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PAEDOPHILIA AND SEXUAL DEVIATION AMONG YOUTHS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE UNTOLD PARADE OF SEX ESCAPADES ON RAMPAGE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Pedophilia and related sexually harmful behaviours represent a profound social malady with serious individual and societal consequences, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where cultural, religious, and legal norms intersect to shape both incidence and responses. Drawing on Freud's structural model of personality, Parsons' sick role theory, and rational choice theory, this qualitative study used a descriptive survey approach with 24 key informant interviews and two focus group discussions (n = 8 per group) to examine causes, effects, and community responses to pedophilia and sexual perversion among youths in Nigeria. Manual content analysis and ethnographic summaries revealed that offending behaviours are attributed to a complex interplay of individual psychopathology, socialization deficits, socioeconomic pressures, and inadequate protective systems; respondents emphasized tensions between punitive and therapeutic responses, noting pervasive stigma, limited rehabilitation services, and inconsistent law enforcement. The findings suggest that effective responses must combine criminal accountability with clinical assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation to protect victims while addressing underlying causes, and recommend strengthened child protection measures, expanded mental health and rehabilitation provision, community education to reduce stigma, and interdisciplinary collaboration to develop culturally appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

Keywords: Paedophilia, Sex, Sexual, Sexual deviation, sexual pervasion, Healthy living

Introduction

Contemporary societies are experiencing widespread, often unspoken, shifts in sexual behavior and norms. These changes, manifesting as sexual experimentation, departures from traditional practices, and various forms of deviance, have contributed to social malaise and cultural dislocation as

long-standing moral frameworks are increasingly neglected. The rise of sexually harmful behaviours, including pedophilic acts, represents a significant challenge to advocates of morality and spirituality in the modern era. Public opinion is deeply polarized between those who defend traditional moral standards and those who reject them, producing social confusion and psychological strain for many (Akan & Chukwudeh, 2021).

Sexual attraction to children and other harmful sexual behaviours have become more apparent in numerous societies around the world. This increase likely stems in part from expanding and varied interpretations of sexual activity: some view sex primarily as a source of pleasure or personal fulfillment outside the bounds of marriage or committed relationships, while others seek sexual encounters that prioritize ease, anonymity, or commerce. Such attitudes have been invoked to legitimize the growth of transactional and casual sex, with worrying instances involving adolescents and younger children. These shifts have provoked debate over longstanding cultural and religious norms that traditionally confine sexual relations to married partners. Although sexuality is a natural human phenomenon from both biological and sociocultural perspectives, contemporary practices suggest those conventions are being eroded. Moreover, a particularly alarming group of individuals, driven by selfish motives, distorted beliefs, or purported traditional or spiritual obligations, exploit and sexually violate minors, exacerbating the social and ethical harms associated with these broader changes.

In modern times, the non-conformists to cultural and religious prescription have created their own sex norms. These are advocates of homosexuality (i.e., lesbianism and gay practices). This movement is popular in Western Europe and North America. Their philosophy is being spread all over the world through the mass media including internet, films, published literature and magazines. Modern technology has also introduced another dimension to sexual pervasion with the production of sex toys for male and female, for purpose of promoting sexual pleasure. In spite of this provision, extra-marital, pre-marital and homosexual activities have continued to be on the increase. In another dimension, those who do not cherish the institution of marriage can now make use of sperm banks and incubators for producing babies. This new innovation and development are presumed to be a fundamental contradiction and deviation of the warning to the ancient world over their disobedience which led to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19 Vs 28-29; Akan, 2022). The prevalence of homosexuality the world over today is akin to the prediction and analysis of the situation in ancient Jewish nation which is expected to repeat itself as part of the `events of end times` (Romans 1vs 26-27; Chukwudeh and

Akan, 2022). The various expressions of sexual perversions explained above constitute social malady. This is because the behavioural patterns portrayed in these acts are at variance with the cultural ethos of the society. If this situation continues unabated, it is likely to destroy the cultural essence of the society. In particular, it is likely to destroy the sanctity of the marriage institution and family living in the foreseeable future. Herein lays the concept of social malady. Besides, many sexually transmitted diseases are contracted through indiscriminate sexual intercourse engendered by these perverts and pedophiliac. This includes: gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis B and C and HIV/AIDS. All these diseases have grave medical consequences on the affected persons including death.

