

Factors Associated With Engaging in Pre-Marital Sex Among The Students of University of Maiduguri

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ABSTRACT: *Sexual behavior among the students in our universities is speculatively very rampant and worrisome. In this context it is important to understand why youth engage in risky sexual behavior and to understand the influencing factors for the behavior. This study was conducted in the University of Maiduguri. It identifies the social and economic factors associated engaging in sexual behavior among the students of University of Maiduguri. The data were collected using multi methods — Survey, Focus Group Discussion and review of University security records. The stratified simple random technique was used to draw respondents from a sampling frame sourced from the University information Management Unit. The sample size is 318 (286 for the survey and 32 focus group participants) The SSPS software was used in the analysis of tile data. The findings revealed that a number of factors are associated with pre-marital sex among the students in the University and economic reasons were the most significantly positive factor associated with pre-marital sex. Other factors identified as reasons include love, peer group influence, academic advantage, pleasure and provocative dressing. The study recommends that government should come out with a policy that will provide scholarship to youth in [lie University on a regular basis up to graduation. Government should also partner with NGOs and embark on advocacy and campaign on the need to sustain sex free life and discourage advocates of use of condom with sex. Effective supervision of both academic and social life of youth in the University by the authorities was some of the recommendations put forward.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The eradication of diseases, particularly HIV/AIDs by 2015 is one of the major goals of MGDS. HIV/AIDs is a global health challenge issue as no cure is still found, while unprotected sexual behavior is seemingly on the increase among students in the universities. Despite the international attention HIV/AIDs enjoys, the knowledge seems not universal particularly among our youth in Nigeria and Africa in general. The students in the university are relatively detached from family network and have the opportunity to build their own subcultures in their own ways. As Romeo (2004) observed;

Each year, young women leave the security of their familiar surroundings and attend college and universities in distant cities and locations. These women are embarking on a journey, filled with hopes for joy and happiness, as they seek an academic education. Many of them are also seeking to find the “special” someone with whom they will share their Future lives. The campus environment, therefore, provides for academic stimulation, as well as a variety of activities and opportunities for socialization, (Romeo, 2004:1).

Thus, they are vulnerable to all forms of sexual practices and behaviors. The university environment provides social opportunities through both clubs and associations for students to socialize. There seems to be an emerging risky sexual behavior among students in higher institutions of learning.

The Problem

The University of Maiduguri Security Division report of 2000- 2001 reveals the prevalence of pre-marital sex among students as a serious social problem in the campus. These practices constitute a serious health hazard and the university authority is skeptical about the security report and not convinced that such practices occur in the university.

Burns (1970), points out that young people have exalted notions because they have not yet been humbled by life or learned their limitations of life. Their hopeful disposition makes them think themselves equal to great things. The society expects the university community to enforce the values of the larger society, where children are trained and encouraged to stay away from any sexual acti4ties or behaviors that will attract sexual advances. The need to remain virgin until marriage is highly valued, but while in the university students who have set of values passed down to them, to face other sub-cultural and social values. Values are influenced by social perception which provides students with a set of basic precepts by which they discern the behavior and belief of others (Carew, 1986). Students, who have, not developed the right type of value system of the society,

may accept the right and wrong values of various sub-cultures in the university. This kind of antecedent — consequent relationship, Carew (1986) further observed, can create an escape route for students who desire pre-marital sex.

When the Dean, Students Affairs of the University of Maiduguri whose responsibility is to regulate the conduct of students issued a circular to checkmate sex activities amongst students, the students felt that neither the deanery nor the university authority had jurisdiction over their sex life. The students, who live in congested rooms and study in a difficult academic environment, were angry, not for the lack of facilities in the Halls of Residence or in the teaching areas, but with the interference of the university management with their personal lives (their activities). In the night of Monday, 28 January, 2002, the students went on demonstration during which the Dean of Students Affairs was beaten and sand thrown on him. Many female students were said to be frustrated by the stoppage of females entry to male's Halls of Residence. Parents, on the other hand, are indifferent to such policies and most often they tend to take things for granted and hardly ever slop to reflect on the kind of social life their children pass through while acquiring university education.

