Partner Selection Contribution to Risky Sexual Behaviour among Youths Currently Attending Nysc Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State

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Annotation: **Background:** Sexual-Risk behaviours contribute to the leading causes of morbidity, mortality and social problems among youths. Although there are many studies conducted on this subject, the predictors of sexual risk behaviours among youths have not been well explored. This study was, therefore, designed to contribute to existing knowledge and enhance the development of strategies that will positively influence the perception and attitude of youths regarding sexual health risk-related matters.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study design using simple random sampling methods was conducted among randomly selected 416 of National Youth Service Corps (21-30 years) using data collected via a pre-tested interviewer-administered semi-structured questionnaire, which measured the following variables: socio-demographic information, sexual history, partner characteristics and selection, and sexual activities. Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis which was presented in tables and frequencies, Chi-square analysis which was carried out to test the strength and significance of the association between the independent and dependent variables and logistic regression was also used to examine the strength and likelihood of risky sexual behaviours with selected partner characteristics

Keywords: National Youths Corp Member, Osun State, Sexual Health, Sexual-Risk Behaviour, Youths.

Results:

This study shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The respondents' age ranges between 21 and 30 years with a mean of 25.52 years and a Standard deviation of 2.36 years. 68% of the respondents referred meeting a sexual partner through a friend, parents or a known human

source, 61.1% preferred social gatherings while 50.5% preferred meeting via social networks. 66.8% of the respondents preferred meeting their partners at their residences, 59.4% preferred private places (including hotels) while very few 29.8% chose public places as a meeting place with their partners. Also, this study revealed that 48.8% of the respondents first knew about sex from their friends than from schools 37.5% and their parents 13.2%. This study also revealed that males are 4.422 times more likely to have casual sex with a partner to who their parents consented than with one with who they do not, alcohol use is partially significant with having casual sex, while education is a constant in having casual sex. The odds of males having casual sex with a fat partner than a slimmer partner is 0.207(OR = 0.270, CL 0.044 – 0.971)

Conclusion: The dearth of information available to youths about sexual health and the dangers associated with risky sexual behaviours can be held responsible for increased levels of participation in sexual-risk behaviours among youth corpers. There is a need for a concerted effort of all to promote healthy behaviour, via Youth-centred programs and youth-targeted behavioural change interventions.

BACKGROUND

Sexual partner selection is generally an important aspect of dating; it indicates the beginning of an emotional and psychological journey and sometimes the 'symbol' of maturation. Young persons mostly prefer sexual partner with contrasting characteristics and are likely to engage in similar activities, they have partners within the average difference of two years and rarely have a lasting relationship for more than six months (Ford, 2001). There is low use of condoms and other methods of contraception among cohabiting partners due to the belief that it signifies lack of trust and reduces sexual pleasure, usually among co-habiting partners and partners who have been in a relationship for longer period who they referred to as being a 'steady partner' (Guiella, 2007); this study also discovered that most youths had their first sexual experience with a casual partner rather than a steady partner. Youths are believed to be more vulnerable to various risky sexual behaviours than other age groups as their social lifestyle is reportedly wilder than older years; adventurous escapades and encounters are very common within this age bracket (Amu, 2014). Similar to the study, Makwe et al (2014) discovered most of the sexually active youths confessed to irregular condom use because the 'trust' their partners. Adequate knowledge about sexuality and its likes, parental influence and socio-cultural factors play an important role in mate choice selection; which mostly influences general life decisions (Sandhya, 2013; Amballi *et al.,* 2022). Drug use is reportedly high among youths and has a strong positive association with some risky sexual behaviours which may result from aftermath effect of drug abuse, e.g. impaired judgment, drunkenness (Cooper, 2002); this affects the decision factor of a youth. Cooper (2002) also noted that there is higher sexual intercourse probability when a partner had used alcohol, sex expectation increases and decrease in sexual protection. A study by Slap et al (2003) shows that there are more reports of forced sex among females from polygamous homes, especially with a familiar partner. Auerswald et al (2006) showed that most females consider some intriguing factors in a partner for selection; race especially, and there was high preference for similarity in race and skin colour. These uncertain preferences may likely have some effects on youths' sexual decisions.

Many young persons are more likely to engage in risky sexual activities with a partner with contrasting characteristics who is readily available for engaging in similar activities (Kathleen, 2001; Asaolu & Agbede, 2022). Youths nowadays are misguided by inadequate knowledge and awareness on sexual partner selection strategies, which results in hasty and wrong assumptions. Parental influence and monitoring is gradually diminishing among young persons, intense counseling and

guidance is needed for young persons personal life decisions and in handling peer issues (Morhason-Bello, 2008). Some reports of forced sex and transactional sex by mostly casual partners, hasty engagement in a sexual 'relationship' due to uncontrollable circumstances, especially with an unknown person, indicate unsafe and unsure personal decisions by youths, especially females. Sexual multi-partnerships pose a threat on the health of the society at large, which results from the quest for a newer and better partner for sometimes more sexual satisfaction and desire for variety (Guiella, 2006; Asaolu & Agbede, 2022). Drug use is reportedly associated with the probability of engaging in risky sexual behaviour among youths; this is a cause for concern.

