hope that such efforts will further boost its effort in combating sexual violence in the country. This article delves into the multifaceted landscape of efforts aimed at curbing the scourge of rape on a global scale, with a particular focus on the impact of international conventions. Utilizing the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, this study engaged survey design to interrogate the efficacy of international conventions in combating the endemic scourge of rape in Nigeria. The study engaged survey design with the use of questionnaires and interviews to gather data which Data gathered were analysed and triangulated with secondary data. The study revealed that Nigeria being a signatory to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is mainly just on paper with international convention having significant impact in a coordinated coalition against rape in the country. The study therefore recommended the strengthening of existing laws on rape in order to act as some deterrence mechanism to would-be offenders.

Introduction

Rape, as a heinous crime against humanity, continues to inflict profound suffering on individuals and communities worldwide, transcending geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. It has become not just a challenge in most regions of the world but a recurring practice as every single moment one person or the other suffers this assault. This act apart from infringing on the rights of individuals traumatizes and consigns the victims to a state of depression (Eriksson, 2011). It is common knowledge that victims of rape are often in a world of their own as they are humiliated, intimidated, and often made to face embarrassment and scorn whenever their dilemma becomes public knowledge. While there is the contention that rape is a gender-neutral crime, it is worrisome to state that most of its victims are women while quite a significant number of rapists are men (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2006). Studies have revealed that the female gender is always presumed to be the victim of rape incidents. This is because women have been numerically more victims of this type of sexual violence in the past. Furthermore, while the narrative is often skewed in the direction of forced sexual intercourse outside marriage, there is the perpetuation of rape within the confines of marriage which goes to show the multifaceted dimensions of rape. Despite concerted efforts to combat this pervasive form of violence, its prevalence remains distressingly high, underscoring the urgent need for a critical examination of existing strategies

International conventions have emerged as pivotal instruments in the global fight against rape, aiming to establish legal frameworks, promote accountability, and safeguard the rights of survivors. International conventions and agreements have undeniably played a crucial role in raising awareness about rape as a human rights violation and establishing legal frameworks for addressing it. However, the extent to which these conventions have curtailed rape has been a subject of academic debate. For instance, Chinkin (2017) argued that while they have certainly made significant strides in advancing the global discourse on sexual violence and providing a basis for legal action, their effectiveness in actually reducing instances of rape remains at the front burner of intellectual discourse. Davidson (2017) on the other hand noted that despite the challenges of forming concerted efforts, international conventions have had a positive impact by fostering collaboration among nations, promoting accountability, and creating norms against sexual violence.

Nigeria is a signatory to a plethora of conventions on the abolition of rape and all forms of sexual violence with one of the most notable of it being the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, it is mind-boggling to observe that it seems that this vice is increasing rather than decreasing. It is worrisome to state that empirical evidence from various research studies and official crime statistics paints a troubling picture of the increasing prevalence of rape in Nigeria (Peters & Oluwa, 2010; Dawodu & Amadasun, 2021; Uche & Azuonwu, 2022; Aborisade, et 'al, 2024). For instance, between the years 2001 and 2005, there were about 10,079 rape cases reported in Lagos state Nigeria (Peters & Oluwa, 2010). Adediran (2021) also reported that a total of 678 cases of rape were recorded in 2021 with 91 cases from Lagos state. Similarly, the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Crime Statistics Report for 2020 noted an upward trend in reported cases of rape and sexual assault compared to previous years (NBS, 2020). This alarming research findings are clear pointers to the frequency and intensity of its spread and occurrence in the Nigerian state.

In light of these realities, it is imperative to critically assess the impact of international conventions in curtailing rape, interrogating their impact on the trajectory of rape prevention and response in Nigeria. By unpacking the complex interplay of factors shaping the effectiveness of these conventions, valuable insights can be gleaned and implementation gaps can be identified and chart a course for future action. This represents the central idea of this study as it aims to examine the rate of rape prevalence in Lagos state, Nigeria, and the extent to which international conventions specifically, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women have helped to curtail it with a specific focus on Lagos State. It must be reiterated that rape is an infringement of human rights with most victims being women and despite being a signatory to conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW), especially on rape prevention amongst other acts of sexual violence, rape incidences in Nigeria seem

to be on the increase (Equalitynow, 2017). It is due to the many issues surrounding this that this study intends to investigate the subject of rape and international conventions with a specific focus on Lagos State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