Musical orientation, fashion, possession of cellular phones and personal car are some of the defining factors of class differentiation among the students. Most students, particularly the females, struggle daily to meet up to these standards. The general speculation is that female students are readily available for anyone that can provide them with the materials and money they crave for. In mid 2002, the university authorities prohibited entry of male visitors into female Halls of Residence and restriction of female visitors into male Halls of Residence to 10:00pm. On 28th August 2003, the university authorities banned female entry into the male rooms, banned the use of tinted glasses on cars inside the University environment and introduced dress code, to address what the authorities called “morally polluted environment” But that measure did not help the situation. Public outcry against STIs, poor academic performance, unwanted pregnancies, and the prevalence of pre-marital sex on campus is increasing. What are the factors responsible for the existence of pre-marital sex in University of Maiduguri? This is what this paper intends to examine.

Some Related Literature

Warner (1973) observed that sex before marriage is seen as normal and a pleasurable satisfaction which young adults experience. The university environment allows freer sexual activities and this is against moral values of the community. It is for this perhaps that the University is witnessing the prevalence of pre-marital sex, homosexuals, rape, STIs and incidences of abortion in the campus. Odoemelan (1996) observed that inappropriate sexual behaviors and consequences of such behaviors constitute enormous problems. Akuffo (1987), Karanja (1987), and Gage (1992) explain that pre-marital sex is a moral issue in institutions of learning. Once in school, college or universities, students are cut off from Family's restriction and support. College life neither understands nor supports the value of chastity. Meekers, (1994), and Orubuloye et al. (1997) observe that some students engage in promiscuous behaviors without even at first recognizing just how far they have fallen. For them sex is reduced to an easy source of pleasure and totally divorced from love and marriage.

In the United States there is greater tolerance towards sexual acts which seem to promote greater freedom in public discussion of sex and in presentations of sexually explicit themes. Nigerian students in higher institutions look up to most products of American society. Some societies have double standard on issues relating to sex. Mangu (2003) have reported such attitudes in Nicaragua. He observes that societal pressure on young men to have sex and failure to hold them responsible for the consequences of their sexual activities is prevailing. Mothers discourage their daughters from sexual relationships while they encourage their male children to do so. In other words, it is okay for male child to engage in sexual adventures before marriage, but such privilege is not extended to females. Mangu says:

A greater proportion of women than men reported having been discouraged from having sex by their mothers, whereas a greater proportion of men than women reported that their mothers encouraged them to have sex or leave them alone, (Mangu, 2003: 179).

McDougall (2000), notes that in many developing countries, the perceived threat of sexual abuse, in part, leads parents to necessarily restrict their daughters mobility and education. This may not be very true of the Nigerian situation, but the threat is there. Most parents are wary of their female children in the Universities. Miriam (1999) in her study on perception of sexual behavior in Benin City, observed that:

Some students gave reasons for the high degree of sexual activity, including the perception that sex was a way to act like a grown-up sex is... an easy way to behave like mummy and daddy. Adolescent girls have certain hormones in them which they can no longer control. At that time they want to do with anybody they see (Miriam 1999; 187).

In modern Nigeria, there is little or no parental control on dating behavior of their children, particularly those in institutions of learning. Clinárd and Meier (1998) argue that weak parental control of dating behavior further contributes to and reinforces a normative climate permissive toward early sex. The university has characteristics of neighborhoods similar to the ones found in major cities. The influence of neighborhood on premarital sex is tremendous.

Students reside in Halls of Residence. They are cut off from familial restrictions. Sexual temptations certainly exist in institutions of learning. Ibrahim (2004) argued that students are confronted with peer pressure and some fall into promiscuous behavior without even at first, recognizing just how far they have fallen. Sex in campus is reduced to an easy source of pleasure.

Kass (1997) summarizes college students' sexual behavior as follows:

For the first time in history, mature women by tens of thousands live the entire decade of their twenties—their most fertile years neither in the homes of their fathers nor in the homes of their husbands, unprotected, lonely and out of sight with their unborn nature. We have a whole generation of young people who are receiving from their culture the understanding that sex before marriage — sex with several partners before marriage and with whom one does not have a committed relationship and has no plan to marry, perfectly acceptable (Kass, 1997:318).

According to Benda and Leon (1995), students in institutions of learning are in a transitional stage of life. They are socially mobile and have permissive sexual behaviors and lifestyle which are learned by interaction within the multi-ethnic composition of University environment. They are the part of population most vulnerable to pre-marital sex because of their newly developed physical maturity and accompanying strong sexual desires, coupled with their curiosity about adult sex.