Adequate knowledge about partner selection strategies and risky sexual behaviours will help youths in their sexual relationships and also reduce HIV, STIs and unwanted pregnancies (abortion or births), guilt and traumatic encounters which may result from these behaviours; it will also reduce the level of unpleasant sexual occurrences among youths and improve the society at large. Parental influence may gradually diminish in youth sex education, affecting self-confidence and self-regulation ability among our youths. Non-intervention may lead to losing a regrettable proportion of the better future generation. This study intends to look into how sexual partners are selected and the form of risky sexual behaviours that can be involved with the chosen partner.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Broad Objective

To examine partner selection contribution to risky sexual behavior among youths currently attending NYSC Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State.

Specific Objectives

1. To determine the partner selection patterns among young persons.

2. To evaluate the patterns of selected risky sexual behaviour among youths.

3. To determine the association of partner selection criteria with each selected risky sexual behaviour

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the patterns of partner selection among youths?

2. What are the risky sexual behaviours practiced among youths attending NYSC orientation camp?

3. How do sexual partner characteristics influence risky sexual behaviours?

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This was conducted among youths currently attending NYSC Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State. A descriptive cross-sectional study design was used to determine partner selection contribution to risky sexual behaviour among youths currently attending NYSC Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State. The study involves youths who are presently attending the National Youth Service Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State; with expected age between 18 and 30 years.

The study involved simple random sampling technique, which consists of youths, aged between 18-30 years who all met the eligibility criteria, were included in the study. The corps members are grouped into platoons (platoon 1 to platoon 10). About twenty-five males and twenty-five females were randomly selected from each platoon.

A semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire with both open-ended and closed-ended questions was used to collect the data. The questionnaire was divided into sections, which include their socio-demographic information, sexual history, partner characteristics and selection, and sexual activities.

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 21) was used to analyse the data. The results were presented in frequency tables, percentages, means, standard deviations. Chi-square analysis was carried out to test the strength and significance of the association between the independent and dependent variables. Logistic regression was also used to examine the strength and likelihood of risky sexual behaviors with selected partner characteristics.

Ethical approval was obtained from the Oyo State Research Ethical Review Committee, Ministry of Health Secretariat, Ibadan. Permission to carry out the study was also obtained from the Camp Director of National Youth Service Corps Orientation Camp, Ede, Osun State. All participants were provided with voluntary written informed consent form of the study to sign after given an opportunity to decide on participation or withdrawal. They were informed of their right to withdraw at any point from the study without any consequences levied against them. Anonymity and confidentiality were assured as no names or contacts of the participants reflected in the questionnaire.

RESULTS

A total of 416 completely filled questionnaires out of 500 were administered, with a response rate of 83.2%.

Table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The respondents' age ranges between 21 and 30 years with mean of 25.52 years and Standard deviation of 2.36 years. A total of 216 males (51.9%) and 200 females (48.1%) participated in the study, of which about half (46.9%) of the respondents are Yorubas, 19% are Hausa, 15.9% are Ibo, while 18.3 are from other unspecified ethnic groups. Majority of the respondents are Christians (66.6%) while Muslims constituted 38.2 of the population. More than two-third of the population (67.3%) are Bachelors degree holders (which includes B.A., B.Sc., B.Ed. and B.Eng.) while others are HND graduates. More respondents come from a polygamous family (61.1%) than a monogamous family (38.2%). Those who consume alcoholic drinks (55.3%) are slightly more than non-drinkers (44%), also smoking is reportedly low (4.3%) among this population.

Table 4.1 Respondents' Socio-Demographic Information

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
21-25	214	51.5
26-30	201	48.4
Sex		
Male	216	51.9
Female	200	48.1
Ethnicity		
Yoruba	195	46.9
Hausa	79	19
Ibo	66	15.9
Others	76	18.3
Religion		
Christianity	254	61.1
Islam	159	38.2
Other	3	0.7
Family Structure		
Monogamous	159	38.2

Polygamous	254	61.1
Drug use		
Drinkers	230	55.3
Smokers	18	4.3

Table 4.2 shows sex education and history of the respondents. Most (48.8%) of the respondents first knew about sex from their friends than from schools (37.5%) and their parents (13.2%). More than three-quarter (76.4%) of the respondents are sexually experienced; there are low reports of forced sex and transactional sex, 8.9% and 7.2% respectively. Most of the sexually experienced (31.7%) had had sex in the last three months, while very few (7%) had sex in less than a week to this study period. About half (52.4%) of those who recently had sex actually expected sex on that day, while others never expected it or probably on that day. Nearly half (49.8%) of them reportedly used various contraception methods (which incudes condoms, pills or both) for prevention of both unwanted pregnancy and STIs/HIV (35.6%) as the common reason.

Not included in the table is the mean age for sexual debut of both male and female, 16.49 and 16.85 respectively. Oldest age of sexual debut is 29 years. Nearly all of ther respondents reportedly have one sexual partner at the period of this study. The mean for the number of present sexual partners for the respondents is 1.03; highest number of partners is three.

Table 4.2 Sex Education and Sexual History

Sexual History	Frequency	Percentage
Knowledge about sex		
Parents	55	13.2
Friends	203	48.8
School	156	37.5
Those that have had sex	318	76.4
Forced sex	37	8.9
Transactional sex	30	7.2
Recent sex		
About a year	56	13.6
<6months	92	22.1
<3months	132	31.7
<1week	29	7
Expected sex on that day	162	52.4
Contraceptive use	207	49.8
Condoms	176	42.3
Pills	27	6.6
Both	12	2.9
Reasons for contraception		
Unwanted pregnancy	66	15.9
STI&HIV	30	7.2
Both	148	35.6

Partner Selection Patterns

Table 4.3 shows sexual partner selection criteria preferred by males. Most preferred characteristics include education (96.3%), religiousity (95.8%), non-smoking habit (95.8%), sociability (95.8%), young-aged (93.5%), non-drinking habit (90.3%), same religion (88%), known by their parents (74.5%), slim body structure (73.1%) and fair skin colour (61.1%); compared to consideration of ethnicity and height.

