SOCIO-CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF ADOLESCENTS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR IN KEFFI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NASARAWA STATE-NIGERIA

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Abstract

Sexual and reproductive behaviour has become a major issue of concern in recent times. This is because the incidence of sexual intercourse has become prevalent among adolescents. Adolescents engage in several risky sexual and reproductive behaviour like the early sexual debut, having multiple sexual partners, unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. This is although society frowns at this incidence as adolescents are expected to abstain from sex. Thus, the objective of this paper is to x-ray the factors that influence the sexual and reproductive behaviour among adolescents in Keffi A descriptive research design was adopted. Primary data were obtained using both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the survey, 344 questionnaires were distributed among the sample size using multi-stage sampling techniques of Wards, settlements, households and individualsand six focus group discussions were also conducted. Also, qualitative data was collected using Focus group discussion among adolescents. Descriptive and inferential statistics of the data were carried out using a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) Windows version 25.0. Findings reveal that the factors that determine the sexual and reproductive behaviour of adolescents are largely curiosity, peer pressure and poverty.Thus, the study recommend that parents and guidance provide counseling to their children and wards about sex so they don't have to give in to peer pressure or become curious about sexual intercourse.

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Introduction

Sexual and reproductive health is gaining more attention from public health practitioners, sociologists, demographers and health service providers because of its contribution towards overall health and well-being in both adults and adolescents. Health risks arising from unsafe sexual practices and sexuality-related human rights abuses such as sexual coercion, early and child marriage together contribute to the global burden of disease (sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health diseases caused), induced abortion, infant and maternal mortality, especially among adolescents.

As a growing concern globally, the reproductive health needs of adolescents centering on sex and human sexuality have been largely ignored (Gubhaju, 2002). Studies conducted by the Centre for Disease Control (2004) confirmed that nearly half of the higher school students (9th - 12th graders or JSS3-SSS3) have had sexual intercourse and over 60% reported having had sex by the time they graduated. Uddin (1999) noted that the rates of pre-marital sexual activity are higher in urban than in rural areas. This pattern of sexual behaviour is also true in some sub-Saharan Africa and Asian countries (Kirby, Leopore& Ryan, 2005). This demonstrates as in many other countries, that many adolescents are confronted at some point during their teen years with choices about whether or not to have sex, and if they do, whether or not to use condoms and or other contraceptives. More so, complete sexual control of teens by parents, elders, or educators have proved almost impossible Also, most acts of premarital sexual intercourse are unprotected or coerced(Kirby et 'al, 2005), thus, sexually active adolescents due to gender power imbalances are increasingly at risk of unwanted pregnancy, abortion or contracting and transmitting sexually transmitted diseases

(STDs), including HIV/AIDS.

Many factors have been attributed to risky sexual behaviors among adolescents. They include inadequate access to correct information; the limited availability of and access to youth-friendly health services; peer pressure and the erosion of the role of the family as the source of information and advice on sex-related matters; economic, constraints and; the gender power disparity (UNESCAP. 2007). From the foregoing, this study examines the socio-economic determinants of adolescent sexual reproductive behaviour among adolescents in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State-Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

Adolescents according to WHO (2021) represent 25% of the world population and are characterized by a series of physiological, psychological and social changes that expose them to unhealthy sexual behaviour such as early sex experimentation, unsafe sex and multiple sexual partners. Secondary sexual growth, changes in hormonal secretion, emotional, cognitive and psychosocial development often result in sexual curiosity and experimentation which is often in situations of little reproductive health information or services is common among adolescents. There is a consensus that adolescents engage in high-risk sexual behaviour that predisposes them to reproductive health problems. This is as a result of physiological and psychological changes that cause them to desire sexual intercourse and take risks, leading to unfavourable sexual and reproductive health indices such as unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, early childbearing, sexually transmitted infections (Okonta, 2007).

According to Aji, Aji, Ifeadike, Emelumadu, Obajaka, Ebenebue and

Aziuike, (2014), adolescents engage in unhealthy sexual behaviours, characterized by early age at sexual initiation, unsafe sex and multiple sex partners. Adolescent sexual activities are on the rise and rapidly emerging as a public health concern. Furthermore, Asante (2013) argued that there is an alarming increase in the rate of these sexual and reproductive health problems among young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Nasarawa state and Keffi Local Government Area with about 26 percent adolescent population, the issue of risky adolescent sexual and reproductive health behaviour is a major issue of concern. This can be attributed to the lack of sexual and reproductive health centres that should be providing sexual education as well as providing the reproductive health need of the population. Thus, considering the enormous health effect of risky sexual and reproductive health behaviour among adolescents, it is pertinent to x-ray the socio-economic determinantsof sexual and reproductive behaviour in the study area.