Students like to associate with those that have cars and thus engage in false group identification. Abdullahi (2004) argues along the same lines saying that majority of the members of the society are looking for avenues of making money legitimately or otherwise. Similarly, Ikpe (2003) concludes that in University of Lagos, students negotiate sex for money. Students engage in pre-marital sex because they need money and material goods while at school and not all of them are favorably disposed to acquire it legitimately. When legitimate means are limited, as Merton (1939) observes, people deviate to enable them achieve the goals of material success in an environment where success is restricted to few carefully chosen ones.

In Tanzania Heidi, et al (2004) argues that while some students rape girls, others use money power to engage in sex. The NADI-IS (2005) explains that students between the ages of 15 — 29 engage in sex for material goods in Nigeria. Janus and Janus (1975), and Kaplan (1979) explain that students engage in pre-marital sex for material goods.

What follows is explanations on whether the students in University of Maiduguri do engage in pre-marital sex or not and if they do, what are the factors responsible for its existence.

Table 1. Respondents' view on whether students engage in pre-marital sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
always	169	59.1	59.1	59.1
sometimes	94	32.9	32.9	92.0
rarely	12	4.2	4.2	96.2
never	4	1.4	1.4	97.6
dont know	7	2.4	2.4	100.0
Total	286	100.0	100.0	

Table 1 above indicates that 59% of respondents posited that students engage in pre-marital sex. It also shows that 33% engage in it sometimes while 4% engage in a rare occasion. Discussants across focus group held

similar opinion as majority of them explained that pre-marital sex among students is alarming. The explanatory factors for engaging in the act are presented below.

Factors Responsible for the Existence of Pre-marital sex

In both survey and FGD data, a number of factors are identified as reasons for engaging in pre-marital sex. The reasons include love reasons, economic reasons, and influence reasons, search of pleasure, academic advantage and other reasons such as need for material goods and provocative dressing.

Table 2: Percentage 1)distribution of Factors for Engaging in Pre-marital sex

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Engaging for Love Reasons		
Yes	113	39.5
No	105	36.7
Do not know	68	23.8
Total	286	100
Engaging for Economic Reasons		
Yes	196	68.5
No	68	23.8
Do not know	22	7.7
Total	286	100
Engaging due to Influence		
Yes	92	32.2
No	91	31.8
Do not know	103	36
Total	286	100
Engaging for Pleasure Reasons		
Yes	178	62.2
No	61	21.3
Do not know	47	16.4
Total	286	100
Engaging for Academic Reasons		
Yes	119	41.6
No	116	40.6
Do not know	51	17.8
Total	286	100

A number of factors were identified as reasons for the existence of pre-marital sex among the students of University of Maiduguri namely, love, economy, influence, pleasure and academic pursuit. Students may engage in sex activity for one or more reasons as argued by many discussants.

Love Reasons

Respondents indicated that love is a factor for engaging in pre-marital sex. From the above Table 2, 40% of respondents posited to engaging in pre-marital sex for love sake. Comparatively, 37% held opposite view while about 23% remain indifferent. It is important to note that 25% of the respondents who posited to engaging in pre-marital sex for love reasons, engage in it in rare occasions while 15% sometimes. Discussants across groups and gender were of the view that engaging in sex activities for love exists but on rare occasions and mostly among the younger students and those who see relationship as an avenue for possible marriage. A Level two male discussant said:

Some girls, particularly the ‘jambites’ think that engaging in sex with some one is sign of trite love. Some of the male students break relationship in some cases when they experience sexual relations with a girl because they do not want to be hooked for marriage.

Economic Reasons

This is a group of reasons that include the need for money, materialism and other valued goods like cellular phones. The data (table 2) indicate that majority (69%) of the respondents posited that economic reasons is one of the factors for students engaging in premarital sex. Also, respondents gave economic reasons as one of the main reason why they indulge in pre-marital sex rather than the other (influence, pleasure and academic) explanatory factors given in the study. As in the larger society, very few students have modern technology-driven

material goods and enough money to lavish around. Students need money to make ends meet and some of them can do “anything” to get the money. A level two female discussant explained that money “means a lot to girls and they need it; and they can do anything to have it.” Another level three female focus group member put it more vividly thus:

...Students need money; some men want to make love to them the way they will never want to make love (sex) to their wives. They treat one like an animal because they pay for it. They believe that whatever one does that day, (if good on bed), they will call back again, but if one is not good, they do anything that they want to do with the person and pay them money and go. They want hard sex. Most of them are homosexuals. They penetrate into you from the anus and do not put on condom just satisfying what they want and one feels the pain just because the person wants to get the money. We students (male and female) like money; once we see money, we want to go for it.

