

THE PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS NURSES OF IMO STATE UNIVERSITY OWERRI, ORLU CAMPUS

Ibebuike J. E.*, Nwokike G. I., Peterson D. U. and Tony-Nwishi C. A.

Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria.

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*Corresponding author: Ibebuike J. E.

Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The research work was on the perception of sexual harassment among under-graduate student nurse of Imo State University Orlu campus, Imo State. The objective of the research study were, to determine the perception of students nurse of Imo State University on sexual harassment, to identify the causes and effects of sexual harassment in Orlu campus to identify the strategies which can be used to club sexual harassment in nursing department. The methodology used for this study was a descriptive survey design. The target populations of 609 was used and out of it, 241 sample populations were used. The data analysis was done using tables, charts, and percentages. The finding showed that 100% of the students have heard of sexual harassment, 91.21% said that sexual harassment is when one is being locked/ touched seductively, 34.73% are of the opinion that they have heard of sexual harassment from friends, 38.91% viewed that seductive dressing are the major cause of sexual harassment, 62.34% said that there are cases of sexual harassment, 61.5% said that female student are the higher victims of sexual harassment, 36.4% said that 300 said students are more harassed than other levels. The research recommend that the higher education institution in Nigeria need to develop a sustainable system of redress for this act of indiscipline, the authority need to develop and mainstream anti- sexual harassment policies into the system of operation, the security unit in the huger institution should be well equipped for rapid response.

KEYWORDS: Harassment, mainstream, victims.

INTRODUCTION

American Association of University Women (2016) defines sexual harassment as a non-consensual and unwelcomed sexual behavior that affects lives of the victims. World health organization (2013) define sexual harassment as the act that comprises the range from verbal harassment to forced penetration and array of types of coercion, from social pressure and intimidation to physical force. It includes;

- Rape within marriage or dating relationship
- Unwanted sexual advances
- Sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people.

Sang *et al.* (2016), in a landmark article, stated that approximately 50% of all women in the united states at some time would have experienced a type of sexual harassment either at workplace or in an academic environment. Sexual harassment is said to be a form of social control by men to keep women in their places in universities. Sexual harassment seems to be common in

Nigerian higher education institution, it is estimated that 20-30% of all college women have been sexually harassed. (Menon & Sanjobo, 2014).

Sexual Assault prevention and Awareness centre (2018) Defines sexual awareness as unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when either the conduct is made as a term or condition of an individual's employment, education or participation in a university community.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objectives of this research work includes the following:

- To determine the perception of students nurses of Imo state university Owerri orlu campus on sexual harassment.
- To identify the causes and effect of sexual harassment in Imo State University, orlu campus.

- To determine the level of sexual harassment among student nurses of Imo State University Owerri orlu campus.
- To identify the strategies which can be used to curb sexual harassments in Imo State University Owerri orlu campus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

A descriptive survey method was used for the study. This design is considered appropriate to determine the level of perception of sexual harassment among undergraduates nursing students of Imo state university, Owerri. It is focused on what was collected and also represent what was observed.

Setting/description of study

This study was done at Imo state university Owerri, Orlu campus located in Orlu, Imo state.

Target population

The target population involves nursing students (first, second, third, fourth and fifth year) draw from the department of nursing science.

The students and their various levels are show below:

Total number of year one = Nil
 Total number of year two = Nil
 Total number of year three = 166
 Total number of year four = 202
 Total number of year five = 241
 Total population = 609

Sample/ sampling techniques

The 609 (Total population) of the students will be cumbersome to manage because of time and financial resources.

Using the Yamme Caro Formal (Chinweuba, 2009).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N e^2}$$

n = Sample size
 N = No of population size
 e = tolerance error $(0.05)^2$
 $n = \frac{609}{1 + 609 (0.05)^2}$
 $n = \frac{609}{1 + 609 (0.0025)}$
 $n = \frac{609}{1 + 1.523}$
 $n = \frac{609}{2.523}$
 $n = 241.37 \approx$
 $n = 241$
 Sample size = 241

Sampling techniques

The Random Sampling procedure was used for drawing the sample. The Yamme Caro (1993) formal was used to select respondents of Imo State University from their different levels.