The issue of rape has been seen as a universal phenomenon as both the developing and developed world continues to record increasing cases of rape (Perkins & Klaus, 1996). The World Health Organization defines rape as "physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration – even if slight – of the vulva or anus, using a penis, other body parts or an object," represents a gross violation of human rights and dignity. This definition specifies what constitutes rape helps in understanding the actions that are considered rape. It also covers various scenarios where rape can occur, such as penetration with different body parts or objects. Moreover, the definition implicitly highlights the importance of consent by emphasizing that any form of penetration, even if slight, without consent constitutes rape. Its emphasis on rape as gross violation of human rights and dignity is crucial in recognizing the profound impact that rape has on survivors and the broader societal implications. While the definition is comprehensive, it's worth considering its applicability in various legal jurisdictions. Definitions of rape can vary significantly between countries and legal systems, so while this definition may be suitable for public health and awareness purposes, it might not fully align with legal definitions in some contexts. It is therefore crucial to remain attentive to potential cultural, legal, and contextual differences in interpretation and application. As observed by Tjaden and Thoennes (2006), the consequences of ripple far beyond individual victims, reverberating through families, communities, and societies at large. They noted that survivors often grapple with profound trauma, physical injuries, psychological distress, and social stigma, while perpetrators evade accountability, perpetuating cycles of impunity and injustice.

Davidson (2017) examine the changing landscape of rape laws in the United States and internationally, comparing the focus on consent in the US with the focus on coercion in international criminal law. The methodology of the research involves an analysis of U.S. law on rape and sexual assault, the evolution of the International Criminal Law (ICL) of rape, and the emergence of a rape definition. The research also examines the potential problems of overbreadth and the impracticability of adopting the international criminal coercion test in U.S. rape law. These findings highlight the complexities and nuances of defining and addressing issues of consent and coercion in the context of rape and sexual assault, both domestically and in international criminal law. Similarly, Chinkin (1994) appraised the twin acts of violence against women (sexual violence and rape), from the prism of international law. He posits that whenever there is an act of insecurity or full-blown hostility, women are often at the receiving end as they are victimized sexually. References are made to conflicts such as the 1990 Kuwaiti invasion, The Rwandan and South American civil conflicts amongst others. Rape is referred to as a major instrument of warfare with unpleasant consequences or aftermaths such as the danger of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and deaths amongst other detrimental outcomes. The adequacy of international legal remedies and their sufficiency for this monstrous challenge confronting the globe in various degrees are questioned. The sad reality of having reactive measures is bemoaned while a remedy is sought in other to stem this ugly tide.

In other words, rape is not time or location specific nor are its operations confined to a specific geographic border. Suffice it to say that it is a borderless form of violence (Chukwuka & Kitause, 2014). The dynamic form of this aberration has prompted several states e.g., the United States of America & her British counterpart to revisit rape-related laws (Ashiru & Orifowomo, 2015). It is appalling to state that a significant proportion of young people especially of the female stock had their first sexual encounter through rape rather than of their own volition (WHO & Pan American Health Organization, 2022). There is also rape within the precincts of marriage known and referred to as intimate partner rape. This kind of rape which is between spouses is carried out in the family setting.

Previously, rape did not receive condemnation in some climes where women were perceived as acquired properties devoid of rights (Resource sharing project, 2021). Rape became more entrenched as an act of subjugation, repression, and oppression against its victims in the 11th& 12th centuries (Bishop, 2018). This led to a coordinated response by all and sundry against the menace as people began

to form coalitions to confront the scourge headlong. Since then, a plethora of efforts has been made on the international front with the sole objective of ending the scourge of rape. For instance, in 1971 having been victims of continuous and persistent rape, women in Philadelphia founded a group referred to as women organized against rape. With their main objective is to terminate all forms of sexual violence by offering specialized treatment to victims, regularly organizing educational and sensitization programs, and advocating for the right of victims among several other activities. Rape is not just an insidious practice but a cruel one that deserves the highest penalty in any clime or jurisdiction. Hence, it is worthy of note that there is barely any legal system that does not condemn this act (Ahmad, 2014). It is, however, sad to state that amongst the factors militating against attempts to terminate rape in this clime are lack of access to expedited justice, insufficient information on preventive measures to take to avoid being raped, compromise by law enforcement officers, paucity of data on rape victims amongst others.