Paedophilia and sexual deviation have gained high prevalence over the years. Reports from Child Molestation Research and Prevention Institute (2023), Physical Mental and emotional development PMed (2023) and Lauren Kid (2023) showed that there are over 42 million survivors in the United States of America alone and about 1.7 out of 2.2 billion globally with nearly 2 billion living in developing countries. The reports stressed that, 1 in every 3 girls are abused before the age of 18 while 1 in 5 boys are abuse before the age of 18. It was further reported that 1 in 5 children are solicited sex or manipulated, lures or forced into sex before the age of 18. National Children's` Alliance (2023) reports indicates that about 50-60% of the children in the world suffers sex molestation before the age of 18 with people with disability being caught in the web as victims most times. In most of these cases, more than 90% of the victims are related or connected to the culprit in one way or another. The National Statistics on Child`s molestation (2023) report submitted that about 30% of sexual molestations are never reported. Despites these frightening statistics, prowling by pedophiles and their acts of pedophilia and sexual deviations has continued unabated. Studies by Chukwudeh and Oduaran (2023) showed that 1 in every 5 men admit sexual feelings for children. in the same vein, Akan (2022) finding showed that pedophilias are mostly family, friends and acquaintances of their victim, the study further revealed that there is high prevalence of sexual offenses involving children as 1in every 5 children are already victims of pedophilias. He further reported that males are mostly the offenders and females mostly the victim. His findings further discovered that pedophilia is not limited to sex, age, religion, race, region. In a related study by Ibrahim and Saidu (2021), the findings revealed that pedophilia is a global problem as 1 in every 5 children in most countries and continents of the world are victims of sex offenders (West 1994; Akan and Chukwudeh 2021). Given the aforementioned, this study seeks to examine the causes, types, prevalence, effect and measures to contend the menace of

pedophilia and sexual pervasion among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Statement of the Problem

The continued outburst of pedophilia and sexual perversion in the global world constitutes a social malady which is capable of destroying the socio-cultural fabric of the entire society if left unchecked in the foreseeable future (Ugabi, 2018). Recent data from Child Molestation Research and Prevention Institute (2023), Physical Mental and emotional development PMed (2023) and Lauren Kid (2023) showed that there are over 42 million survivors in the United States of America alone and about 1.7 out of 2.2 billion globally with nearly 2billion living in developing countries. The reports further revealed that, 1 in every 3 girls are abused before the age of 18, while 1 in 5 boys are abuse before the age of 18. And that 1 in 5 children are solicited sex, manipulated, lures or forced into sex before the age of 18. National Children's` Alliance (2023) reports indicate that about 50-60% of the children in the world suffer sex molestation before the age of 18. The report further submitted that, in most of these cases, more than 90% of the victims are related or connected to the culprit in one way or another. The National Statistics on Child`s molestation (2023) report revealed that about 30% of sexual molestations are never reported and another 20% are not acted upon even after been reported. Despites these frightening statistics, prowling by pedophiles and their acts of pedophilia and sexual deviations has continued unabated.