The different levels participated but there was use of balloting with no replacement within each level to obtain the respondents. To this effect, the researcher prepared pieces of paper numbering the population of students, mark the sample size for the research with Y (to represent Yes) and those who picked N (to represent No), Those who picked Y were selected while those that picked N were excluded from the study.

Instrument for Data Collection

The study adopted structured questionnaires that were administered to the respondent. This was very effective as the subject were all literate. The questionnaire was self developed by the researcher. Before the questionnaires were used, it was reviewed by the researcher's supervisor. The questionnaire consists of 12 items which is made up of section A, B, C, D & E.

Section A constitutes of the demographic personnel data of respondents while section B, C, D & E is to get response based on the objectives and research questions of the study.

The questionnaire consist of closed ended questions which enable the respondent to choose from the available options and open ended questions where the respondent were to write whatever the felt was the answer. Clarifications were made where necessary and respondents were assured of data confidentiality. The researchers sought permission to conduct this study from the head of department involved in this study (Nursing Department).

Validating of the Instrument

Face validating was carried out by giving the questionnaires to the project supervision and other lectures in the department who went though if thoroughly to make sure it has the ability to obtain the needed informations after which the final copy of the instrument was produced. The obtained department judgment from these lectures was meant to indicate the degree of which the items met the face validity.

Reliability of the Instrument

A test re-test reliability technique was used in determining the reliability of the 3instrument. Ten copies of the questionnaires was first distributed to about ten (10) students of college of medicine, which is not part of the study population. Later, to maintain its consistency, it was re-distributed after one week using another fresh ten copies to another ten different students from the same faculty of law. The test retest was analyzed using Spearman Rank Co-efficient: the result of the study shows a high position correlation of 0.9.

Method of data Collection

The questionnaire will be administered to the respondents that have been selected by balloting in the nursing complex for each level on a face to face method of data collection, with the assistance of the course

representatives and course advisers of the different levels.

The questionnaires were supplied and collected on the spot, before conducting the study, the researcher visited each class/level. On each visit, the researcher explained the purpose of the study before administering the questionnaires to them.

Method of data analysis

The responses of each questionnaire will be tallied and analyzed using frequency, percentage and descriptive statistics. They will be grouped according to the study objectives and the results represented in tables and figures.

Ethical consideration

During the course of this study, the following ethical considerations were observed and accomplished.

1. The researchers obtained permission from the school through the office of the head of department to permit her to go ahead with the study.
2. The researchers obtained informed consent from the subject for their active participation.
3. The right of the subjects was duly observed and confidentially was observed as the section for writing names of the respondent was not provided to ensure their anonymity.
4. The researchers were honest in recording and reporting findings.
5. All sources of information or data were acknowledged.

RESULTS

Table 2: Respondent’s Age Distribution.

Age Group	N	(%)
< 15	2	0.84
15 – 19	105	43.9
20 – 24	87	36.4
25 and above	45	18.8
Total	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 1 shows that the age group between 15 - 19 years (43.9%) were the highest participants in the study, followed by those aged 20 – 24 years (36.4%), then the age group 25 years and above (18.8%) and the least age group that participated in the study is less than 15 years which accounted about only 0.84% of the participants. See figure 2 for a graphical representation of the result.

