

SOCIAL STUDIES, SEX EDUCATION AND CURBING PAEDOPHILIA IN DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated how sex education, when taught in Social Studies can be used to curb cases of paedophilia in Delta State, South South Nigeria. Three research questions were raised to guide the study. The study made use of descriptive survey design and the population constitute the 656 junior secondary school teachers of Social Studies in Delta State, while simple random technique was used to choose 66 from the three senatorial district of the state. Data was collected with researcher's self-designed questionnaire, while simple percentage was the statistical tool for data analysis. Results showed that sex education can be used to curb paedophilia through raising children awareness on sexuality, paedophilia and tactics used by paedophiles. Results also showed that value education through Social Studies can help to develop human relationship, highlight the right and dignity of children and internalize the right values to curb paedophilic behaviours. Finally, findings revealed a high prevalence of paedophilia in Delta State. The study recommended amongst others that sex education in Social Studies curriculum should be fully implemented across primary as well as secondary schools in Delta State.

Keywords: Sex Education; Curbing; Paedophilia; Social Studies.

Introduction

More recently there have been increasing cases and awareness on sexual abuse and victimization of minors in Nigeria and Delta state inclusive. This act is referred to as paedophilia, while people who indulge in the act are called paedophiles. Paedophilia is a mental disorder, in which an adolescent or a grown up adult, male or female is sexually drawn to a child, and for such a disorder or behaviour to be termed as paedophilia, the paedophile must be sixteen years and above. Also he/she must be less than five years the age of the child being abused (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). This definition has portrayed paedophilia as sexual acts of arousal and attraction towards a minor. Western scientists are of the opinion that paedophilia is an illness of the mind and brain, some of them have connected it to an addiction of some sort, but many Nigerians think otherwise. They see paedophilia as something that the perpetrator does for ritual purposes, while others have blamed the menace on the

proliferation of the internet; this they claimed encourages many acts of paedophilia. Many Nigerians also think that the conspiracy of silence by parents and guardians encourages the acts of paedophilia too (Ojo, 2018).

A paedophile is a grown up, an adult whose main sexual satisfaction is derived from having carnal knowledge of children as their sexual partners. Nigeria just like other countries of the world presently is grasping with this societal menace that is threatening the future of our children and that of the values that we cherish as a nation. Hardly a week passes by without one hearing of cases relating to paedophilia in the Nigerian media, even the churches and mosques are not spared either, it is indeed a worrisome problem.

According to Yesufu (2010), the Roman Catholic Church worldwide has been battling to free itself and self-esteem from paedophilia for decades. Yesufu reported that about twenty-four countries have accounted for instances of paedophilia in the Roman Catholic Church and approximately \$4 billion has also been paid as

compensation to victims of paedophilia in the Church as at 2010. The female sex seems to be the most endangered, they are endangered from birth because the Nigerian society treats the birth of the girl child with contempt and gaiety. This calls for urgent and preventive measures like sex education to be implemented

The menace of paedophilia came into the glare and earned the name at the extreme end of the 19th century, from that period till date, a substantial amount of researches have occurred since the 80s. Even though a significant number of studies on paedophilia have been recorded and documented in men, some small number of women have shown traces of this mental disorder (Goldman, 2000; Seto, 2008). Seto and Goldman as well as other researchers think that obtainable information on women paedophiles are under-reported, but they exist (Cohen & Galynker, 2009). Although no breakthrough has been recorded yet in the medical treatment of paedophilia, a major fact that has been established is that paedophilia is always related to any sexual involvement and abuse of children or any act relating to child sexual abuse (Garvin, 2013).

In Nigeria, there are cases and growing reports of paedophilia and this has become very disturbing and so it is across the globe (Yesufu, 2010). In Nigeria today young girls are no more safe, even the little boys are not spared either. The question about when a child can start having sex is said to be controversial. While the new child right law states clearly that sex below 18yrs is a crime in twenty-four states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom and Kwara states specified 16yrs, while Jigawa State pegged theirs at 15years (Yesufu, 2010). The irony of this is that the traditional marriage pattern in Nigeria allows girls to get married even as early as 12-14 years of age. A new born girl child can be betrothed out to a man old enough or older than her father at birth, and when she is 6 or 8 years can be taken off by the husband to live with him as a wife. The story is the same in the religious circle, a former governor and senator who is a Muslim was reported in the Nigerian news some few years back to have gotten married to a thirteen year old Nigerian girl and a 15 year old Egyptian girl, there was public outcry and

condemnation but can we say that he is a paedophilia?