The need for a review of laws on rape engagement, carrying out more sensitization and enlightenment campaigns among others cannot be over-emphasized. In addition, beyond the narratives, every citizen should be trained in basic martial arts so as to help them resist any attempts at being raped or abused, while health workers must probe further to get information from victims who might not want to report to the law enforcement officials due to fear of stigmatization from the public.

With incidences of sexual violence and rape assuming an international dimension, the need for conventions to be put in place for the purpose of checkmating this scourge has become more expedient now than in the past. It is pertinent to state that over the years, several conventions have been put in place with the objective of defeating this vice. One of such conventions is the declaration on the elimination of violence against women. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) is a convention proclaimed in 1993 by the general assembly of the United Nations vide resolution 48/104. Its core objective is to secure a coordinated response by states of the world with a view to putting in place measures to stem the tide of violence against women. This convention is not the first of its kind in the international system as in the year 1979, there was the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The DEVAW apart from condemning this anomaly prescribes and proscribes punitive measures to be meted out to offenders.

Across the globe, incidences of rape are occurring more frequently than ever. While the increase in social media usage can be blamed for this aberration, there are other factors that can continue to contribute to the spike and hike in this activity. While the searchlight has always been beamed on the Global South with the assumption that these less developed societies are the hotbed of rape, this assertion cannot be said to be totally true as there seems an incremental growth in most developed countries on rape cases. This is even worse when the majority of rape cases are presumed to be unreported. The prevalence of rape cases in these countries leaves people confused about what domain rape can be categorized into, whether an acceptable lifestyle or a deviant behavioral pattern.

For Nigeria, the problem of rape is multidimensional, multi-pronged, and multifaceted. Hence, it is thus very difficult to pinpoint a single cause of rape as there are a plethora of factors responsible for its perpetuation and sustenance. To capture the essence of this discourse, we are appraising rape in France, India, the United States, and Brazil from the prism of their casual factors, legislations, and prevalence with a view to providing a platform for interrogating the rape phenomenon in Nigeria.

Consent before sex in the Indian state seems outmoded with the alarming rape statistics emanating from the region. One thing that stands out rape in India is the occurrence of gang rape which involves a group of people teaming up to sexually assault their victim. With this obnoxious activity becoming more entrenched, it thus seems there is no correlation between the incidence, prevalence, and consequences of rape in India. To buttress the state of affairs in this country, reports suggest a girl is raped every twenty minutes in India (Kamdar, Kosambiya, Chawada, Verma & Kadia, 2017).

Brazil's experience in the global rape conundrum has not fared any better as its plight has been further exacerbated by the supposed nexus between rape perpetuation and alcohol consumption (Massaro, Adesse, Laranjeira,

Caetano &Madruga, 2019). Reports have it that a rape case is reported every eleven minutes (Drybread, 2020). This depicts the intensity and frequency of this sexual infraction and aberration in the country.

In the United States, rape is becoming more entrenched by the day with statistics showing that one in four women are raped in their lifetime (Campbell & Wasco, 2005). The occurrence of rape in the United States is worrisome as most women in the country are raped at a very early age (Tjaden& Thoennes, 2000). The alarming rate at which rape takes place is a clear pointer to the unsafe state of the United States with respect to rape occurrences and puts to rest the long-held assumption or presumption that rape is more likely to occur in under-developed or less developed regions of the world.

There is a belief that the resurgence of rape in the United States is a function of the porosity of anti-rape laws in that country. While this might demand some level of intellectual debate or interrogation, we make bold to state that the non-availability of stringent legislation, strong enough to deter perpetrators of rape in the United States cannot be divorced from the fact that a significant number of lawmakers in the country are men while a vast number of victims are women. Hence, the inability of these lawmakers to appreciate the magnitude of damage this can cause to the victims (Missirian&Kulow, 2019). This gap noticed in the US legal system cuts across nations of the globe as there is a fundamental need to revisit existing rape laws globally in other to drastically reduce incidences of rape. Therefore, to forestall the occurrence of rape in the United States, most states in the country have a standing sexual assault response team (Clifton, 2020).