Partner Selection Patterns

Table 4.3 Partner Characteristics and Selection Criteria by Males

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Taller	134	62
Shorter	68	31.5
Younger	202	93.5
Older	11	5.1
Fair	132	61.1
Dark	72	33.3
Slim	158	73.1
Fat	39	18.1
Educated	208	96.3
Not educated	2	0.9
More educated	100	46.3
Less educated	19	8.8
Same religion	190	88
Different religion	15	6.9
Same ethnicity	110	50.9
Different ethnicity	68	31.5
Drinker	13	4.2
Non-drinker	195	90.3
Smoker	5	2.3
Non-smoker	207	95.8
Religious	207	95.8
Casual worshipper	9	4.2
Sociable	207	95.8
Not sociable	8	3.7
Known by parents	161	74.5
Not known by parents	54	25

Partner Selection Criteria (Females)

Table 4.4 shows the sexual partner selection criteria preferred by females. The most preferred criteria include education (98%), non-smoking habit (96.5%), religiousity (94%), same religion (91%), sociable (89%), non-drinking habit (85%) and taller height (83.5%); with less consideration for body structure and complexion.

Table 4.4 Partner Characteristics and Selection Criteria by Females

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Taller	167	83.5
Shorter	20	10
Younger	67	33.5
Older	132	66
Fair	79	39.5
Dark	99	49.5
Slim	135	67.5
Fat	39	19.5
Educated	196	98
Not educated	-	-
More educated	151	75.5
Less educated	16	8
Same religion	182	91
Different religion	11	5.5
Same ethnicity	127	63.5
Different ethnicity	47	23.5
Drinker	30	15
Non-drinker	170	85
Smoker	7	3.5
Non-smoker	193	96.5
Religious	188	94
Casual worshipper	12	6
Sociable	178	89
Not sociable	18	9
Known by parents	153	76.5
Not known by parents	43	21.5

Partner Selection Process

Table 4.5 shows the process of selecting a sexual partner. Two hundred and eighty-three of the respondents (68%) preferred meeting a sexual partner through a friend, parents or a known human source, 254 (61.1%) preferred social gatherings while half of the respondents (50.5%) preferred meeting via social networks; compared to less preference for formal gathering (35.3%) as a channel for meeting a partner. Most of the respondents (66.8%) preferred meeting their partners at their residences, 59.4% preferred private places (including hotels) while very few (29.8%) chose public places as a meeting place with their partners.

Table 4.5 Partner Selection Process

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Preferred channels		
Formal gatherings	147	35.3
Religious gatherings	194	46.6
Social gatherings	254	61.1
Public places (walks etc)	200	48.1
Through friends or parents	283	68

Social networks	210	50.5
Preferred meeting places		
In public (restaurants etc)	124	29.8
In private places	247	59.4
Partner's residence	278	66.8

Partners' Status

Table 4.6 shows the status of the respondents' partner(s). Most of the respondents (62%) classified their most recent partners as a steady, 15.1% classified them as casual while 10.3% classified them as an acquaintance. Majority of them (79.1%) classified their current partners as steady, 10.1% classified their partners as casual while few (7%) reported their partners as an acquaintance. Less than half (41.6%) of the sexually experienced confirmed they will have sex in the next opportunity, 31.7% are certain they will not, while 26% are undecided. Majority of the respondents with partners (80%) are satisfied with their current partners, three hundred and twenty-two (77.4%) of them have marriage intentions with their current partners. About half of the respondents (52.9%) have their parents' consent in their current relationship.

Table 4.6 Sexual Partner Status

Variables	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Recent sexual partner		
Acquaintance	43	10.3
Casual	63	15.1
Steady	258	62
Current sexual partner		
Acquaintance	29	7
Casual	42	10.1
Steady	329	79.1
Sex in the next opportunity		
Yes	108	26
No	132	31.7
Not sure	173	41.6
Satisfied with current partner	333	80
Parents' consent on current partner	220	52.9
Marriage intention with current partner	322	77.4

Patterns of Risky Sexual Behaviour

Table 4.7 shows the various sexual expressions and behaviours engaged by respondents with their sexual partners including the risky sexual experience they have had. Almost three-quarter of the respondents (68.5%) confirmed to be turned on by chatting with sexually explicit words; other major turn-ons include romantic pictures (61.8%) and movies with romantic scenes (57.7%) while few reported being turned on by romantic music (21.6%) and books with sexually explicit contents (25.2%). Nearly all of the respondents are engaged in hugging (95%), cheek kissing (92.3%) and French/tongue kissing (90.4%). Majority (76.2%) of the sexually active respondents are engaged in vaginal sex while 63.5% engaged in private parts touching without clothing. There was very low report of anal sex activity (6%).

About half (56.3%) of the sexually experienced respondents had had unprotected sex, one-quarter of them reported to have had sex while high on alcohol, 15.4% had had casual sex (including one-night

stand), while 10.8% had been tested and treated for STIs. Over half of the sexually active respondents (52.6%) confessed to have sex because they are matured to handle it, 14.4% have sex due to uncontrollable circumstances, 7.9% thinks sex is fun while one person confessed of not being socially left out as a reason for having sex.