The argument here is that, pedophilia and sexual perversion is unacceptable, judging from both biological and socio-cultural perspectives. For this trend to be curtailed, it requires understanding among mankind and bold actions by the governing authorities to make laws on this subject matter, spelling out appropriate punishment to be meted to offenders. This is because sexual perversion is an expression of social malady which requires urgent attention in order to maintain sanity in the society. Though social malady may not be equated with biological ill-health in the strictest sense, in terms of functionality of the individual, social malady is a form of illness which can be treated accordingly. According to the functionalist perspective, sick people are not able to carry out their normal roles, the lives of people around them are disrupted, assignments at work goes on unfinished and causes stress for co-workers, responsibilities at home are not fulfilled and so forth. (Parsons, 1952 & Giddens 2012). In the analogy of the sick role 'personality, he argued that: "The sick person must work to regain health by consulting a medical expert and agree to become a "patient". The sick role is a temporary and conditional one which is contingent on the sick person, actively trying to get well. The sick person must receive the sanction of a medical professional who legitimates the sick person's claim of illness. The patient or sick person is expected

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to co-operate in his/her own recovery by following the doctor's orders. A sick person who refuses to consult a doctor or does not heed to the advice of a medical authority puts his/her sickness in jeopardy". With respect to sexual perversion therefore, those who engage in such acts need to be made to understand that what they are doing is abnormal and need to be treated via rehabilitation to become normal. The process may include psycho-social and religious approaches. This study focuses on the causes, types, prevalence, effect and measures to contend the menace of pedophilia and sexual deviation among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Research question

The following research questions were drawn to guide the study.

1. What are the causes of pedophilia and sexual pervasion among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa?
2. What are the different types of pedophilias and sexual perversion among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa?
3. What are the prevalence of pedophilia among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa?
4. What are the effect of pedophilia and sexual pervasion on the youths in Sub-Saharan Africa?
5. What are the measures to contend the menace among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa?

Objectives of the Study

This paper seeks as its general objective to examine pedophilia and sexual deviation among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. While the specific objectives are:

1. To examine the causes of pedophilia and sexual pervasion among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. To find out different types of pedophilias and sexual perversion among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. To explore the prevalence of pedophilia among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. To ascertain the effect of pedophilia and sexual pervasion on the youths in Sub-Saharan Africa
5. To find out measures to contend the menace among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Theoretical framework

The theories used in this study are the Sigmund Freud`s structural theory of Personality/
Development Theory and Talcott Person`s Sick Role Theory (1951) and Rational Choice Theory
(1968).

Sigmund Freud Personality Theory

Sigmund Freud Structural Theory of Personality Development (1901) argued that human behaviour is as a result of the interaction among three different elements or components of the mind which he termed as id, ego and super-ego. To him, the id is primitive, full of immediate gratification of

basic needs and urges and operates unconsciously outside the conscious thoughts. The superego he opined is concerned with social rules and morals which he likened to conscience or moral compass. It is the learned part of a person. While the ego is in contrast to both the id and superego; it is the rational and pragmatic side of our personality that moderates the activities of the id and superego.

Sigmund Freud sees pedophilia and sexual perversion as any form of sexual behaviour which deviates from the norm of heterosexual genital intercourse. In Freud`s psychoanalytic theory of personality development. He argued that the theory of sexual behaviour is anchored on how human personality developed through a series of childhood stages in which pleasure-seeking energies of the id becomes focused on certain erogenous area. An erogenous area or zone simply refers to that part of the body that arouses sensation when stimulated. Kendra Cherry (2020).

He believed that children go through a series of psychosexual stages that leads to adult personality. This theory revealed how personality developed over the period of transition from childhood to adulthood. During the five (5) psychosexual stages, which are the oral, anal, phallic, latent and genital stage having the erogenous zone in which each stage is associated with and serves as a source of pleasure. This psychosexual energy or libido was seen by Freud as the driving force behind behaviour. He argued that most behaviour are well established at the age of five (5) and continue to influence one`s personality later in life. It further argued that each stage in life is marked by conflict and this conflict help to build growth or stifle development depending on how there are managed or resolved. If there are successfully resolved a great personality is made but if otherwise, fixation occurs. Fixation therefore implies a persistent focus on an earlier psychosexual stage. To him, until this conflict is successfully resolved an individual is stocked in this stage. He believed that a person who is stocked or fixated in an oral stage for example may remain over dependent on others and may seek oral stimulation through smoking, drinking and eating.