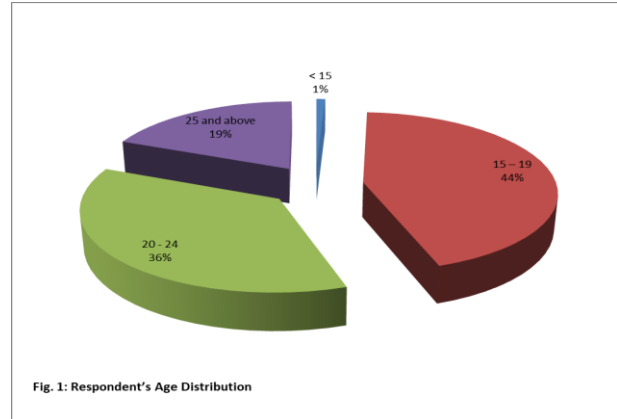


Table 2: Religion.

Religion	N	(%)
Christianity	239	100
Muslim	0	0
Others	0	0
	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 2 presents the religion distribution of the respondents. The result shows that the entire participants for the study were Christians. See chart in figure 3 below for a graphical representation of the result.

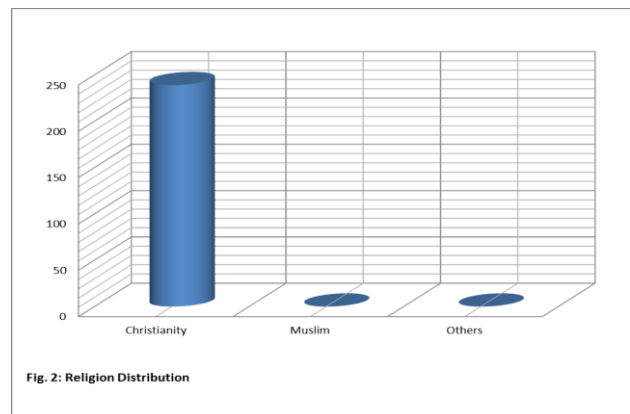


Table 3: Knowledge of sexual harassment.

	N	(%)
Yes	239	100
No	0	0
Total	133	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 4 presents the respondents knowledge of sexual harassment. The result reports that the entire respondents studied are aware of sexual harassment. Figure 6 below presents a graphical representation of the result.

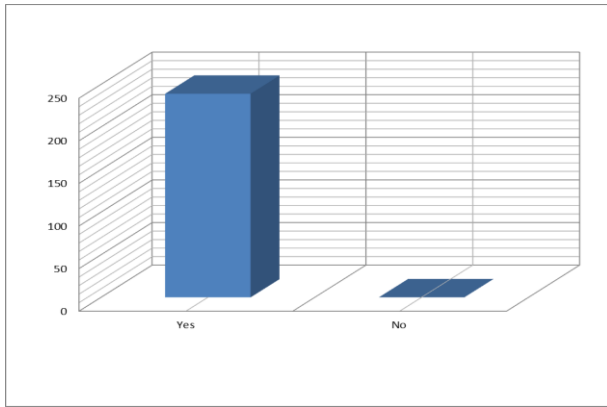


Table-4.

S/No.	Items	N	(%)
1	When a sexual activity is forced on another	21	8.787
2	When sexual words are used	0	0
3	When one is being looked/touched seductively	218	91.21
4	Others specify	0	0
	Total	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 4 presents the respondents' view on their understanding of the word sexual harassment. The result discloses that the majority of the respondents being about 91.21% were of the view that sexual harassment is when one is being looked/touched seductively while the rest of 8.79% were of the view that it is when a sexual activity is forced on another. This result indicates that the respondents have a very clear understanding of sexual harassment. See figure 5 for a graphical representation of this result.

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 5 presents the respondents' view on their understanding of the word sexual harassment. The result discloses that the majority of the respondents being about 91.21% were of the view that sexual harassment is when one is being looked/touched seductively while the rest of 8.79% were of the view that it is when a sexual activity is forced on another. This result indicates that the respondents have a very clear understanding of sexual harassment. See figure 5 for a graphical representation of this result.