Table 4.7 Sexual Expressions and Behaviours

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Turn-ons		
Romantic movies	240	57.7
Romantic music	90	21.6
Romantic dancing	141	33.9
Romantic pictures	257	61.8
Partially covered dressing	105	25.2
Sexually explicit websites	81	19.5
Sexually explicit chats	285	68.5
Fantasies about romance	118	28.4
Sexually explicit books	105	25.2
Sexual acts engaged		
Hugging	395	95
Cheek kissing	384	92.3
Tongue kissing	376	90.4
Parts touching with clothes	175	42.15
Parts touching without clothes	264	63.5
Oral sex	130	31.3
Anal sex	25	6
Vaginal sex	317	76.2
Risky Sexual Experience		
Had casual sex	64	15.4
Had sex while drunk	106	25.5
Had unprotected sex	234	56.3
Ever tested for STIs	45	10.8
Reason for having sex		
For fun	33	7.9
For social dependence	1	0.2
Uncontrollable circumstances	60	14.4
Maturity	219	52.6

Table 4.8 shows that despite there is reportedly higher use of contraceptive during the last sex among females (55.5%) than males (44.4%), more females had been tested for at least one sexually transmitted disease (13.5%), had had sex while high on alcohol (28%) and had had unprotected sex (62.5%) than males. Proportion of males who confessed to have had casual sex (16.7%) is slightly higher than females (14%).

Table 4.8 Risky Sexual behaviours

Sexual acts	Male (%)	Female (%)
Ever had casual sex	36 (16.7)	28 (14)
Ever had sex while high on alcohol	50 (23.1)	56 (28)

Ever had unprotected sex	109 (50.5)	125 (62.5)	
Contraceptive use during last sex	96 (44.4)	111 (55.5)	
Ever being tested/treated for STI	18 (8.3)	27 (13.5)	

Contribution of Partner Selection to Risky Sexual Behaviour

The following tables are the results of chi-square analysis carried out to test the association between the selected risky sexual behaviours (sex with a casual partner, sex while high in alcohol and unprotected sex) and some selected partner selection criteria which include height, age, complexion, body size, education, religion, religiousity, ethnicity, sociability, drinking and smoking habit.

Table 4.9 shows the association between partner's physical characteristics and having sex with a casual partner. There was an observed statistically significant association between age and having casual sex.

Table 4.9 Male: Partner Physical Features and Casual Sex

Physical features		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Height	Taller	26(74.3)	108(64.7)		
	Shorter	9(25.7)	59(35.3)	1.198	0.274
Age	Younger	30(85.7)	172(96.6)		
	Older	5(14.3)	6(3.4)	7.115	0.008*
Complexion	Fair	19(59.4)	113(65.7)		
	Dark	13(40.6)	59(34.3)	0.472	0.492
Body size	Fat	2893.3)	130(77.8)	3.843	
	Slim	2(6.7)	37(22.2)		

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.10 shows the association between the selected socio-demographics characteristics of a partner and having casual sex among males. There is a statistically significant association between alcohol use and having casual sex.

Table 4.10 Males: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Casual Sex

Socio-demographic Characteristics		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	32(97.00)	176(99.4)		
	Not educated	1(3.00)	1(0.6)	1.792	0.181
Level of edu.	More educated	20(95.2)	80(81.5)		
	Less educated	1(4.8)	18(18.4)	2.386	0.122
Religion	Same religion	30(96.8)	160(92)		
	Different religion	1(3.2)	14(8)	0.901	0.342
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	18(64.3)	92(61.3)		
	Different ethnicity	10(35.7)	58(38.7)	0.087	0.768
Alcohol use	Drinker	6(16.7)	7(4.1)		
	Non-drinker	30(83.3)	165(95.9)	8.065	0.005*
Smoking	Smoker	1(3.0)	4(2.20)		
	Non-smoker	32(97)	175(97.8)	0.077	0.782
Religiousity	Religious	35(97.2)	172(95.8)		
	Casual worshipper	1(3.2)	8(4.4)	0.209	0.648
Sociability	Sociable	33(91.7)	174(97.2)		

	Not sociable	3(8.3)	5(2.8)	2.568	0.109
Parental consent	Known by parents	23(63.9)	138(77.1)		
	Not known by parents	13(36.1)	41(22.9)	2.779	0.095

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.11 shows the association between physical characteristics of a partner and having sex while high on alcohol among males. The association between height and having sex while high on alcohol is statistically significant.

Table 4.11 Males: Partner Physical features and Sex While High on Alcohol

Physical Characteristics		Yes	No	Chi-square value	P value
Height	Taller	22(47.8)	112(71.8)		
	Shorter	24(52.2)	44(28.2)	9.139	0.003*
Age	Younger	45(90)	157(96.3)		
	Older	5(10)	6(3.7)	3.120	0.077
Complexion	Fair	34(69.4)	98(63.2)		
	Dark	15(30.6)	57(36.8)	0.619	0.431
Body size	Slim	35(79.5)	123(80.4)		
	Fat	9(20.5)	30(19.6)	0.015	0.901

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.12 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of a partner and having sex while high on alcohol among males. There is a statistically significant association between alcohol use and having sex while high on alcohol. Also, the observed association between smoking and having sex while high on alcohol is statistically significant.