He argued that at oral stage which is from birth to 1year, the individual stimulation is in the mouth. Hence, the rooting and suckling reflex is the most important to him because gratification is received through care of feeding, build his trust and comfort. At this stage the conflict that occurs comes from weaning process, the child most become less dependent at this stage because if fixation occurs, he or she will have issue with aggression, smoking, eating, drinking and nails biting.

At anal stage 1-3years of age, the primary source of libido stimulation is controlling the

bladder and bowel movement. The child face toilet training conflict and the need to control their body and the ability to overcome this conflict leads to a sense of accomplishment. To him this accomplishment is predicated upon parental attitude of motivation and reinforcement of reward will help the child feel capable, production and creative and vice versa up to adulthood.

At phallic stage age 3-6years, the primary source of libido is the genitals. He believed that sex differentiation knowledge is experienced at this stage and the males Oedipus complex begin to set in, leading to castration anxiety while the female version of the experience is called penis envy or electra complex.

The latent period 6 to puberty, the ego and superego continue to develop while the id becomes suppressed as children begin to become calm and build relationship, develop hobbies, skills, interest and values around the environment with peers and families. This period coincides with school entry ages where sexual energies are repressed or dominant. Here the child is focused on intellectual pursuits, social relationship, skills, creativity and confidence. The fixation is may result to immaturity and the inability to form relationship as adults.

At the genital stage which falls between puberty to death, puberty activates sexual energies and libido on the opposite sex. The goal of this stage is to establish a balance between the various conflicts experienced through different stages of development. If all the stages were completed the individual should have been well balanced, warm and caring. He posited that the harmony and regulation of the conflict and avoidance of fixation determines the personality formed in an individual. To Freud, sexual disorder is as a result of this fixation and the inability of the child to resolve certain fixation while growing up.

The implication of this is that pedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Sub-Saharan Africa is as a result of poor personality development and conflict that could not be solved at some points in the stages of personality development that may have resulted to fixation. To this end, poor personality development is responsible for pedophilia and sexual deviation which of course could either be a disorder or intention. The Talcott Parson`s sick role theory will therefore be used to explain the twin phenomenon as a disorder.

Talcott Parson`s Sick Role Theory

Talcott Parson`s sick role theory (1951) explains the right and responsibility of the sick. He opined that the sick person is a deviant because he has a different pattern of behaviour from the norm and the society tolerates it and place a positive sanction of the ill person. That is, the sick person`s condition must be legitimized by an expert, preferably

a doctor to proof that the patient need to be given a lenient set of expectations. Parsons (1951), in Giddens (2012) in his analogy of `sick role believed that the sick will act in a somewhat manner different from people who are not sick and this will attract poor performance and sympathy from the society thus, the sick person must present himself for diagnose and treatment to be able to regain sound health. This theory offers insight in that, pedophilias and sexual disorder patients are bound to under medical attention to be treated and most of this sex escapes believed that there are normal and do not need medication or treatment. With respect to sexual perversion therefore, those who engage in such acts need to be made to understand that what they are doing is abnormal and need to be treated via rehabilitation to become normal. The process may include psycho-social and religious approaches to gain an all-round wellness of the mind, body and soul. This means that pedophilia and sexual deviation in Africa is a function of self-denial that there are sick and also of the youths` failure to present themselves to be diagnosed and for treatment. To this theory, the sick person engaged in normative deviation and violation as a result of their illness (pedophilia and sexual deviation). The rational choice theory is used to augment and explain pedophilia and sexual deviation as an intention rather than personality defect or sexual deviation.