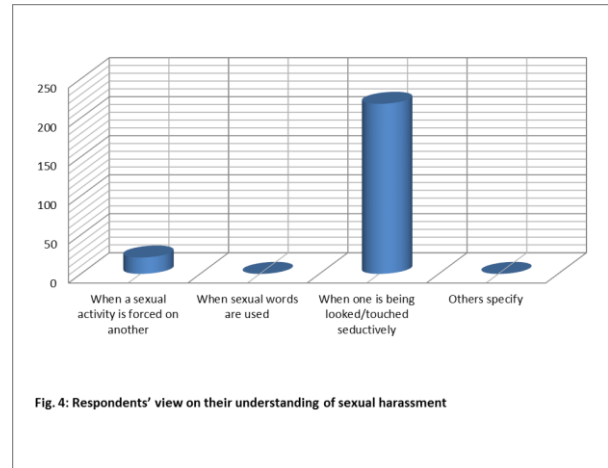


Fig. 4: Respondents' view on their understanding of sexual harassment

Table-5.

Source of Information	N	(%)
Mass media	64	26.78
Friends	83	34.73
Parents	19	7.95
My Institution	48	20.08
Experience	25	10.46
Total	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 5 presents the respondents' view on means of sexual harassment knowledge. The result discloses that the knowledge of sexual harassment among students nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State were obtained mostly from friends (34.73%), then mass media (26.78%), institution (20.08%), and experiences (10.46%). The least channel of sexual harassment knowledge among students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State is through parents which accounted about 5.44% of the participants studied. See a graphical representation of this result in figure 8 below.

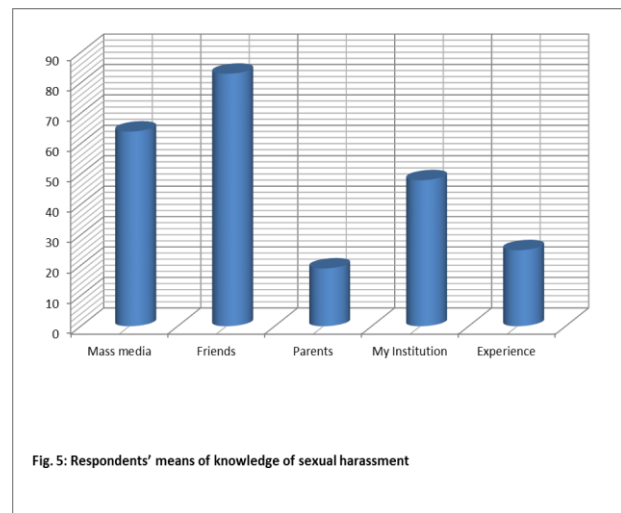


Fig. 5: Respondents' means of knowledge of sexual harassment

Section C: Identification of causes and Effects of Harassment.

Table 6: Respondents' view on causes of sexual harassment.

S/No.	Causes	N	(%)
1	Seductive Dress	93	38.91
2	Lust from male lecturers	72	30.13
3	Desire to gain marks from lecturers	45	18.83
4	Poverty	29	12.13
		239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 6 presents result indicating respondents' view on causes of sexual harassment. The result discloses that the majority being about 38.91% of the respondents were of the view that seductive dress, followed by lust from male lecturers (30.13%) are the major causes of sexual harassment. The study also discloses that about 18.83% of the respondents desire to gain marks from lecturers' leads to sexual harassment while about 12.13% being the least group of participants were of the view that poverty is the cause to sexual harassment. See figure 7 for a graphical representation of the result.