Table 4.12 Males: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Sex While High on Alcohol

Socio-demographic Characteristics		Yes	No	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	46(100)	162(98.8)		
	Not educated	0	2(1.2)	0.814	0.452
Level of edu.	More educated	22(78.6)	78(85.7)		
	Less educated	6(21.4)	13(14.3)	0.814	0.367
Religion	Same religion	40(88.9)	150(93.8)		
	Different religion	5(11.1)	10(6.2)	1.224	0.269
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	24(60)	86(62.3)		
	Different ethnicity	16(40)	52(37.7)	0.071	0.790
Alcohol use	Drinker	8(16.3)	5(3.1)		
	Non-drinker	41(83.7)	154(96.9)	11.108	0.001*
Smoking	Smoker	3(6.4)	2(1.2)		
	Non-smoker	44(93.6)	163(98.8)	4.247	0.039*
Religiousity	Religious	47(94)	160(96.4)		
	Casual worshipper	3(6)	6(3.6)	0.548	0.459
Sociability	Sociable	46(92)	161(97.6)		
	Not sociable	4(8)	4(2.4)	3.330	0.068
Parental consent	Known by parents	35(70)	126(76.4)		
	Not known by parents	15(30)	39(23.6)	0.826	0.363

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.13 shows the chi-square analysis of the association between partner's physical features and unprotected sex among males. There was no statistically significant association between any of the partner's physical features and unprotected sex.

Table 4.13 Males: Partner Physical features and Unprotected Sex

Physical features		Yes	No	Chi-square	P value
Height	Taller	63(60.6)	71(72.4)		
	Shorter	41(39.4)	27(27.6)	3.185	0.074
Age	Younger	102(94.4)	100(95.2)		
	Older	6(5.6)	5(4.8)	0.008	0.794
Complexion	Fair	74(70.5)	58(58.6)		
	Dark	31(29.5)	41(41.4)	3.155	0.076
Body size	Slim	78(80.4)	80(80)		
	Fat	19(19.6)	20(20)	0.005	0.942

Table 4.14 shows the chi-square analysis of the association between the socio-demographic characteristics of a partner and unprotected sex among males. The difference between alcohol use and unprotected sex is statistically significant. Also, sociability and religion characteristics of a partner are significantly associated with unprotected sex in males.

Table 4.14 Males: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Unprotected Sex

Socio-demographic characteristics		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	104(99)	101(99)		
	Not educated	1(1)	1(1)	0.000	1.000
Level of edu.	More educated	48(81.4)	52(86.7)		
	Less educated	11(18.6)	8(13.3)	0.625	0.429
Religion	Same religion	89(87.3)	101(98.1)		
	Different religion	13(12.7)	2(1.9)	8.820	0.003*
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	54(57.4)	56(66.7)		
	Different ethnicity	40(42.6)	28(33.3)	1.597	0.206
Alcohol use	Drinker	11(10.2)	2(2)		
	Non-drinker	97(89.8)	98(98)	5.937	0.015*
Smoking	Smoker	2(1.9)	3(2.8)		
	Non-smoker	104(98.1)	103(97.2)	0.205	0.651
Religiousity	Religious	103(94.5)	104(97.2)		
	Casual worshipper	6(5.5)	3(2.8)	0.986	0.321
Sociability	Sociable	102(93.6)	105(99.1)		
	Not sociable	7(6.4)	1(0.9)	4.502	0.034*
Parental consent	Known by parents	81(74.3)	80(75.5)		
	Not known by parents	28(25.7)	26(24.5)	0.038	0.845

*Significant at $p<0.05$

Table 4.15 shows the chi-square analysis of the association between the physical features of a partner and having casual sex among females. Height and age of a partner have significant associations with casual sex among females.

Table 4.15 Females: Physical Features and Casual Sex

Physical features		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Height	Taller	15(71.4)	152(91.6)		
	Shorter	6(28.6)	14(8.4)	7.915	0.005*
Age	Younger	14(50)	53(31)		
	Older	14(50)	118(69)	3.892	0.049*
Complexion	Fair	7(28)	72(46.8)		
	Dark	18(72)	81(52.6)	3.340	0.188
Body size	Slim	22(88)	113(75.8)		
	Fat	3(12)	36(24.2)	1.821	0.177

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.16 shows the association between the socio-demographic characteristics of a partner and having casual sex among females. The observed association between alcohol use and casual sex is statistically significant, which is also applicable to smoking habit of the partner. Likewise, ethnicity is significantly associated with casual sex in females.

Table 4.16 Females: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Casual Sex

Socio-demographic Characteristics		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	25(100)	171(100)	Not computed; education is a constant	
	Not educated	0	0		
Level of edu.	More educated	19(100)	132(89.2)		
	Less educated	0	16(10.8)	2.272	0.132
Religion	Same religion	28(100)	154(93.3)		
	Different religion	0	11(6.7)	1.979	0.159
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	19(95)	108(70.1)		
	Different ethnicity	1(5)	46(29.9)	5.553	0.018*
Alcohol use	Drinker	9(32.1)	21(12.2)		
	Non-drinker	19(67.9)	151(87.8)	7.504	0.006*
Smoking	Smoker	3(10.7)	4(2.3)		
	Non-smoker	25(89.3)	168(97.7)	5.017	0.025*
Religiousity	Religious	28(100)	160(93)		
	Casual worshipper	0	12(7)	2.078	0.149
Sociability	Sociable	28(100)	150(89.3)		
	Not sociable	0	18(10.7)	3.303	0.069
Parental consent	Known by parents	25(89.3)	128(76.2)		
	Not known by parents	3(10.7)	140(23.8)	2.403	0.121

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.17 shows the chi-square analysis of the association between a partner's physical features and having sex while high on alcohol among females. None of the physical features of a partner is significantly associated with sex on high alcohol, although bod size was almost significant.