Rape figures in France are equally alarming and surging by the day. In the year 2020, out of the 49,000 incidences of sexual violence over 46 % of them were rape cases. Hence, as a way of checkmating its occurrence, article 222-23 of the French penal code prescribes 15 years' imprisonment for acts of rape (Statista, 2022), while spousal rape in the French nation irrespective of the circumstances under which it is committed is treated very sternly. Having amended the law in 2006, spousal rape is considered more seriously and sternly punished than rape involving strangers. To discourage the practice of rape, article 222-26 of the French penal code prescribes life imprisonment for perpetrators when rape is a product of torture or barbarianism (Bensussan, 2009).

Also, rape has become endemic and entrenched in the Nigerian state (Omoniyi, 2017). This is so because at different levels, there is perpetuation of rape in the state, hence, the spike in rape incidences in Nigeria (UNICEF, 2020). Just within the years 2001 to 2005 there were 10,000 reported cases of rape in the country (Peter &Olowa, 2010). Within the years 2010 to 2019, a record of over 12 million rape incidences have been reported (RAINN, 2022). The situation has degenerated to a point that Nigeria is touted to be closely contesting with India as a very dangerous clime for females of all age bracket to inhabit (UNICEF & WHO, 2020). The preponderance and prevalence of rape in this clime can be blamed on a plethora of factors.

The practice of rape seems to be subtly becoming an acceptable culture in some countries due to the rising wave of occurrences per time. Amaka-Okafor (2013), alludes to this position as she holds the view that rape is no doubt entrenched in the Nigerian state (Amaka-Okafor, 2013). The statistics of rape are quite frightening with Nigeria said to have incremental rate of rape cases on a yearly basis, it will not be out of place to refer to the rape scourge as a silent epidemic. This is because the nature and extent of rape in the Nigerian state calls for an emergency. According to Oladapo and Oyekunle (2017), rape is one of the major safety issues women in Lagos state face. Fatusi and Alatise (2006), report incidences of rape and murder by family members. This goes to buttress our earlier arguments that while it is often very easy for us to point accusing fingers at the society, it is imperative to look inwards as the decline in family values seems to be a major precipitant for this hike, spike or ultimately proliferation of such incidences in this clime (Fatusi, &Alatise, 2006).

Methodology

A cross-sectional survey design was used for this study as it allows the researcher to scrutinize the data obtained effectively. According to Maninder (2016), a cross-sectional survey design allows for the description, analytics, interpretations, and inferences of research findings. The topic highlights two variables which are rape and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

with the independent variable being the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the dependent variable being rape. Data were collected using questionnaire and in-depth interviews. The sample population for this study was drawn from Ikeja local government area in Lagos State estimated at 861,300 inhabitants (City population, 2020). Data shows that Ikeja is part of the top three local government areas that has the highest number of rape cases reported among the 20 local government areas in Lagos State (Afolabi & Nwannekanma, 2021). Kress and Morgan sample size determination table was used to determine the sample size of the study (Krejcie, & Morgan, 1970). By the table the sample size of a population of 1000000 is 384. For purpose of ensuring that the sample size accurately represented the population, 384 was picked as the sample size for the study.

Result and Discussion of Finding

This research examines the extent to which international conventions such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) have helped to curtail incidence of rape in Nigeria. This makes this study significant despite many scholarly works on the issue of rape in Nigeria (Thornhill & Palmer, 2000; Wise, 2012; Ochab, 2021).