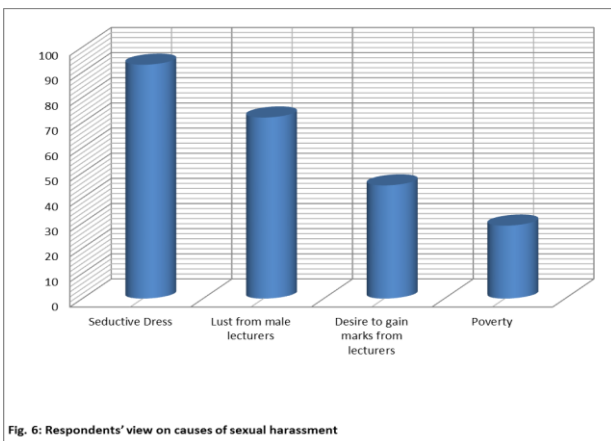


Fig. 6: Respondents' view on causes of sexual harassment

Table-7.

Effect of sexual harassment	N	(%)
Fear and Trauma	93	38.9
Nightmare	67	28
Aggression Behaviour	62	25.9
Depression and Withdrawal	17	7.11
Total	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 7 presents the respondents' view on the effect of sexual harassment. The result discloses that about 38.9% of the respondents' reports that fear and trauma is the effect of sexual harassment, nightmare (28%), aggression behaviour (25.9%) and the least effect is depression and withdrawal (7.11%). See figure 8 for a graphical illustration of the result.

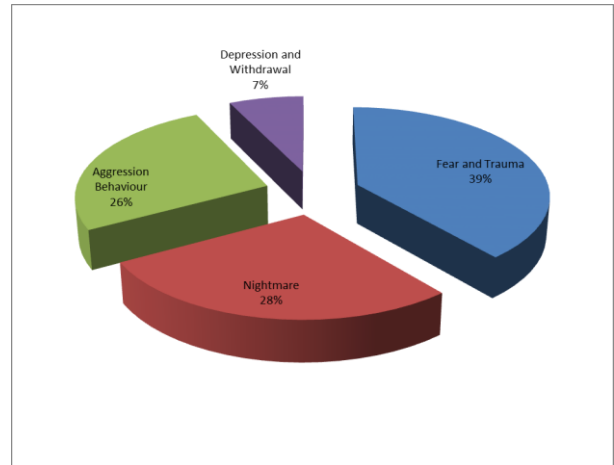


Table-8.

Options	N	(%)
Never	90	37.66
Always	149	62.34
	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 8 presents the level of sexual harassment occurrence among students. The result shows that the majority of the respondents being about 62.34% reports that there is always a case of sexual harassment while about 37.66% reported the occurrence never happens. See figure 9 below for a graphical representation of the result.

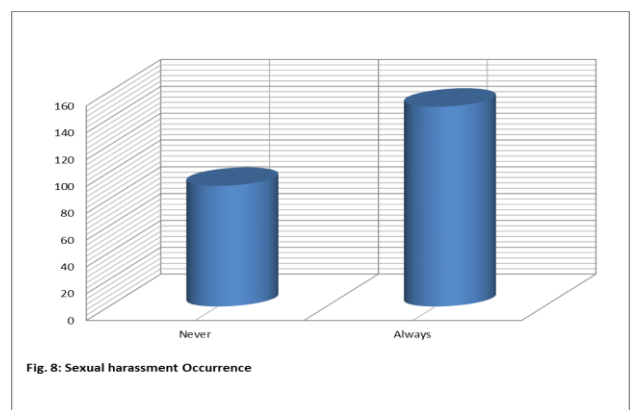


Fig. 8: Sexual harassment Occurrence

Table-9.

Sexual harassment victims	N	(%)
Male	92	38.5
Female	147	61.5
	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 9 shows sexual harassment victims as regard to gender. The result shows that majority of the respondents being about 61.5% reports that the majority of sexual harassment victims were more of female students than 38.5% that reported male. See figure 10 for a graphical representation of the result.