Table 4.17 Females: Partner Physical Features and Sex While High on Alcohol

Physical features		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Height	Taller	45(95.7)	122(87.1)		
	Shorter	2(4.3)	18(12.9)	2.726	0.099
Age	Younger	18(32.1)	49(34.3)		
	Older	38(67.9)	94(65.7)	0.081	0.776
Complexion	Fair	21(40.4)	58(45.7)		
	Dark	31(59.6)	68(53.5)	0.889	0.641
Body size	Slim	27(52.9)	108(87.7)		
	Fat	24(47.1)	15(12.2)	25.198	0.000

Table 4.18 shows the association between partner's socio-demographic characteristics and having sex while high on alcohol among females. The observed difference between partner's sociability and having sex while high on alcohol is statistically significant. Also, there is an association between having sex on high alcohol, and parental consent.

Table 4.18 Female: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Sex While High on Alcohol

Socio-demographic characteristics		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	52(100)	144(100)	Not computed; education is a constant	
	Not educated	0	0		
Level of edu.	More educated	40(93)	111(89.5)		
	Less educated	3(7)	13(10.5)	0.453	0.501
Religion	Same religion	54(96.4)	128(93.4)		
	Different religion	2(3.6)	9(6.6)	0.665	0.415
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	36(76.6)	91(71.7)		
	Different ethnicity	11(23.4)	36(28.3)	0.425	0.514
Alcohol use	Drinker	11(19.6)	19(13.2)		
	Non-drinker	45(80.4)	125(86.8)	1.315	0.251
Smoking	Smoker	3(5.4)	4(2.8)		
	Non-smoker	53(94.6)	140(97.2)	0.794	0.373
Religiousity	Religious	55(98.2)	133(92.4)		
	Casual worshipper	1(1.8)	11(7.6)	2.449	0.118
Sociability	Sociable	46(82.1)	132(94.3)		
	Not sociable	10(17.9)	8(5.7)	7.072	0.008*
Parental consent	Known by parents	50(89.3)	103(73.6)		
	Not known by parents	6(10.7)	37(26.4)	5.768	0.016*

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.19 shows the association between physical features of partner and unprotected sex among females. The difference between a partner's body size and having unprotected sex is statistically significant.

Table 4.19 Females: Partner Physical Features and Unprotected Sex

Physical features		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Height	Taller	99(88.4)	68(90.7)		
	Shorter	13(11.6)	7(9.3)	0.243	0.622
Age	Younger	46(37.1)	21(28)		

	Older	78(62.9)	54(72)	1.732	0.188
Complexion	Fair	48(42.5)	31(47)		
	Dark	64(56.5)	35(53)	0.873	0.646
Body size	Slim	88(83)	47(69.1)		
	Fat	18(17)	21(30.9)	4.603	0.032*

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.20 shows the association between partner's socio-demographic characteristics and having unprotected sex among females. Education is a constant in having unprotected sex among females. The level of education of a partner, his religion, and his religiousity level are all statistically significant with having unprotected sex among females.

Table 4.20 Females: Partner Socio-demographic Characteristics and Unprotected Sex

Socio-demographic Characteristics		Yes (%)	No (%)	Chi-square value	P value
Education	Educated	121(100)	75(100)	Not computed; education is a constant	
	Not educated	0	0		
Level of edu.	More educated	90(85.7)	61(98.4)		
	Less educated	15(14.3)	1(1.6)	7.227	0.007*
Religion	Same religion	109(90.8)	73(100)		
	Different religion	11(9.2)	0	7.096	0.008*
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity	79(71.2)	48(76.2)		
	Different ethnicity	32(21.8)	15(23.8)	0.514	0.474
Alcohol use	Drinker	26(20.8)	4(5.3)		
	Non-drinker	99(79.2)	71(94.7)	8.795	0.003*
Smoking	Smoker	5(4)	2(2.7)		
	Non-smoker	120(96)	73(97.3)	0.247	0.619
Religiousity	Religious	114(91.2)	74(98.7)		
	Casual worshipper	11(8.8)	1(1.3)	4.634	0.031*
Sociability	Sociable	113(93.4)	65(86.7)		
	Not sociable	8(6.6)	10(13.3)	2.508	0.113
Parental consent	Known by parents	95(78.5)	58(77.3)		
	Not known by parents	26(21.5)	17(22.7)	0.038	0.846

*Significant at p<0.05

Logistic Regression: Partner Criteria and Risky Sexual Behaviours

Table 4.21 shows the logistics regression between having casual sex and sexual partner characteristics. Males are 4.422 times more likely to have casual sex with a partner who their parents consented than one who they do not. Alcohol use, as expected, is partially significant with having casual sex, while education is a constant in having casual sex. The odds of males having casual sex with a fat partner than a slimmer partner is 0.207.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.21 Males: Casual Sex and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	0.435	0.150 - 1.261	0.125
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	1.722	0.285 – 10.399	0.554
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	2.312	0.947 – 5.644	0.066
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	0.207	0.044 – 0.971	0.046*
Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	0.082	0.004 – 1.891	0.118
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	0.432	0.026 – 7.052	0.556
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	1.433	0.365 – 5.629	0.606
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.082	0.007 – 1.028	0.053**
Smoking	Smoker			
	Non-smoker (ref)	0.091	0.003 – 2.699	0.166
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	1.244	0.023 – 68.054	0.915
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.999
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	4.422	1.204 – 16.233	0.025*