Rational Choice Theory (1968)

Gary Becker (1968) is the proponent of rational choice theory of crime. He believed that, criminals in this case pedophilia and sexual disorderly people are conscious of their acts and decisions. He argued that every human being hate pain and like pleasure. To him this explains why human choices are rationalized before decision is taken and that the decision is taken after the individual has assessed his profit and losses to know that making a particular choice will pay off more than the other. To him, pedophilias and sexual perverts are people who know what they are doing. Their actions are premeditated and premised on the gains derivable from carrying out a particular sexual act. Such acts are no accidents but calculated and intended to achieve a particular goal and pleasure. Hence perverts are rational, goal and profit oriented. Thus, should be punished in equal quantum when caught in the acts. The theory is clear that pedophilia and perversion is intentional well thought of crime and should be treated as such among youths who indulge in it in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

Methodology

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. It is situated in Sub-Saharan Africa and focused on Nigerian youths as its population of the study. Nigeria was used as a case study because of its large population, cultural diversity, exposure and complexity which is found in no other Sub-Saharan

African countries. Youths between the ages of 18-40 were used as interviewees and participants for the study. It made used of qualitative method of data collection with concentration on Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The study covered all the six (6) geopolitical zones in the country and used simple random, cluster and purposive sampling techniques to select participants for the study. Three states each were selected from each geopolitical zone using simple random sampling. Two (2) Local Government Areas each were randomly selected while wards were selected using cluster sampling. The participants for the study were selected purposively. At the end four (4) participants each from each geopolitical zone were selected making a total of twenty-four (24). The four (4) selected participants from each geopolitical zone in Nigeria were one (1) youth leader, One (1) security personnel, one (1) government functionary/policy maker with National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP staff) and one (1) Non-Governmental Agency (NGO) in charge of unemployment. The researchers secured and trained 2 research assistants who are undergraduates in a nearby institution to help with the work and their services were paid for after the exercise. The twenty-four (24) participants were used for both the FGD and KII and the interviews were administered on telephone. While the KII made use of one-on-one phone interaction, the FGD made use of conference call for all the two groups of eight (8) each for male and female participants selected from the list of twenty-four (24) already sampled participants purposively. The interviewees and participants were contacted by researchers who first of all introduced themselves and stated the purpose for calling days before the day for the interview to ensure that time and appointments were book and secured. The interviewees and participants were also contacted a day before the interview to confirm that the earlier agreed date and time remains the same. The reason for the interview was disclosed to them and their consent and willing participation was secured. While conducting the interviews, the researchers and their assistants were polite, patient and active listeners and only asked interesting clear and concise prepared questions relating to the objectives of the study occasionally as deemed necessary. The interviewees and participants were reminded of the topic and problem under study, the essence, how the research information will be used, the length of the research, and were assured of confidentiality and anonymity of the research. The researchers and the research assistants were mindful of body languages, hesitations, gestures and unwarranted silence or stylish refusal to answer certain questions. The data gotten was analyzed using manual content analysis and ethnographic summaries.

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Data presentation and discussion of result

The data for this study was analyzed and presented in thematic order in line with the research questions.

What are the causes of paedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Saharan Africa?

Participant in the Key Informant interview session was asked the causes of pedophilia and sexual disorder among youths in Nigeria and the following responses were obtained. One of the participants observed that the causes of pedophilia and sexual deviation are personality defect, insanity, occultism/spiritual issues, western influence, experimentation and curiosity. He noted that people who do this kind of thing are not normal. It is either the person is suffering from insanity or spiritual problem. Another participant is of the opinion that, the causes of pedophilia and sexual disorder are mental disorder or insanity, ritual/spiritual purposes, pleasure and curiosity. He observed that it is abnormal for anybody to get involved in any form of sexual deviation like homosexuality, pedophilia, paraphilia and prepubescent because even animals do not get engaged in same sex mating or sexual relations with inordinate objects. It was said by one of the participants that the causes of pedophilia and sexual deviation is mental disorder, ritualism, spiritual demand, pleasure seeking, imitation of western culture, media exposure and inability of an individual to control himself from amorous or sexual thoughts. Another participant holds that pedophilia and sexual deviation is a product of poor parental upbringing, engagement in ritual purposes, madness, curiosity, occult practices and poorly censored bad media contents. The responses from the Focus Group Discussion parley revealed that, the causes of pedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Nigeria are personality defects, insanity, ritual or spiritual reasons, curiosity, western influence and curses.