Hypotheses

H_o:There is no significant relationship between social factors and adolescent sexual behaviour inKeffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State-Nigeria.

H_o: There is no significant relationship between economic factors and adolescent reproductive behaviourinKeffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State-Nigeria.

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

Sexual behaviour: Sexual behaviour according to Insel and Roth (2004) can be conceived as a dimension of personality that is shaped by biological, psychological and cultural forces which involve sexuality. Samuel (2010) went further to elaborate that human sexuality involves

behaviour and processes, including the physiological, social, cultural, political and spiritual, or religious aspects of sex and human sexual behaviour. In this study, sexual behaviour is seen as synonymous with sexuality and adolescent sexual behaviours are seen as all those behaviours which adolescents engage in which are fallouts of their sexual development and desires.

Reproductive behaviour: Reproductive behaviour is the behaviour related to the production of offspring and includes all aspects of the establishment of mating system, courtship, sexual behaviour and parturition to the care of young ones (Snoeren, 2019). Thus, for this study, reproductive behaviour consists of those sexual behaviours that lead to the production of offspring or younger generations and can affect the reproductive health of an individual.

Theoretical Framework

The paper is positioned within the voluntaristic social action theory. The voluntaristic social action theory was developed by Talcott Parsons in his work "the Structure of Social Action" in 1937. Parsons' early theory of social action was based on an intensive critical analysis of the works of Alfred Marshall, Vilfredo Pareto, Émile Durkheim, and Max Weber all early theorists from across the Atlantic. His major argument was that these theorists converged, despite different starting points, in pointing to the essential elements of a voluntaristic theory of social action. Parsons regarded his contribution as identifying these crucial elements and integrating them in a more general and systematic perspective. In pursuing this goal, he made extensive use of the means-ends framework. His basic ideas of his are consistent with common sense and everyday experience. In its barest essentials, he argues that all social action has the following characteristics:

i. It is goal-directed (or has an end);
ii. It takes place in a situation that provides meansindividuals can use to achieve their goal, plus conditionsthe actor cannot change, and
iii. It is normativelyregulatedconcerning the choice of both ends and means.

In Parsons' terms, this implied that behavior could be adequately explained as being determined by either the situation or the underlying characteristics of human nature. Agreeing with Weber, Parsons is of the view that cultural values and norms can be incorporated in a comprehensive model of social action that also recognizes the importance of material conditions and the social environment. Thus making emphasis on the subjective normative orientation and the objective situational context which are crucial for a general theory of action. The normative orientation gives direction to individuals' choices of means and ends, while the situational context provides opportunities and sets constraints for individuals' actions. The basic argument in Parsons' voluntaristic theory of social action is that individuals make choices, but their choices are normatively regulated concerning the goals individuals pursue and the means they employ to reach these goals.

Adopting Parsons' social action theory to explain the pattern of adolescents' sexual behaviour, it can be said that the sexual behaviours of adolescents can be attributed to the affective nature of the actor, which is aimed at self-gratification. Also, the prevalence of adolescent sexual behaviour can be attributed to their association with their cultural upbringing, primary reference groups like family members, peer group and age grades. This is done through the process of communication and social interactions which aids in their understanding of societal norms

and values which they learned and adhere to. By implication, if the members of an individual's primary group engage in risky sexual patterns such an individual is more likely to engage in the same behaviour and vice-visa. Furthermore, the group equally influences young person's decisions to get married and their choice of using contraceptives during sexual intercourse.

Socio-economic Determinants of Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Behaviour

PeerInfluence: The proximity and salience of a group is an important factor in establishing the level of influence norms may have on individuals and their behavior (Campo, Brossard, Frazer, Marchell, Lewis, & Talbot, 2003; Dunleavy, 2008). Research indicates that a weak affinity toward a particular reference group results in the social norms for that group having a relatively small impact on the behavior of an individual (Rimal, 2008). Concerning adolescents, it has been established that particular consideration is placed on the makeup of the group they are referencing (Marshall, Scherer & Real, 1998). In other words, if adolescents do not closely identify with the individuals in their immediate surroundings, the norms may have less impact on their intention and subsequent decision to engage in a particular behavior. Everyday experience within one's social circle can influence behavioral norms, which in turn influences an individual's interpretation of his or her experience (Stewart, Lederman, Golubow, Cattafesta, Walter Goodhart, Powell, &Laitman, 2002).