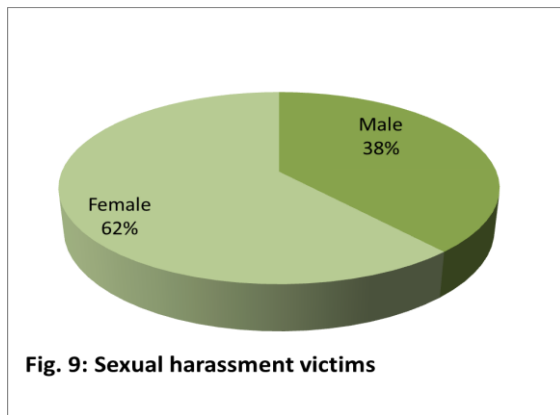


Fig. 9: Sexual harassment victims

Table-10.

Level	N	(%)
100	43	18
200	66	27.6
300	87	36.4
400	25	10.5
500	18	7.53
	239	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 10 presents the respondents' view on the class level of the most sexual harassment method used with partner. This result shows that about 36.4% reports that the class level of most sexually harassed students were the 300 level students, followed by 200 level students (27.6%), then 100 level students (18%). The class level with the least sexually harassed were those in 500 level (7.53%). See figure 10 for a graphical representation of the result.

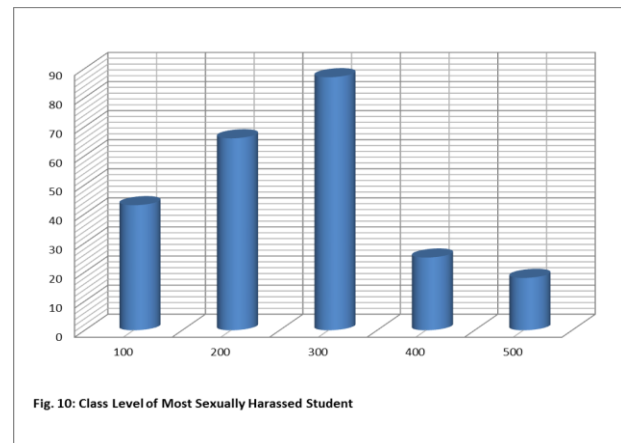


Fig. 10: Class Level of Most Sexually Harassed Student

Table-11.

S/No.	Methods for Curbing Sexual Harassment	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	Stand. Dev.
12A	Perpetrators of sexual harassment should either be sacked or be suspended	105	108	23	3	239	3.32	0.698
12B	The culture of silence from the victim should be discouraged	105	127	0	7	239	3.38	0.643
12C	Students must learn to be assertive and establish strong personal boundaries	72	112	7	48	239	2.87	1.059
12D	Perpetrators of sexual harassment should be made to face the law by being jailed and charged to court	117	105	17	0	239	3.42	0.622
12E	It is recommended that each institution open a sexual harassment register among other punitive measures for offenders	71	118	0	50	239	2.88	1.06
					Grand		3.17	0.402

Source: Field Work, 2018

The result in table 11 presents that respondents' view of possible effective method for curbing sexual harassment in schools. The result shows that the respondents agreed to majority of methods proposed for curbing sexual harassment in schools as the result records a grand mean of 3.17 and standard deviation of 0.402. The result further reports that respondents were of the view that to curb the menace, perpetrators of sexual harassment should be made to face the law by being jailed and charged to court (accounting a mean of 3.42), the culture of silence from the victim should be discouraged (accounting a mean of 3.38), perpetrators of sexual harassment should either be sacked or be suspended (accounting a mean of 3.32), it is recommended that each institution open a sexual harassment register among other punitive measures for offenders (accounting a mean of 2.88) and that the students must learn to be assertive and

establish strong personal boundaries (accounting a mean of 2.87).

DISCUSSION

The study was comprised of four objectives and research questions and the key discussion was based on them where there were findings on the perception, causes, effect, level and how to curb sexual harassment among the students.

The study established that the majority of the student nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State are aware of sexual harassments. However, majority of the students view sexual harassment as when one is being looked/touched seductively and the rest as when a sexual activity is forced on another. The knowledge of sexual harassment among student nurses of Imo State

University, Orlu, Imo State were obtained mostly from friends, then mass media, institution and experiences. The least channel of sexual harassment knowledge among students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State was through parents.