Inflation, the capitalist nature of our society and the wanton search for material goods, put the students in the university at a disadvantage of meeting up with (their personal needs and academic pursuit). University security division’s data is in harmony with the above in cases reported. There was an incidence of a quarrel for a non-payment of money as agreed upon between a female student and a married politician who came from Abuja. The female student said the man agreed to pay her N20,000 but when she was brought back to school, she was given N5,000 on the excuse that he would settle the balance the following day. This type of case is very common. This practice is predominantly among the female students. Another case was that of a male student who lost his television set to a female student for non-payment of money when the male student collected his scholarship allowance as agreed upon.

Respondents’ opinion was sorted on how often do they hear of students engaging in premarital sex for money and material goods. Data shows that 62% of respondents were of the view that students engage in premarital sex for material goods. The desire for high social status or fashion and material goods among the students is another factor for engaging in premarital sex. Most students, (males and females) after satisfying all their basic needs, go ahead to acquire things like sound sets, expensive dresses to enable them feel they ‘belong’. The material goods that students ‘struggle’ to acquire include electronics, designer dresses, later cellular sets, cars, and television sets. A level four male discussant reported on other students that:

Some students borrow it from friends while some like living big; they go the extra mile acquiring things for themselves in immoral ways. In this situation one’s behavior can be traced to another person’s behavior. In this case, a student might not be interested in having all those things like car, sound set, but when one’s friends have it, (s) he might be tempted to have the same things a friend has. We compare ourselves with others when we are in the school environment like this, where we are all students, and some are driving cars, others not. One feels like driving a car too... she or he may go to any length to acquire it. And that is where one gets initiated into those social clubs or improper sex acts.

Most students strive to acquire false status by pretending to be rich or to be from rich families. Most of the male discussants in levels one and two said that boys borrow clothes to look good or to be commended by others particularly females. A level four male focus group member observed about his friend, even though sensationally:

He will desire to associate with those that have the nice cars, so he would keep on going along with those that have cars and not with those that have no cars. He can do anything to meet up their standards. Like my room mate who bought an eye glass for about N9, 000 and showed me the receipt, a Gucci sun shade while he has no money to eat as he comes to one begging for money to eat. Some students go extra length to impress others while they do not have the money.

Many students, particularly male students, engage in false group identification because there are girls on the campus that like flirting with such boys. It was gathered that most students want to live in luxury as observed by a level three female discussant during FGD:

Some students come to school and want to have high prestige. They want everybody to notice them and their ride; they want to be called the most wanted, the person that drives the best car; a student that uses the best kind of jeep, the student that follows the rich man’s daughter. In this school everybody wants high prestige.

Majority of the discussants were of the view that the desire for high social status pushes many students into various anti-social acts, particularly pre-marital sex. The Global System of Mobile has been facilitating dating behavior and influencing sex activities. Discussants in the groups argued that students (gays and females)

can be convinced to go to bed for a gift of GSM handset. 'GSM boyfriends and 'scratch card boyfriends' are commonly heard among male and female students. What cannot be directly said easily can be said through the cell phone. Blue films, pictures of male and female sexual organs and the like were shared even when a lecture was on, as revealed by a female discussant. Some of the female students have multiple handsets, but do not have the money to buy scratch cards and they are being easily convinced to engage in sex with the person who can provide them with it. A level three male focus group member explains his encounter with a female student, thus:

We met at a café; you know the internet café is a place to get girls. I talked to her and gave her my remaining 20 minutes units to browse. After that I asked if we can go and rest outside. She obliged. After some minutes I started smooching and she requested if I can buy her N500 scratch card. I agreed. We then advanced the smooching on the slab, behind the café and I can't say the rest.