Peer norms appear to directly affect the individual sexual and contraceptive behavior of teens. In a study conducted by Kirby (2001), his findings suggest that "when teenagers believe that their peers have permissive attitudes toward premarital sex or engage in sex, then they are

more likely to engage in sex, have sex more frequently and have sex with more … partners". When youth believe that their peers favor condom use they are more likely to use condoms and contraceptives (Kirby, 2001). By implication when adolescents are connected to groups that express a clear value or norm against engaging in sex or unprotected sex, they were less likely to do so themselves. In addition, when adolescents are connected to groups that have permissive attitudes toward sex, they are more likely to engage in sex (Kirby, 2001). The perception of peers' sexual behavior appears to be a strong predictor of an early adolescent's intention to experience an earlier sexual debut (Gillmore Archibald, Morrison, Wilsdon, Wells, Hoppe, Nahom, &Nurowich, 2002; Hollander, 2001; Prinstein, Meade & Cohen, 2003; Sieving, Eisenberg, Pettingell, & Al; 2006).

Parental influence: Neema, Ahmed, Kibombo andBankole (2006) said that the influence of the family on adolescents' sexual intercourse can be linked to the emotional support that parents provide for the adolescent during early adolescence. Furthermore, Ngom, Magadi&Owuor (2003) opined that living apart from parents and guardians is a risk factor for early sexual initiation and that a father's absence or family disruption increased the odds of adolescents' adverse sexual health outcomes.

Sex education among adolescents is a controversial issue that is begging to be resolved while parental aversion in discussing sexuality issues with their children is becoming increasingly high. Parents are shy to educate their adolescents on sex and sexual behaviours because of the fear that such discussion may stimulate their interest in sex, while others see education as immoral as a result of religious beliefs to discourage adolescents from pre-marital sex (Richard, 2001). Many families are also shifting their role of educating adolescents on sex to other agents of

socialization like schools and peer groups, thus gradually eroding the societal moral value that was obtainable in the past (Olubayo-Fatiregun, 2012).

Incidentally, the relationships that exist between parents and adolescents have also been proven to have significant effects on adolescents' sexual behaviour (Newcomer &Udry, 1985; Miller, Benson, & Galbraith, 2001). Coley, Votruba- Drzal, & Schindler (2009) in their research established that constructive parental monitoring is the most important and effective factor for mitigating the early onset of sexual activity for adolescents furthermore, in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies conducted by Romev, Stanton, Galbraith, Feigelman, Black, and Li (1999), they established a significant relationship between parental monitoring and the initiation of sexual intercourse while the lower level of perceived parental monitoring has been associated with several risk behaviours among adolescent including earlier onset of sexual activities. (Diclemente, Crosby &Wingood, 2002) added that the pattern of communication that goes on in the home between the parents and the adolescent is a pointer to the sexual behaviour of the adolescent. Furthermore, studies carried out by Jaccard, Dihus andLiturdo (1996) & Miler, Pasta, Mac-Murry, Chiu, WU and Coming (1999) have equally demonstrated that parents' sexual values have an important effect on adolescent intercourse experience because such values are learned consciously or unconsciously by the child.

Alcohol and drug abuse: Alcohol and drug use have lifelong consequences in adolescents. They influence not only the physical health of adolescents but also their taught patterns and subsequently their behaviours. Alcohol which is also a drug is a depressant that clouds judgment and decreases social inhibition (Gabhainn& Francois, 2000).

Adolescents are naturally less in control of their emotions and alcohol use may worsen the situation by reducing their ability to make rational decisions. Hence alcohol and other drugs of abuse such as Indian hemp increase adolescents' risk-taking behaviours especially about their sexuality (Strunin&Hingson, 1992; Unachukwu&Nwankwo, 2003).