What are the different types of paedophilias and sexual deviation among youths in Saharan Africa?

When asked the different types of pedophilias and sexual deviation among youths in Nigeria, one of the participants noted that the commonest types of sexual deviation are paraphilia, poor sexual orientation, perversion, fetishism and incest. He further said stated that this sexual deviation attracts severe sanctions and punishment in our societies. Another participant noticed that sexual perversion, incest, fetishism, sadomasochism, homosexuality, paraphilia and necrophilia are the most common types of sexual deviation in Nigeria. One participant noted that the types of paedophilia include homosexuality, prepubescent, paraphilia, masochism, fetishism, exhibitionism, incest, transvestism, necrophilia and incest amongst other.

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He believed that these kinds of people need to be exterminated because they do not deserve to live among people. It was the view of another interviewee that bestiality, same sex sexual relationship. Child abuse and molestation, necrophilia, incest and pan sexuality are the kind of sexual deviation that I know. It was reported by a participant that the types of pedophilias and sexual deviation known to me are homosexuality, incest, perversion, fetishism, transvestism, incest, sadomasochism and necrophilia. She said it is abominable and disgusting for any reasonable person to indulge in this kind of behaviour. From the FGD responses the types of pedophilias and sexual deviation among youths in Nigeria are homosexuality, prepubescent, paraphilia, sadomasochism, sexual orientation. Others are fetishism, exhibitionism, incest, transvestism, necrophilia, sadism, and masochism. The all agreed that these acts to them are major deviations from the societal normative ethos.

What is the prevalence of pedophilia among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa?

On the prevalence of paedophilia among youths in Sub-Saharan Africa, one of the KII participants stated that pedophiles are on rampage and prowling everywhere in search of prey. She revealed that child sexual abuse is so rampant now that 1in every 3 children experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. She noted that children especially females are exposed to dangers of being abused because of their sex as girls. She wonders why any reasonable thinking person will have sexual urge or feeling for an under aged child. Another participant said pedophilia is a very common crime in this area. To him, it looks as if it is a daily occurrence. He noted that 1 out of every 3 children are abused in this neighbourhood daily and nothing it done. He added that, the annoying thing is that often times, most of the culprits already knows or have acquaintance or familiarity with the victims. To him the prevalence is very high. It was the view of another KII participant that, there is high prevalence of pedophilia in this area. The rate at which children are abused sexually here is thought provoking. He observed that just a few days ago, 2 children suffered sexual abuse in the same day here. In a range of 5, it is as common as 1 in every 5 children have experienced child sexual abuse before they become adult. Another KII participant noted that child sexual abuse has become a norm here. She further stressed that, every day we hear and witness stories and incidence of forced or lured sexual perversion or deviations. Most adults are animalistic and barbaric thus, forcing or manipulating under aged children into sexuality before they are 18 years. Toher, it is a situation where 1 in every 3 children are plaque. This incidence is becoming unbecoming and calls for immediate action from appropriate authorities.

The participants from the FGD session unanimously concurred that the prevalence of

pedophilia among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa is unbearable. The weep that the continent is already plaque with a lot of problems and tribulations yet, pedophiles are adding more troubles to the already existing ones. They wonder why a full-blown adult will have sexual desires for a child under the age of consent. They agreed that pedophilia is common and rampant and on the ratio of 1:3 meaning that 1 in every 3 children are abused sexually before they are 18 years.

What are the effects of paedophilia and sexual pervasion on the youths in Saharan Africa?