The study also reveals that male students also engage in sex with rich older women in town and with some level four female students that are willing to provide them with scratch cards, money and other material goods. The problem with handset in the university is that not only does it facilitate dating activities, as a respondents explained, it also enables students to lie to parents. Female students who reside off campus can easily be brought out under the pretext of attending extra lectures or other academic activities. A level two female discussant confessed to using her handset to bring out a girl from her father's house, on the excuse that a lecture was fixed and there was going to be a test. She further explained that it made it easy for girls and boys to cheat on each other. GSM sets, explain respondents, have brought about an increase in dating and sex activities, it is used to date a female or a male student, to influence her into sex by sending sex motion pictures, by buying the latest handset to her and also by supplying her with scratch cards.

Peer Influence

Peers like roommates, classmates, club associates and other members of one's social group members equally influence one to be a deviant or conformist. The data (Table 2) shows that 32% of the students engage in one form of pre-marital sex or the other as a result of the influence of their mates. According to a majority of the male discussants, most the level one and two female students engaged in pre-marital sex due to the influence. The lower levels students popularly called 'jambites' (newly admitted students into the university levels one or two) are inexperienced and new to the environment. As such, they tend to be influenced to attend parties and in some cases they are drugged; and sometimes they end up being raped. Equally, their associates, who are in higher levels of study, encourage them to engage in sex with the close associates of their boy friends or girl friends at the party venue organized and held in the town. Those that are usually encouraged to engage in sex during the night parties are the 'jambites'. A level one male discussant observed that a 'jambite' is assumed to be inexperienced, new to the environment and are not likely to know anybody; and so they are in search of things that can bring them campus pleasure and other excitements. For these reasons, newly admitted male and female students can easily be influenced to engage in sexual acts or recruited into a social club or even a cult group. Another level three male discussant maintained:

They are inexperienced such that when one takes her to lunch or dinner you will see that the next day she will be with the person. One just needs sweet words or your female class mate to talk good about to her; it is so easy.

Majority of the male discussants explained that senior students collect money from outsiders in order to arrange a meeting for them with such new entrants into the university. Another focus group member says:

They look around and if they get one, at the end of the day, he will ask the student for an escort to town or hostel to see a friend. While in the town or male hostel room, she will be influenced into sex with the owner of the room or the house.

A Level three female discussant observed that the degree of freedom that students enjoy in the university can also influence students to engage in pre-marital sex. She narrated the story of her cousin who lived under strict parentage but was corrupted by the freedom of the university environment:

Like my cousin, she is the only daughter of the family and does not even know much about the color of the gate of their house (she rarely goes out of the house). But when she came to the university last year for pre-degree science she met a fellow pre-degree science student and she got pregnant and she didn't know that she was pregnant because she knew nothing until when she went home and her mother noticed it and she was withdrawn from the university.

Pleasure

This study has revealed that students engage in pre-marital sex for a variety of factors. A student may engage in pre-marital sex with another person for pleasure. Survey data (Table 2) shows that 48% of the respondents engage in pre-marital sex for pleasure. There is consensus among discussants sex for pleasure exists, but it is not rampant. It is associated with boys and girls who have enough money and materials. Some categories of daughters of the rich engage in sex for pleasure. Discussants were of the view that some female students are naturally sexy and refer to them as 'sexpottists' A level two male discussant observed that once male students know of such girls, they rush after them telling their friends, to go after them. A level two female discussant said:

There is a girl in this our science faculty. She knows that all guys like her, but she didn't know their motives. Rather, she is looking at herself as a hot cake, not knowing that they want to have a taste of her.

A level four male focus group discussant opined that students involved in pleasure sex do not have a permanent partner and consequently they are the potential victims of STDs/HI V/AIDs in most cases.

Search for Academic Advantage

The findings indicate that students can occasionally engage in sex for academic advantage. These data (Table 2) showed 41% of respondents said to have engaged in premarital sex for academic reasons, more especially the academically weak ones, while 40% of respondents opined that they do not engage in pre-marital sex for academic advantage. Most of the discussants argued that sex for academic reasons exists. In rare cases, lecturers were involved in sex with students for marks; it is very rampant among students for reasons of writing assignments or exams. There are students who are academically but rich who become 'lay ups' for any student that is academically sound and is ready to do his/her assignments and exams. Some of the lombrossos (poor but intelligent students) are always willing to come to the aid of such dull but rich students. They sometimes engage in sex with them and also collect money. A level four female discussant explained that she had a rich female friend who hardly attends lectures. The friend was sleeping with two lecturers in the same department and her CGPA was always around 2.00. Another female discussant explained that she prefers to sleep with a general (lecturer) himself instead of fellow students.