Rayne (2009) noted that such behaviours as having drunken sex might be easier, but it is more likely to result in sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies. Rayne (2009) reasoned that this is so because when someone is drunk enough to override his or her issues, he or she will be far less likely to be able to use contraception correctly. This is even truer with adolescents. Hence Ilo (2004) found out that there are high unsafe sexual activity among a greater percentage of teenagers. This could be associated with the increase in the number of young people who abuse drugs (Bamaiyi, 1998; United Nations Office on Drug Abuse and Crime-UNDOC, 2007). Regrettably, alcohol and drug use have lifelong consequences in adolescents; some of which arise from such anti-social behaviours often associated with alcohol and drug as sexual promiscuity and rape. Furthermore, Rayne (2009) observed that the incidence of date rape is highest when the victim is drinking or is on the drug. There is, therefore, a serious need to embark on intervention strategies to prevent alcohol and drug abuse among adolescents as this has several benefits including prevention of sexual promiscuity with its attendants' problems. This is even more relevant regarding the persistent increase in HIV/AIDS among youths.

Poverty: Poverty is probably the underlying factor in most risky sexual behaviours. This is because poverty leads to poor education which often reduces earning power and a lack of parental monitoring leading to the pursuit of multiple sexual partners among adolescents.Poverty motivates

both young males and females to engage in risky sex and also encourages parents to give out their children to another person to take care of hence such an adolescent who does not live with their parents is more likely to be prone to premarital sex or even rape. According to Aderigbe and Araoye (2008), out-of-school girls especially those who hawk on the streets or live on the street fall into the group of becoming victims of rape and other risky sexual practices.

Furthering this point, Amoran andFawole (2008) reported that poverty, lack of parental monitoring and parents' long working hours push adolescents especially the out of school children into unnecessary sexual relationships. They further argued that children from poor homes are more likely to be street hawkers and out-of-school adolescents and so they are more vulnerable to early sexual exposure compared to their in-school counterparts. Also, Dinkelman, Lam and Lerbbrandt (2008) in another study argued that females from poorer households were more likely to be sexually active and more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour than females from rich families. Also, the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2008) established empirically, that there is a strong relationship between parents' income and adolescents' sexual behavior because adolescents whose parents earn low income or are not empowered were found among those sleeping with older men for gifts\money.

Media and the Internet: Corder-Bolz (1981) said that the media influences on sexual behavior were first reported in a sex education newsletter in 1981, and since then several overviews have examined adolescents' use of media as a source of information and its possible effect on their sexual behavior. Werner-Wilson, Fitzharris, Morrissey (2004) said that Adolescents are vigorous users of the information broadcast in

the media, and concern has been raised about the influence of media portrayals on sexual attitudes and normative expectations of these adolescents at a critical developmental stage. While the mass media and the Internet have their advantages in terms of providing necessary information for young people on sexual health and healthy sexual relationships, but the study by Werner-Wilson etal. (2004) has shown that mass media negatively influences teens in their sexual behaviors.

Over the past two decades, studies have shown an overall increase in the number of portrayals of and the amount of discussion about sex in these media and an increase in the explicitness of these portrayals. Furthermore, television research shows a fairly consistent sexual message across television genres: most portrayals of sex depict or imply sexual intercourse between unmarried adults, with little or no reference to sexually transmitted infections or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), pregnancy, or use of contraception.

Sexual discussions and displays according to Brown (2002) are increasingly frequent and explicit in all forms of the mass media. According to Idowu, Ogunbodede and Idowu (2003), the internet, as a growing technology,has dramatically increased the availability of sexually explicit content. One content analysis conducted by Brown (2003) found that the inclusion of sexual content that ranged from flirting to sexual intercourse had increased from slightly more than half of the television programs in 1997–1998 to more than two-thirds of the programs in the 1999–2000 seasons. Depictions of intercourse (suggestive or explicit) occurred in one of every ten programs (Kunkel, Cope, Farinola, Biely, Rollin, &Donnerstein, 2010).

In a study conducted by Nwankwo and Nwoke (2009) who

examined the risky sexual behaviours (RSBs) of adolescents in Owerri Municipal in ImoState, they Adopted the descriptive Survey research design, a stratified sampling technique was used toenroll 1008 adolescents aged 10 – 19 from 4 secondary schools into the study. A structuredquestionnaire was used for data collection. The findings of the research showed that the majority of the adolescent (47.4 percent) havehad sex and many have engaged in one form of RSBs or another. Peer groups seem to be a major source of sexuality information (55.6 percent) and influencing factor (52.3 percent). A significant association was found to exist between adolescents' reproductive sexual behaviours and age at the first sexual experience or adolescent perception of parental rearing pattern ($p<.05$).