Table 4.22 shows the logistic regression between having sex while high on alcohol and partner characteristics among males. Males are 2.929 times more likely to have sex while high on alcohol with a shorter person than a taller person. They are also 8.696 times less likely (0.115 times more likely) to have sex while high on alcohol with a fellow drinker than a non-drinker.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.22 Males: Sex on High Alcohol and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	2.929	1.383 – 6.202	0.005*
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	1.787	0.317 – 10.082	0.511
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	0.899	0.405 – 1.994	0.794
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	0.715	0.270 – 1.894	0.499

Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	2.125	0.539 – 8.385	0.282
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	0.937	0.153 – 5.723	0.943
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	0.939	0.283 – 3.113	0.918
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.115	0.015 – 0.859	0.035*
Smoking	Smoker			
	Non-smoker (ref)	0.294	0.011 – 7.734	0.463
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	1.537	0.092 – 25.776	0.765
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	1.201	0.089 – 16.250	0.890
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	2.778	0.845 – 9.131	0.092

Table 4.23 shows the logistic regression of the association between unprotected sex and partner characteristics among males. None of the physical features of a partner would attract a male to have unprotected sex, but the odds of males having unprotected sex with a person of the same religion than a person of different religion is 10.639 (95%CI OR = 1.111–101.919). Education is a constant in having unprotected sex among males.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.23 Males: Unprotected Sex and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	1.626	0.844 – 3.131	0.146
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	0.406	0.076 – 2.184	0.294
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	0.786	0.407 – 1.518	0.474
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	0.802	0.370 – 1.739	0.576
Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	0.840	0.226 – 3.124	0.795
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	10.639	1.111–101.919	0.040*
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	0.620	0.226 – 1.702	0.354
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.999
Smoking	Smoker			

	Non-smoker (ref)	1062	0.000	0.999
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	1716	0.000	0.412
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	2.940	0.224 – 38.634	0.319
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	1.751	0.582 – 5.265	0.999

Table 4.24 shows the logistic regression of the association between having casual sex and partner characteristics among females. The odd of females having casual sex with a taller person than a shorter partner is 19.604 (95%CI OR = 2.124–180.961). Females are also 8.065 times less likely (0.124 times more likely) to have casual sex with a non-drinker than a drinker. Education is a constant in having casual sex among females.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.24 Females: Casual Sex and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	19.604	2.124–180.961	0.009*
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	4.732	0.569 – 39.375	0.150
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	1.536	0.511 – 4.625	0.445
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	0.521	0.136 – 1.995	0.341
Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.998
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.999
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	0.000	0.000	0.997
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.124	0.030 – 0.515	0.004*
Smoking	Smoker			
	Non-smoker (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.998
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	0.000	0.000	0.999
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.998
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	0.108	0.010 – 1.146	0.065

Table 4.25 shows the logistic regression of the association between having sex while high on alcohol and partner characteristics among females. Females are 34.914 times more likely to have sex with a sociable partner while high on alcohol than a not-sociable partner. The odds of having sex with a

religious partner than a casual worshipper while high on alcohol, is 0.012. They are also 4.239 times less likely (0.231 times more likely) to have sex with a parent-consented partner while high on alcohol than a partner who their parents do not consent. Education is a constant in having sex while high on alcohol. As expected, females are 5.814 times less likely (0.172 more likely) to have sex with a drinker than a non-drinker while high on alcohol.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.25 Females: Sex on High Alcohol and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	0.370	0.060 – 2.300	0.286
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	1.186	0.422 – 3.341	0.745
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	1.262	0.556 – 2.867	0.578
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	8.462	3.565 – 20.088	0.000
Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	1.195	0.225 – 6.351	0.834
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	1.395	0.207 – 9.404	0.732
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	1.051	0.379 -2.916	0.923
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.172	0.054 – 0.550	0.003*
Smoking	Smoker			
	Non-smoker (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.999
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	0.012	0.000	0.009*
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	34.914	4.055–300.598	0.001*
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	0.231	0.058 – 0.929	0.039*

Table 4.26 shows the logistic regression of the association between unprotected sex and partner characteristics among females. Females are 2.222 times less likely (0.450 times more likely) to have unprotected sex with a fat partner than a slimmer partner (95% CI OR = 0.209 – 0.971). Alcohol use is partially significant in having unprotected sex, while education is a constant.

*Significant at p<0.05

Table 4.26 Female: Unprotected Sex and Partner Characteristics

Variables		OR	95%CI OR	P value
Physical features				
Height	Taller			
	Shorter (ref)	1.122	0.338 – 3.728	0.851
Age	Younger			
	Older (ref)	0.897	0.391 – 2.060	0.798
Complexion	Fair			
	Dark (ref)	1.039	0.528 – 2.044	0.912
Body size	Slim			
	Fat (ref)	0.450	0.209 – 0.971	0.042*
Socio-demographic characteristics				
Level of edu.	More educated			
	Less educated (ref)	4.151	0.476 – 36.211	0.198
Religion	Same religion			
	Different religion (ref)	4816	0.000	0.999
Ethnicity	Same ethnicity			
	Different ethnicity(ref)	1.181	0.480 – 2.704	0.717
Alcohol use	Drinker			
	Non-drinker (ref)	0.211	0.044 – 1.018	0.053**
Smoking	Smoker			
	Non-smoker (ref)	14.719	0.790–274.323	0.072
Religiousity	Religious			
	Casual worshipper(ref)	2.5E+17	0.000	0.998
Sociability	Sociable			
	Not sociable (ref)	0.000	0.000	0.998
Parental consent	Known by parents			
	Not known by parents (ref)	1.842	0.592 – 5.728	0.292