Fig.1. Analysis of theeffectiveness of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) in Reducing the incidences of Rape in Lagos State

S/N	Statement	SA		A		N		D		SD		Total
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F (%)
1	Level of awareness of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW)	92	27.1	122	35.9	68	20	52	15.3	6	1.8	340 (100%)
2	The extent to which The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) has assisted in reducing incidences of rape	38	11.2	62	18.2	162	47.6	72	21.2	6	1.8	340 (100%)
3	The effectiveness ofDeclaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) is reducing rape	30	8.8	72	21.2	152	44.7	78	22.9	8	2.4	340 (100%)

Source: Field Survey (2022)

Taking into account the relevance and centrality of international conventions in the global fight against rape in Lagos State, research respondents were asked to confirm their awareness of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW). A large

number of them, about 122 expressed their knowledge of the existence of such. This large figure of those with knowledge of the subject matter was attributed to 35.9% of the population, while 92 of them representing 27.1% strongly agreed with the statement made. Despite this large figure assenting to the statement posed, 68 of them, representing about 20% maintained a neutral position while 52 (15.3%) of the total respondents disagreed followed by 6 (1.8%), strongly disagreedwith it. This goes to show, that quite a significant number of individuals are aware of DEVAW.

When asked if the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) has assisted in reducing incidences of rape in Lagos State, the response pattern changed significantly with 162 (47.6%), the largest figure recorded in this segment choosing to be neutral, 62 (18.2%) agreeing to the assertion,38 (11.2%) strongly agreeing, 72 (21.2%) disagreeing and 6 (1.85) strongly disagreeing. The feedback garnered from this question is a clear pointer to the inadequacies or inability of these conventions to stem the tide of rape. This awkward state of affairs apart from being worrisome is a call for more engagement by policymakers, opinion leaders, and others to take the bull by the horn and ensure these conventions play the role they are meant to.

The last question though closely related to the previous differs from it as it looks at the efficacy of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) in reducing rape in Lagos. In response to this question, 30 respondents agreed to the position put forward representing 8.5% of the total population. This was supported by 72 participants (21.2%) as they agreed it was effective in reducing rape occurrences in Lagos. A large number of respondents were neutral on the subject matter as they were unaware of his convention. Their numerical figure was capped at 152 with a percentage of 44.7%. On the other side of the divide were 78 participants who disagreed with a percentage of 22.9 and strongly disagreed with a population of 8 representing 2.4%.

Respondents were also asked if the declaration has been able to reduce the incidences of rape in Lagos State. One of the respondents stated that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) which Nigeria is a signatory to has not been domesticated in the entire 36 states of the federation. Hence, they are often localized in the federal capital territory. Others however differed in their viewpoint by stating that though it has been helpful, there is a need for more work to be done with respect to making the conventions more effective in this clime. Others opined that the state was trying to work with the declaration by way of public enlightenment through creating platforms for proper data generation of rape victims. Few others feel that Nigeria's signatory to the convention is just paperworkthat does not hold water as incidences of rape continue to accentuate rather than reduce.

Interviews were conducted to findout from the sampled population, Ways the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) can Assist in Rape prevention in Lagos State, Nigeria. According to one of the interviewees, international conventions, laws, and declarations such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) will be ineffective unless there are effective law enforcement and judicial structures in place to make sure the laws are being carried out. Rape perpetrators should be punished for their crime in order to deter future occurrences if not, not only will the criminals be moving on the street committing more crimes there would also be more people that would commit the crime.

One of the interviewees affirmed that an achievable and detailed rape prevention strategy framework should be developed in line with the provisions of the convention alongsidean effective implementation plan. For another respondent, the declaration has been created and the country has also signed, what should be done is the government should work hand in hand with agencies to make sure the laws and the declaration are being carried out. Another interviewee argued that the declaration cannot do much in a state or country that does not make it a priority or make it important for the laws to be carried out. A way the declaration can help or assist is for a body of officials to be created that would visit from time to time to make sure these laws are actually being implemented in countries that are signatories of the declaration.

Lagos State Government has been trying to implement the laws stated in this declaration by educating youths and creating platforms for rape cases to be reported but the problem still stands that the state is not putting in enough

effort to apprehend and penalize these criminals. It was argued that if this is not addressed, the cases would keep rising and cases would keep getting reported. The goal isn't to just provide means for reporting and recovering but to also put an end to the crime as a whole. Similarly, an interviewee noted that Nigeria is a signatory to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is mainly just on paper because there are reports and cases of rape every day and it doesn't seem like the government or any international convention plays any significant role in trying to curb this crime and the families of these victims and society at large makes it even easier for the cases to remain unreported. This finding is in agreement with Abimbola, Ehiane and Tandlich (2023) which observed that Nigerian women have been subjected to different kinds of norms, cultural and religious practices which have continued to violate their rights despite the country's signatory to international laws aimed at protecting women's right. It is therefore conclusive from the findings of both the quantitative and qualitative analysis that Nigeria being a signatory to international conventions on rape such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) has not helped to reduce the incidences of rape in Lagos State.