In another studies on assessing factors influencing early sexual initiation among adolescents, Wilfred (2015) conducted qualitative research using an In-Depth Interview technique to unearth the factors influencing adolescents' acts of early sexual initiation. In-school adolescent boys and girls, as well as out-of school adolescent girls, were purposively recruited. Overall, twenty-one (21) adolescents took part in the study. The study revealed several factors that motivate adolescents to engage in early sexual intercourse. These factors are broadly categorized into intrinsic and extrinsic factors and specifically included self-desire to experience sex (satisfy curiosity), social fitness, and economic challenges, broken homes/poor parenting, indecent media content, social/religious ceremonies, and the quest for high academic achievement.

Methodology

The study employed a community based survey design. A total of 361 respondents was selected using a multistage sampling technique from a

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population of 13,995 adolescents between the ages of 10-19 years in AngwanRimi, Jigwada and TudunKofa Electoral wards of Keffi Local Government Area (NPC, 2020). Data for the study were collected through focus group discussions and questionnaires. The method of data analysis used was carried out using statistical package of social science (SPSS) windows version 25.0., descriptive data were presented as simple frequencies and percentages.

The findings obtained from the questionnaires are presented in a tabular form and cross-tabulations while the qualitative data is reported under appropriate analytical themes as supportive and sometimes as narratives. The presentation is done in sections based on the objectives of the study. In the survey area, three hundred and sixty (360) questionnaires were administered; three hundred and fifty-seven (357) were answered and retrieved but only three hundred and forty-four (344) representing 96.3percent of the questionnaires were valid and so are being used for analysis. The qualitative data generated from the FGDs were presented to supplement the quantitative data as appropriate. The discussion was also made on the major findings and attempts were made to relate findings to other literature and theories.

Analysis and Result

Table 1: Factors that determine sexual and reproductive behaviour among adolescents

Peer pressure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	189	54.9
No	155	45.1
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Parental Influence/control	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	48	14.0
No	296	86.0
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Poverty	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	81	23.6
No	263	76.4
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Alcohol/or drug abuse	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	88	25.6
No	256	74.4
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Internet and Mass media	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	89	25.9
No	255	74.1
Total	**344**	**100.0**
LivingEnvironment	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	170	49.4
No	174	50.6
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Curiosity	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	219	63.7
No	125	36.3
Total	**344**	**100.0**
SocialMedia	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	97	28.2
No	247	71.8
Total	**344**	**100.0**
Pornography	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Yes	126	36.6
No	218	63.4
Total	**344**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 1 revealed the socio-economic factors that affect the sexual and reproductive behaviour of adolescents. Data revealed that 63.7 percent of the respondents said curiosity determines their sexual and reproductive

behaviour, 54.9 percent of the respondents said peer pressure is an influencing factor, while 49.4 percent of the respondents reported that living environment is an influencing factor on their sexual and reproductive behaviour. This shows that there is a variation in the reasons why adolescents engage in sexual and reproductive behaviour. Among the factors that influence adolescents to engage in sexual intercourse the most influential as revealed in the table is the personal desire to satisfy their curiosity. Most adolescents just want to have a feel of what it means to have sex.

Adolescents from the FGDs share their views as shown in the following remarks.

> *"Some adolescents want to try and feel how it will be to have sex so they can match up with your peers"*

Other factors mentioned by some of the respondents include media, the living environment, peer pressure, alcohol, poverty, social media, pornography and the media. It was further reiterated by a male discussant from the Focus Group Discussionwho reported that;

> *"The content of movies on television and videos often portray an explicit sex scene that creates arousal to want to also try and see how it feels and so adolescents want to engage in sexual intercourse. Also, access to the internet which is readily available to phones and computers helps adolescents to easily watch pornographic movies on youtube which often pushes them into wanting to have sex".*

Another male discussant said that alcohol and drug abuse equally affects

the sexual behaviour of adolescents. He said that adolescents who abuse drugs engage in unsafe sexual practices.

Hypotheses Testing

Table 2: Testing the significant influence of social factors on Adolescents Sexual Behaviour

Logistic regression was utilized to predict sexual behaviour of adolescents in the study area through peer pressure, parental control/influence, alcohol/or drug abuse, internet and mass media, curiosity, social media and pornography. Respondents were evaluated based on ever having sex which is the dependent variable.