The majority of the students nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State were of the view that seductive dress, followed by lust from male lecturers was the major causes of sexual harassment. Though, other causes could be desire to gain marks from lecturers' and poverty as causes of sexual harassment. Fear and trauma, nightmare and aggression behavior are the major effect of sexual harassment. Depression and withdrawal were also reported as an effect of sexual harassment. This study is in line with the findings of Taiwo *et al.* (2014) investigation on the occurrence of sexual harassment and its psychological implication among students in five higher education Institutions in South West, Nigeria. Their findings disclosed that the average age (i.e. about 22 years) had high knowledge and awareness of incidences of sexual harassment that fails to translate into behaviour change, as sexual harassment continues unchecked. They also reported that significant trend of sexual harassment occurrence is from a male lecturer to a female student and that poverty and negative peer influence are also key drivers of sexual harassment in higher educational institutions while fear and trauma were rated as the highest psychological consequences of sexual harassment on the victims.

The students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State that were surveyed have reported that there is always a case of sexual harassment among their fellow students. The sexual harassment were more on female students than the male students and that the students' level with more case of sexually harassment were the 300 level students, followed by 200 advances, making sexually derogative comments, and sexual pressures whether by verbal or non- verbal actions.

The majority of the students nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State were of the view that seductive dress, followed by lust from male lecturers was the major causes of sexual harassment. Though, other causes could be desire to gain marks from lecturers' and poverty as causes of sexual harassment. Fear and trauma, nightmare and aggression behaviour are the major effect of sexual harassment. Depression and withdrawal were also reported as an effect of sexual harassment. This study is in line with the findings of Taiwo *et al.* (2014) investigation on the occurrence of sexual harassment and its psychological implication among students in five higher education Institutions in South West, Nigeria. Their findings disclosed that the average age (i.e. about 22 years) had high knowledge and awareness of incidences of sexual harassment that fails to translate into behaviour change, as sexual harassment continues unchecked. They also reported that significant trend of sexual harassment occurrence is from a male lecturer to a

female student and that poverty and negative peer influence are also key drivers of sexual harassment in higher educational institutions while fear and trauma were rated as the highest psychological consequences of sexual harassment on the victims.

The students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State that were surveyed have reported that there is always a case of sexual harassment among their fellow students. The sexual harassment were more on female students than the male students and that the students' level with more case of sexually harassment were the 300 level students, followed by 200.

CONCLUSION

Firstly, the students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State are aware of sexual harassments and that they view sexual harassment as when one is being looked/touched seductively and the rest as when a sexual activity is forced on another. The knowledge of sexual harassment among students nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State were obtained mostly from friends members, then mass media, institution and experiences. The least channel of sexual harassment knowledge among students' nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State was through parents. Secondly, the study found that seductive dress, followed by lust from male lecturers was the major causes of sexual harassment. Though, other causes could be desire to gain marks from lecturers' and poverty as causes of sexual harassment. Fear and trauma, nightmare and aggression behavior are the major effect of sexual harassment. Depression and withdrawal were also reported as an effect of sexual harassment. Thirdly, greater number of students nurses of Imo State University, Orlu, Imo State surveyed reported that there is always a case of sexual harassment among their fellow students. The sexual harassment were more on female students than the male students and that the students' level with more case of sexually harassment were the 300 level students, followed by 200 level students, then 100 level students. The class level with the least sexually harassed were those in 500 level. Fourthly, the study found that to curb the menace, perpetrators of sexual harassment should be made to face the law by being jailed and charged to court, the culture of silence from the victim should be discouraged, perpetrators of sexual harassment should either be sacked or be suspended, it is recommended that each institution open a sexual harassment register among other punitive measures for offenders and that the students must learn to be assertive and establish strong personal boundaries.

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