Wiley (2015) posited that teaching children about sex abuse and how to prevent it with the use of subjects like Social Studies can help to curb paedophilia. This is because when children are taught about sex education and sex abuse at school, they are most probably going to report adults who are making attempt to sexually abuse them. The use of sex education (Social Studies) to prevent paedophilia is with the intent of curbing the menace and in actual fact can lead to a reduction in the cases of abuse. Sex education will be effective in growing children awareness about paedophilia, also it will teach them the nature of paedophilia and the tactics applied by the paedophiles to operate, so the children are very likely to protect themselves and prevent victimization.

Onyilo and Akinola (2017) argued that value education taught through Social Studies is important in curbing the rising cases of child's sexual abuse in Nigeria. Thus, according to them should be utilized in formal and informal educational system. This will help them to promote social relationship and highlight the need to respect the dignity of individuals including children, respect one another and consider children as gifts from God and not a means of satisfying one's sexual desire. When children receive value education through lesson instruction and this values are internalized in thought, words and actions, through Social Studies it can help to prevent paedophilia from happening and this will be invaluable to the society and the fight against child's sexual abuse.

Gordon (2011) maintained that when there is no proper childhood sex education through subjects like Social Studies, children are exposed to conflicting materials, which makes them vulnerable to paedophilic abuse and exploitation, therefore, effective sex education through Social Studies can be a remedy in bringing redress to situations like this. When one considers the permitting, puzzling and contradictory negative information that is available everywhere the children of today on sex and gender, there is the need for sex education in preparing these young individuals for a safe and proper adult sexual functioning.

UNESCO (2009) posited that the major goal of sex education is to provide children and young adults with the abilities, cognition and strategies to make the right choices about sexuality and how to prevent child's sexual abuse. Sex education will not only help the individual to learn about sexual abuse but also help children to learn about childhood pregnancy, HIV and AIDs, sexually transmitted disease and infections. Children also need to learn about the risks, causes and signs of sexual abuse in order for them to recognize paedophilic intentions, even before they occur so that they can prevent it, protect themselves and get support. Sex education when taught and discussed in class will equip and give a suitable framework and discourse for educating children about paedophilia. For example, the ability of kids to differentiate between 'proper' and 'improper' touch, knowing about self-expression, their feelings and how to seek support are key components of sex education in Social Studies that are highly related to paedophilia. UNESCO (2009) also argues that sex education through Social Studies has some specific objectives:

1. Increasing the understanding and knowledge of the child about sex, the nature of paedophilia and how to prevent it.
2. It will help children to explore and clarify feelings, values and attitudes to develop self-esteem
3. Develop or re-enforce resistant skills of saying NO
4. Promote and sustain risk reducing behaviour

Ruiz (2017) stated that teaching kids all they need to know about sex will help to prevent sexual abuse, this according to Ruiz can positively influence the manners and ways in which children see them sexually. It may also curb sexual abuse when they are taught body autonomy, the need for them to give consent before bodily touch and how to determine unhealthy sexual behaviours. Therefore, teachers as well as parents should not delay the discussion of sex education with children before

they become adolescents and adults, because it seems that we do little or nothing until it becomes too late. Sex education is a comprehensive way of curbing paedophilia but not all children have opportunity to study sex education in their school Social Studies programme.