Variables in the Equation

Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
PP	.669	.342	3.836	1	.050	1.952	1.000	3.813
PIC	.773	.509	2.309	1	.129	2.167	.799	5.876
ANDA	.013	.406	.001	1	.974	1.013	.458	2.243
IAMM	.282	.491	.331	1	.565	1.326	.507	3.471
CURIOSITY	.530	.312	2.881	1	.090	1.698	.921	3.131
SOME	-.135	.443	.093	1	.761	.874	.367	2.081
PORNO	.147	.372	.156	1	.693	1.158	.558	2.403
Constant	-5.395	1.401	14.831	1	.000	.005		

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: PP, PIC, ANDA, IAMM, CURIOSITY, SOME, PORNO.

Logistic regression was performed to ascertain how the sexual behaviour of adolescents in the study area is determined by peer pressure, parental control/influence, alcohol/or drug abuse, internet and mass media, curiosity, social media and pornography on the likelihood of having sexual intercourse. The logistic regression model was statistically significant, x^2= 14.175, p<.0005. The model explained 69.00 percent (Nagelkerke R^2) of the variance in ever having sex and correctly classified at 83.7% of cases. Increasing peer pressure and curiosity are the most likely influential factors of engagement in sexual intercourse among adolescents in the study area.

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Table 3:Testing the influence of economic factors influencing the Reproductive behaviour of Adolescents

Logistic regression was utilized to predict if the reproductive behaviour of adolescents in the study area is determined by poverty and the living environment of the respondents. Respondents were evaluated based on whether respondents have ever given birth which is the dependent variable.

Variables in the Equation

Variable	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
POV	1.751	.294	35.467	1	.005	5.759	3.237	10.247
LEPR	.396	.292	1.838	1	.175	1.487	.838	2.637
Constant	-2.199	.587	14.041	1	.000	.111		

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: POV, LEPR.

Logistic regression was performed to ascertain how sexual behaviour of adolescents in the study area is determined by poverty and the living environment on the likelihood of giving birth. The logistic regression model was statistically significant, x^2= 42.756, p<.0005. The model explained 18.1 percent (Nagelkerke R^2) of the variance in ever having sex and correctly classified at 21.2 percent of cases. Increasing poverty is the most likely influential factor that affect the engagement of adolescents in the study area to having babies. It can be inferred that when parents don't have money to send their children to school, they often start roaming the streets or even street hawking thereby exposing them to becoming pregnant as they become vulnerable and expose to sexual intercourse. While numerous factors were identified as the socioeconomic factors influencing both sexual and reproductive behaviour of adolescents in the study area, the most influential of these factors include peer pressure, curiosity and poverty.

Discussion of Findings

The study also seeks to reveal the factors influencing sexual and reproductive behaviour among adolescents. Findings further revealed that there are so many factors that influence the sexual and reproductive behaviour of adolescents and they include; curiosity, peer pressure and poverty among adolescents. Most adolescents engage in sex because they

either want to have a sense of belonging among their peers and/or because they want to have a feel of what it is like to have sex or because they live in an environment that gives them freedom from the control of their significant order or parents. This was furthered by Kirby (2001), his findings suggest that "when teenagers believe that their peers have permissive attitudes toward premarital sex or engage in sex, then they are more likely to engage in sex, have sex more frequently and have sex with more … partners. Equally, Amoran et al (2008) reported that poverty, lack of parental monitoring and parents' long working hours push adolescents especially the out of school children into unnecessary sexual relationships. They further argued that children from poor homes are more likely to be street hawkers and out-of-school adolescents and so they are more vulnerable to early sexual exposure compared to their in-school counterparts. Adopting the voluntaristic social action to justify the findings that indicate the need for self-gratification which also reflects adolescent curiosity is one of the factors that determine their sexual behaviour. Also, the theory further explained that if members of one's primary group approve of a certain behaviour, the individual often engages in such behaviour and so, peer pressure is also a determining factor in explaining adolescents' sexual and reproductive behaviour.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The incidence of sexual intercourse is prevalent among adolescents. Adolescents engage in several risky sexual and reproductive behaviour like the early sexual debut, having multiple sexual partners, unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. This is even though society frowns at this incidence as adolescents are expected to abstain from sex. This has become prevalent as a result of the numerous factors which influence their sexual behaviour.Thus, the study recommend that parents and guidance provide counseling to their children and wards about sex so they don't have to give in to peer pressure or become curious about sexual intercourse. The poverty that has been identified as the main economic factor affecting the reproductive behaviour among adolescents, it is

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recommended that education should be subsidized to help adolescents who cannot afford private education to go to school.

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