When asked the participants in the KII session of the effect of paedophilia and sexual deviations among youths in Nigeria, interviewees said thus:

The effect of these acts is death, imprisonment, permanent injuries, money wasted for treatment of victims. Others are waste of time and energy, contracting of diseases, stigmatization and loss of vision. Another participant said the consequences of this acts are injuries, incarceration, waste of time, money and energy, diseases, stereotype, psychological trauma, breach of peace, lack of trust and insanity. It was noted by another participant that the impact of pedophilia and sexual deviation are negative and include loss of life, cost of treatment/rehabilitation of victim, torture, trauma, imprisonment, insecurity, stigma; stereotype, injuries, hallucination and death. Another participant observed that the effect of pedophilia are legion and these includes contracting of disease, sustaining of injuries, diseases, leads to death, waste of time, money and other resources in protracted court cases, stereotype and stigmatization, incarceration, permanent deformities, distortion of the victims body structure, destruction of the sex organ/reproduction system, psychological, trauma torture, pains, fear, low self-esteem, isolation and withdrawal from the society, revenge and involvement in criminal activities. The general responses of the interviewees from the FGD session showed that the effect of pedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Nigeria are banishment, imprisonment, injuries, death, fear and anxiety, torture, hallucination; psychological trauma, emotional insecurity, mistrust, insanity, anger and quest for revenge.

What are the measures taken to deal with paedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Saharan Africa?

When participants were asked to suggest the measure that contend paedophilia and sexual deviation among youths in Nigeria, one of the participants said law making and law enforcement need to be on top of their game to forestall this acts from happening, parents and socialization agents must be conscious of the duties and actualize them to the fullest, national orientation agency must be dedicated and committed to bring their sincere duties to bear and ensure that the public is always enlightened on the recent

happenings and how to avoid them. It was observed by another participant noted that the law makers must make harsh laws to deter offenders and prospective offender from engaging in such acts, law enforcement agent should try and be effective in doing their job, socialization and reorientation should be adequately enhanced and that youths should know that engaging in this act is a sin, immoral and criminal and should stay away from them. It was the opinion of another participant that what will remedy pedophilia and sexual deviation among youths are proper socialization and orientation, effective law making and implementation, harsh punishment and adequate rehabilitation, extermination and banishment.

The participants from the FGD session observed that in pre-modern societies these kinds of deviation were severely punished and frowned at as remedy through capital punishment like extermination, ex-communication banishment, exclusion, and minor sanctions like flogging, fines, booing and jeering as well and stigmatizing and stereotyping. But in modern times, the remedy is to be located in incarceration, socialization, orientation/reorientation, effective legislation and law enforcement. Others called for extermination and removal of the sex organ used in committing such crime or acts.

Conclusion

The study concluded that paedophilia and sexual pervasion are crimes committed by people with psychiatric and moral disorder. That having sexual fantasies about or engaging in sexual act with a prepubescent child are unthinkable, inhuman and condemnable. Thus, serious effort should be expended to curb the menace.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings and conclusion of the study

- **Effective Correction and Rehabilitation:** The suspects and criminals found guilty of such acts should both be treated as criminals and sick patients for proper sanity to be achieved.
- **Vigilance and Active Involvement of Citizenry**: Everyone must be on alert to guard against the unpleasant outcomes of these acts in the foreseeable future.
- **Parenting/Guardianship:** Parent/guardian should be very conscious of who they leave their children and wards with because most of the paedophiliac and sexual perverts are either relatives or acquaintance of the victim.
- **Prompt Response:** Agencies (Governmental and Non-governmental) in charge of child molestation and sexual perversion should be proactive in their dealing by ensuring that every case is reported acted upon and documented to build trust in the victims and also create a data base for effective policy implementation.

- **Functional Legislation and Implementation:** The law against these kinds of acts must be strengthened to act freely and uninterruptedly to ensure that justice is achieved.

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