Theoretical and Conceptual Implications of the Research Findings

The theoretical and conceptual implications of the finding that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) has not been domesticated in any of Nigeria's 36 states are significant and multifaceted.

Legal Framework and Human Rights: The DEVAW, as an international human rights instrument, sets out clear standards for the prevention, elimination, and punishment of violence against women. The failure to domesticate it at the state level in Nigeria suggests a gap in the legal framework for addressing and combating violence against women. This raises questions about the commitment of Nigeria's legal and governmental structures to upholding women's rights and addressing gender-based violence.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights: From a conceptual standpoint, the failure to domesticate the DEVAW underscores broader issues related to gender equality and women's rights in Nigeria. It indicates systemic barriers and entrenched patriarchal attitudes that hinder progress toward eliminating violence against women. This failure reflects a lack of political will to prioritize women's rights and address gender-based violence effectively.

Policy Implementation and Institutional Capacity: The finding highlights challenges in policy implementation and institutional capacity within Nigeria. Domesticating international treaties like the DEVAW requires concerted efforts from government bodies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to translate international obligations into actionable policies and practices at the national and subnational levels. The failure to do so suggests weaknesses in governance structures and mechanisms for policy implementation.

Social and Cultural Dynamics: The lack of domestication of the DEVAW also points to deep-rooted social and cultural dynamics that perpetuate violence against women in Nigeria. These include traditional gender norms, harmful practices, and societal attitudes that condone or trivialize violence against women. Addressing these underlying factors is crucial for achieving meaningful progress in combating gender-based violence and promoting gender equality.

Accountability and International Obligations: Nigeria's failure to domesticate the DEVAW raises questions about its accountability to international human rights standards and obligations. As a signatory to the declaration, Nigeria has committed to taking measures to eliminate violence against women. The failure to fulfil this commitment not only undermines the country's international reputation but also raises concerns about its adherence to broader principles of human rights and international law.

Conclusion

This work concludes that the widespread rape in Nigeria is a result of the inadequacies or inability of conventions such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) to stem the tide of rape. The finding of this study is in agreement with Enemo (2018). This awkward state of affairs apart from being worrisome is a call for more engagement by policymakers, opinion leaders, and others to take the bull by the horn and ensure these

conventions play the role they are meant to. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) has not really reduced rape activities in Lagos, Nigeria because society is not fully aware or has an adequate understanding of the mission of the programme. Although the Nigerian government has made efforts in recent years to enact laws to address violence against women and girls, such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Violence against Persons Prohibition Act 2015 but these laws have yet to be domesticated throughout all 36 states, and yet there are provisions that contribute to legitimizing domestic violence against women. This finding aligns with previous findings by Odunsi and Adewole (2019).

This work, therefore, affirmed that Nigeria's signatory to the convention is just paperworkand does not hold water as incidences of rape continue to accentuate rather than reduce in Lagos, Nigeria, andmore work needs to be done to properly channel the knowledge that has been created to better purpose which is the reduction of rape. The study posits also that rather than assent to conventions like the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which will not likely be effective there is a need to revisit existing conventions and strengthen them. The work is, therefore, concluded by calling on the government to strengthen laws bothering on rape to ensure they are sufficient to checkmate rape by stopping would-berapists while a synergy should be forged with key stakeholders to persecute this war as the war against rape is a collective one and must be carried out headlong rather than with levity.

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Table 3.1

Table for Determining Sample Size of a Known Population

N	S	N	S	N	S	N
10	10	100	80	280	162	800
15	14	110	86	290	165	850
20	19	120	92	300	169	900
25	24	130	97	320	175	950
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900

APPENDIX A: Krejcie and Morgan Sample Size Determination Table

Source: Krejcie & Morgan (1970).