Actually, Social Studies as a subject provide an appropriate framework and preventive value for the actualization of sex education. Since Social Studies teachers are close to learners, they can easily provide this type of education through the training of the child's mind and giving meaningful support to children (UNESCO 2007). With the high number of primary and secondary school attendance in Nigeria, it will be wise to incorporate sex education into Social Studies at this level to provide the appropriate knowledge, training, skills and thinking needed by children to help curb paedophilia. For these goals to be achieved there must be a commitment on the part of all education stakeholders e.g. the children, teachers, parents, school administrators, curriculum planners and government, also the removal of any barrier to effective execution of sex education in Nigerian primary and secondary school Social Studies programme.

According to a UNICEF survey (2015) on paedophilia in Nigeria, four (4) in 10 girls and 1 in 10 boys are victims of paedophilia before 18 years, this is horrifying and unfortunate. Manyike, Chinawa and Chinawa (2015), reported the prevalent rates of adolescent's sexual abuse at 40% and 11.5 % of female and male victims respectively in South East Nigeria. The research showed no link to socio-economic status nor the age of abuse among victims, Positive Action for Treatment Access (PTA), reported over 31.4% of girls who acknowledged the fact that their first time sexual encounter was rape or forced sex (Ishaq, 2013). The centre for Environmental, Human Right and development (CEHRD), also revealed that 1,200 girls experienced rape in 2012 in Rivers State alone, a coastal state in South South Nigeria (Amade 2013). According to Amade, 49 were reported to chairman of child protection network, 800 cases treated by 'doctors without borders' and the remaining 351 cases were

reported to other civil society organizations in the state. The chairman of child protection network stated that out of the 49 cases eleven (11) were gang rapes while others were single rape cases. He also revealed that 44 of these cases were settled at various police divisions, two were not reported and out of the 49 cases only three persons were convicted (Amade, 2013). Amade admonished parents of victimized children to stop collecting money in form of settlements to avoid future paedophilic acts, complicating litigations and in order to obviate stigmatization. Amade also advised the police and government to support Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and establish the implementation of child right committee unit in all states of the country, as well as provision of logistics in order to sustain the campaign against paedophilia, rape and all forms of abuse against children.

Ojo (2018) reported in the nations newspaper, of a businessman in Kano who with the help of his wife, raped a six-month old baby and employed the services of ten lawyers as his defence team. In Ogun state a 27 year old man raped an eleven (11) months old niece of his, similarly in early December 2017, Masakaa a three years old girl was raped in Abuja suburb by her single 46yrs old relative (Ojo 2018). Even policemen that are supposed to protect citizen including children and punish paedophiles are also involved in this societal menace. In 2017 a policeman in Abuja, raped a two year old girl and when the child's mother caught him with the bleeding child, the policeman's wife defended the husband by saying that the baby has started menstruation, this same policeman was quickly transferred out of the Federal Capital Territory and nothing was heard again about the case till date (Ojo, 2018).

Information collected by the presidential committee on North East Initiative (PCNI) stated that in September 2017 alone the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Yobe state recorded 27 new cases of rape on female children below 18yrs and account claimed this may have cause the prevalence of HIV in the state. In the IDP camp in Abuja the story of shame is the same, in Kano state, Ojo's (2018) report showed that one underage girl is raped on a daily basis.

The statistics on paedophilia in Nigeria is shocking, many of such acts go unreported, the numbers are surging daily and there seems to be no end in sight. People think that strangers are mostly the perpetrators but the truth is that the number of children abused by strangers is small when compared to those abused by acquaintance and family members. Paedophiles in most cases are people known to the victims, neighbours, family members, parents, pastors, teachers, guardians and family friends. According to Oluwatosin (2017), one in seven girls abused either by her father, step father or her mum's male friend, also 3% of boys experience victimization from this same group of people. Oluwatosin further explained that 12 out of 17 victims are sexually abused by relations and that only 7% of victims are victimized by strangers.

Social Studies as a subject studies man and his totality in his environments, the need to make education relevant to the aspiration of society (such as curbing paedophilia), the need to use education to develop the right values, attitudes and behaviour and also the need to make the individual a responsible member of the society (Arisi, 2018). In many areas of the world today, the subject Social Studies is viewed as a very important tool because of its impact and concern in developing the values of individuals in the society. Values that can help in preventing societal crimes and menace such as those pose by paedophilia. Nigeria's National Policy on Education, NPE (2014), which contain the basis for Nigeria's educational curriculum has reflected Social Studies as the study of man's interaction with all spheres of his environment be it social, religious, geographical, economic and political. The common learning about man's social interaction can influence the learners to identify and prevent paedophilia through concepts such as sex education which can be explicitly taught with Social Studies.