Other Reasons (Dressing)

The stated other reasons for engaging in pre-marital sex by respondents was provocative dressing. About 40% of the respondents stated that dressing contributes to premarital sex in the university. The data from the observation shows that most of the students wear tight fitted dresses and, in the case of female students, some of them put on transparent dresses sometimes without brassiere, particularly in the evenings. Some of the dresses promote nudity. Students' dressing recently attracted public attention.

Judging from the recent public outcry against indecent dressings in the country, one can argue that it has implications for pre-marital sex activities. Some female students for instance, dress with the view to seduce. This practice is not only limited to university students, but also the general public where women dress with near nudity in the name of fashion. Some of our female students put on dresses that expose parts of their breast. In some cases they put on bra-less blouses or tops and pant less skirt. Obika (2008) in a special report on indecent dressing explained that the implication of our female students dressing is a signal to a person that she is 'cheap and wanted to be taken to bed' He further explains that it was for provocative dress that students put on that rapist are on the prowl, while randy lecturers in tertiary institutions are motivated to go for sex for marks. Most universities in Nigeria issued dress codes to students, The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria equally moved to pass a bill on dress code. But most students did not see anything wrong in their dressing behavior.

Provocative dressing encourages sexual urges and it has perhaps facilitated pre-marital sex in some instances, as explained by some respondents. A female discussant explained that social clubs want everything about a student to be attractive and appealing, most especially dresses that expose body parts, during night shows and while performing on stage.

Discussants generally claimed that dressing has a link with sex urges and some students deliberately put on dresses that expose sexually attractive organs. Dress or clothes are very important to students' life. It defines one's social status and outlook. Some can steal or borrow to look good and attractive. Discussants explained that the four girls that were raped in Muriala Hall two years ago when returning from a night show that was organized by club GQ (Good Quality) wore sexy dresses. The boys followed the girls from the student centre to Murtala girls' I-Tall and raped them because they wore transparent and sexy dresses as shown by the university security documents.

A level two female discussant explained that “there is a way you dress that derive sexual urge in men” And “the man feels the blood running in him instantly” said another level three female discussant. The data reveals that social club provides dress code to members and sometimes to anyone who wants to attend their shows. The ‘Bandanna’ dress in particular is common in the night. ‘Bandanna dresses as explained by a level three male discussant:

It is just a head —tie, a bigger one which covers their buttocks and naked breast. They leave the rest of their body exposed. One might be attending a party or show for the first time; he might not have seen that kind of dress before, he might be lured into doing it.

Student organize jeans night party and orgy like shows In all these, participants are expected to dress in a sexy manner, i.e. transparent skirt and light shirts without brassiere for girls and sleeveless shirts and trouser without pants for boys. This show is always held at midnight. The shows are organized to stage musical concerts, present awards to students (for being the popular student on campus, the most fashionable student on campus, the best lovers on campus, Mr. Oppressor, the most sexy etc), fashion parades, dancing competition are held. A club member and FGD male focus group member said:

Such things cannot be done in the daytime because we wear very sexy dresses and that is why it is done in the night and the night encourages it. Again, in the night you do not identify participants. When one goes to such gathering and keeps staring at participants, the person gets motivated instantly and smooching is freely carried out in the venue.

II. CONCLUSION

The study identified a number of factors responsible for the existence of pre-marital sex among students on campus. Economic reasons were the most significant factors. Economic reasons include the need for money, materialism and other valued objects like GSM. The study has revealed that most parents do not provide enough money to pay for school fees, buy reading materials and finance personal needs like feeding, cosmetics, and clothes. The study showed that 69% of respondents posited that students engage in one form of pre-marital sex or the other for economic reasons. Money in particular is very much needed by students to enable them sustain a high social status.

Majority of the students appreciate and cherish material goods and most often they like living “big” The study shows that 63% of respondents said that they often here of students engaging in pre-marital sex for money and material goods. As Clinard and Meirer (1998) argue that unfavorable social and economic circumstance in the neighborhood breeds deviance. There is some competition among students in terms of owing the best car, latest fashion and most furnished room on campus.

Peers, room mates, class mates, club associates and other group members influence students into pre-marital sex. Peer influence is another factor for the existence of pre-marital sex. Majority of FGD discussants argued that most of the newly admitted students into the university were easily influenced into pre-marital sex, because most of them were inexperienced or new to the environment.

Few focus group members however, have argued that some of the students who were newly admitted are not that inexperience, but rather were friendless on campus or in search of things that can bring them campus pleasure and excitements. If a student is easily influence into pre-marital sex by peers, it is also possible that such students ere not properly socialized by the respective agents of socialization.

The materialistic nature of our society has weakened family values, Abdullahi (2004) explains that deteriorating family values can be attributed to materialism, which the society cherishes, and seemingly encourages. Twa-Twa (1997) observes that in Uganda, the social environment greatly influences students to enter into sexual relationships. Generally, while in the university students are cut off from family restrictions and confronted with peer pressure and deviant sub-cultures.

Benda and Leon (1995) observe that when students are in the transitional stage of life, pleasure and sensation is what most of them seek on campus. Meekers and Calves (1997), Renne (1993), and Karanja and Nyamwaya (1987) argued that while some people engage in sex for money and love, others do so for the pleasure of it.

Majority of the female FGD members explained that pre-marital sex for the sake of love is predominantly attainable among the lower level students. Elizabeth and Karen (1999) in their study in Jamaica

explain that college students engage in sex for reasons of love. They conclude that love is the strongest impetus for having sex. But their study does not coincide with the revelations of this study as most discussants view sex for love as a trap for marriage for which most of them are not ready for. Females in the FGD argued that girls engage in pre-marital sex to please their boyfriends and assure him of her love. The male FGD members generally opined that boys think of sex first, before love and most of them consider female students who engage in pre marital sex for the sake of love as prostitutes.

The search for academic advantage is another reason for engaging in pre-marital sex. Majority of FGD members from both male and female groups argued that lecturers, Departmental secretariat staff and fellow students were involved in it. Among the students, females sleep with male students as a payment for him writing examinations, assignments, copying notes etc for her.

The departmental Administrative staffs engage in pre-marital sex to alter marks during typing or processing of results. Some of them used to insert answer booklets after marking and advise the student to write an application for omission of result so that such inserted booklets will be brought out for the attention of the lecturer or the Head of Department, Robson (1993) observes that academic progress and success motivates students into sexual relationships. Twa-Twa (1997) made similar observation among Tororo students of Uganda where lazy and spoiled rich male and female students bribe custodians of marks and grades with sex.

A level four female discussant explained that it was not a big deal to sleep with one or two to enable her have a good grade. Few of the FGD members opined that lecturers give good grades to those they sleep with, more than those who employ financial means.

Recommendation

Pre-marital sex may have its emotional and social benefits to the youth in the university but it also has its negative impact on both the social and academic lives of students. The practice constitutes a serious health and social problem to University community and the country at large. 'These show the need for implementing the following suggestions through which the prevalence of pre-marital sex can be ameliorated. Stake holders in education should develop a curriculum on sex education for institutions of learning to enable students to understand the dangers associated with early sex and prepare them on how to manage sexual urges.

- 1) Government should provide scholarship to students on regular basis up to graduation to enable students concentrate on their studies instead of going round and negotiating for sex for economic reasons.
- 2) University authorities should aggressively enforce dress codes to reduce sexual urge, rape and temptations that are in some instances facilitated by provocative and sexy dresses. This responsibility should not be left to security personnel alone; it should involve all stakeholders in the University.
- 3) University staff should see themselves as guardians to the students and inculcate moral values into the students in addition to their primary responsibilities in the university. Students should be encouraged by the authorities to organize seminars, debates, symposia and other related activities to help them build their academic potentials and resist deviant activities.
- 4) Parents should as a matter of responsibility, monitor and pay regular visits to their children in the universities and provide them with basic materials that will make their stay comfortable.
- 5) ASUU and other unions and associations on campus should monitor their constituencies and guard against pre-marital sex in the University community.
- 6) Religious groups on campus need to focus on sexual morality among the students and the society in general

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