The right of children and young adults is recognised and well documented in the Nigerian constitution as well as the international law of the United Nations' Convention child's right of 1989 (UN, 1989). But these rights have been constantly violated against children by paedophiles old enough to be their fathers and

grandfathers, who rape and abuse them with force leaving physical and psychological scars. This study, therefore, is an attempt to explore how these children can be properly taught and brought up through sex education (Social Studies) so that they can be able to identify and prevent paedophilic behaviours that will be advanced towards them, teaching them to report all forms of sexual advances and wrong touching of their body parts by an adults.

The child has social right and therefore should not be transformed into some sex toy or article, thus paedophilia should be seen and treated as a violation of the child's right and all relevant institutions and organisations should do all it can to curb it. In Nigeria today, paedophiles escape the long arm of the law, without justice for the victims, therefore making it difficult to curb. There are no proper records of punishment under the law, the law enforcement agents and the law courts seem helpless. There is a silent conspiracy among victims and their parents, because they have no voice, they are poor or possibly saving their face and that of their children from stigmatization. This silent conspiracy seems to be fuelling more paedophilic activities in the Nigerian society in general and particularly Delta State. Against this back drop, it has become very necessary to take proactive and preventive measures such as the teaching of sex education in subjects like Social Studies education. This has become necessary considering the situation that Social Studies is a compulsory subject from the primary-secondary schools across Nigeria and by extension Delta State. Paedophilia shouldn't be viewed lightly because it is ungodly, untold of and an abomination that goes against the laws of human relationships. The effects on victims is huge and unquantifiable, they include sexual dysfunction in adult's life, psychological disturbance, post-traumatic stress, poor self-esteem, mental disorder and above all, poor academic performance, which will without doubt affect the educational growth and

development of victims. Therefore, the main problem that this study intends to solve is to determine how sex education through Social Studies can be used as a preventive mechanism for curbing the rising cases of paedophilia in Delta State Nigeria, in order to save the future of the younger generation and that of those yet unborn.

Research Questions

1. What are the ways in which sex education when taught in Social Studies be used to curb paedophilia?
2. Can value education taught in Social Studies be used to curb the rising cases of paedophilia?
3. What is the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Delta State to the best of your knowledge?

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population consist of the six hundred and fifty-six Social Studies teachers in Delta State, out of which sixty-six (66) participants were randomly sampled from the three senatorial distinct of the state, twenty-two (22) from each district. A self-designed questionnaire with three sections was utilized as instrument for data collection. The instrument involves a two-point scale of "yes" and "no". the reliability coefficient of the instrument was established with Cronbach alpha reliability statistics and a reliability index of 0.81 was realized, signifying that the instrument was reliable and fit for the study. Data was analysed with simple percentage. A criterion of 50% was set as benchmark for determining the acceptance and rejection of items.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the ways in

which sex education when taught in Social Studies be used to curb paedophilia?

Table 1: Percentage Of Items On Curbing Paedophilia Through Sex Education.

S/N	Item	Yes%	No%	Remark
1.	Teaching children about sex abuse can help to curb paedophilia.	98%	2%	Accept
2.	Teaching children sex education will make them bold to report adults making attempt to sexually abuse them.	92%	8%	Accept
3.	Sex education will be effective in growing children’s awareness about paedophilia.	71%	29%	Accept
4.	Sex education will enlighten children on the nature of paedophilia and the tactics used by paedophiles.	79%	21%	Accept
5.	Sex education can help clear the minds of children from conflicting materials on sexuality that they will come across.	68%	32%	Accept
6.	Sex education can provide children with the knowledge, strategies on how to make the right choices concerning paedophilia.	59%	41%	Accept
7.	Sex education can help to prepare young individuals for a safe and proper adult sexual functioning.	64%	36%	Accept
8.	Sex education will help children to differentiate between “proper” and “improper” touch.	73%	27%	Accept
9.	Sex education will promote and sustain risk reducing behaviours towards paedophilia.	66%	34%	Accept
10.	Sex education taught in Social Studies can provide an appropriate and preventive vehicle for curbing paedophilia.	85%	15%	Accept

The percentage score obtained from respondents in table 1, indicates that all items are accepted as ways in which sex education can help curb paedophilia.

Research question 2: Can value education taught in Social Studies be used to curb the rising cases of paedophilia?

Table 2: Percentage of Items On Using Value Education To Curb Paedophilia

S/N	Item	Yes	No	Remark
1	Value education should be taught in both formal and informal education to curb the rising cases of paedophilia.	77%	33%	Accept
2	Value education through Social Studies can help promote social relationship and highlight the dignity of children.	97%	3%	Accept
3	Value education will help to see children as gifts from God that need to be protected and not to be used for satisfying one’s sexual desire.	68%	32%	Accept
4	Value education will help to internalize value in the thought, words and actions of individuals.	84%	16%	Accept
5	Value education when taught in Social Studies can help to fight against child sexual abuses	62%	38%	Accept

Table 2 revealed all items score above 50% of 'Yes'. This indicates that all listed items are accepted as value education strategies to curb paedophilia

Research Question 3: What is the prevalence of child sexual abuse according to available strategies that you know of?

Table 3: Percentage Response on Prevalence of Child Abuse in Delta State

Prevalence of child sexual abuse	Frequency	Percentage
High	39	59%
Moderate	18	27%
Low	9	14%
Total	66	100

Table 3 shows that 59% of respondents reported high prevalence of paedophilia, 27% reported moderate incidence and 14% reported low rate of paedophilia cases in Delta State.

Discussion

According to the result obtained from research question one, the respondents accepted the fact that teaching children sex education through Social Studies education can help curb paedophilia, help give children the boldness to report offenders, create paedophilia awareness among kids and enlighten children on the nature of paedophilia as well as the tactics applied by paedophiles. Sex education will also clear the minds of children on conflicting issues about sexuality, prepare them for adult sex life, promote the reduction of risk behaviours and overall provide an appropriate framework as well as a preventive vehicle in curbing paedophilia cases in Delta State. These results/findings are in consonance with Wiley (2015), Gordon (n.d), UNESCO (2009) and Ruiz (2017), these studies maintained that sex education can curb child sexual abuse, create awareness about paedophilia in children, prevent children vulnerability to paedophilia and give them the abilities, cognition and strategies to make the right choice/ decision and prevent paedophilia.

The findings of research question two also suggested that value education when taught side by side with sex education can curb paedophilia, promote the dignity of children, protect them and internalize values in them that

will prevent child sexual abuses. These findings are also in line with studies of Onyilo and Akinola (2017) and UNESCO (2007), which discussed value education as a tool for curbing cases relating to child sexual abuse in Nigeria.

Finally, research question 3 assessed the prevalence of paedophilia in the study area and recorded 59% of respondents reporting high prevalence, 27% moderate and 14% low prevalence of paedophilia in Delta State. This findings are also in agreement with UNICEF survey (2015), Amade (2013) and Ojo (2018). These studies revealed that paedophiles are on the prowl in Nigeria and frequency of paedophilia cases is high.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of the study implied that sex education when taught in Social Studies can help to a large extent in curbing paedophilia in Delta State and Nigeria. Also, the study established that value education can also be explored side by side sex education in fighting the trend of paedophilia. The study finally revealed that the prevalence of paedophilia is high in Delta State.

Recommendations

The following suggestions are drawn from the conclusion:

1. There is the need to fully implement sex education in Social Studies education curriculum across Nigerian schools.
2. There is also the need to promote value education in Social Studies to develop the right values, attitude and social relationship

of individuals, Social Studies education at the primary and secondary school level is a good place to start.

3. All educational stakeholders and government agencies, institutions must all work together to reduce the incidence of paedophilia in Nigeria.

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