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMEDATION

Discussion

Socio-demographics and Sexual History

The study shows that majority of the study participants who are sexually experienced are from polygamous homes, this is in contrast to a study by Slap et al (2003). Half of the respondents are Yorubas and majority are Christians. The mean age of their sexual debut is 16 years; most of the respondents had their first sex education from friends than from parents and in school (Morhason-Bello et al, 2008; Famutimi et al, 2014; Nwankwo et al, 2009). Nearly all of the respondents have at least one sexual partner as at the time of this study and half of them confirmed that they have parents' consent to their present parent; sexual multi-partnership is low, in contrast to Omoyemi et al (2012). Sexual experience and multi-partnership is reportedly low among Hausas and higher in Yorubas. Although very low, more females reported to have experienced forced sex and transactional sex at a point in time (Ilesanmi et al, 2014; Omoyemi et al, 2012).

Partner Selection Patterns

We found out that nearly all participants preferred an educated partner (Maliki, 2009); majority of the participants preferred a non-drinker, non-smoker, sociable and religious (God-fearing) partner.

Preference for a partner from the same ethnic group, same religion and known by parents is equally distributed between the sexes (Ford et al, 2001). Preference for a younger mate is higher in males than females (Wallisen et al, 2013; Harrison et al, 2008), while females have higher consideration for a taller partner. Although body size and skin colour are of notable consideration, females preferred slimmer partner; which is believed as a symbol of masculine fitness (Jones et al, 2009). Majority preferred meeting partner through friends, parents or a familiar human channel; also at social gatherings and on social networks. Residence is the most reported preference for meeting place with a partner, probably because of privacy, than meeting at public places. Most participants reported to be turned on by chatting with sexually explicit words, which may include exchange of romantic pictures; this may lead to kissing, body parts touching with/without clothing and eventually, vaginal sex, if they finally meet physically at a 'private' place. Nearly half of the respondents classified their most recent partner as 'casual' partner, while more than half of them classified their current partner as a 'steady' partner, and are satisfied with them with marriage intentions (Harrison et al, 2008).

Patterns of Risky Sexual Behaviour

This study found out that the most common sexual turn-on is chatting which includes sexually explicit words, also romantic pictures and movies with romantic scenes. Mobile or desktop chatting with a partner may results to exchange of these romantic and sexually explicit pictures and videos; it allows saving and further deliberation by intense assessment of the physical features on the partners, hence intensifying the likeness of the partner. The most reported sexual act is vaginal sex, which results from kissing and body touching, mostly with clothing then without clothing; with higher likelihood to occur partners eventually meet and be together 'privately'. This finding is similar to Adebayo et al (2006), which has more extensive findings about youths and purposeful Internet use.

About half of the sexually active respondents reported sexual protection (mostly condoms) the last time they had sex, even though most of them actually expected sex on that day, specifically for prevention of STIs/HIV and unwanted pregnancy, which shows their level of sexual protection awareness and risk perception. Very few of them, more females, reported to have been tested and treated for STIs, this finding is similar to Auerswald et al (2006). Although, half of the participants affirmed that they have sex because they believed they are matured to handle sexual issues, they are not sure if they will have sex in the next opportunity.

Partner Selection Contribution to Risky Sexual Behaviour

This study found the contribution of partner selection criteria to some risk sexual behaviours; education is a constant in most these risky sexual behaviours. Both males and females have lower tendencies (OR = 0.082 and 0.124 respectively) to have casual sex with a drinker than a non-drinker, similar to (2002). It is also found that males consider casual sex with a partner if parent consent to the partner; there is also preference for a chubby or fatter partner for casual sex. On other hand, females prefer a taller person for having casual sex than the shorter ones.

This study shows that there is a significant relationship between having sex while high on alcohol and drinking status, (Cooper, 2002). Both males and females prefer to have sex with a partner who is not as high on alcohol as they presently are than a non-drinker. Males are more likely to have sex with a taller partner while they are high on alcohol than shorter partner, while females may probably have sex with a not-too-religious and sociable partner while high on alcohol than a religious person.

Religiousity and religion play important role in partner selection before having unprotected sex; there is an observed association between religiousity of a partner and the tendency of having unprotected sex in both sexes (Ilesanmi et al, 2014). However, males may slightly consider a less sociable person and non-drinker for unprotected sex, while females consider body size, a slimmer partner, for

unprotected sex. Parental consent was not significant as expected, because some youths do not mind the consequences of unprotected sex especially pregnancies as long as they have the support of their parents.

This study found out that, if respondents are with their 'steady' partner that has desirable physical features and socio-demographic characteristics that they met through a reliable human channel or trusted social networks (dating sites), whom they have probably been exchanging sexually explicit words, pictures and scenes from movies, in a private place (preferably residence), there is possibility of physical sexual touching, with or without clothing and eventually an unexpected vaginal sex; protection is of uncertain probability. Unprotected sex may not be of great concern when with a 'steady' partner whom the parents had consented, as found in this study. Also, an individual who is probably under the influence of high alcohol has higher tendency of engaging in risky sexual behaviour (e.g. unprotected sex and casual sex, including all types of sex workers) if a partner with the desired qualities is readily available at the period, this finding is similar to a study by Parks et al (2009).

Conclusion

This study found that some partner selection criteria play an important role in the possibility of engaging in some risky sexual behaviour. Although, both sexes have higher preference for physical features and are less bothered about other characteristics, religiousity is still greatly considered, similar to Ilesanmi et al (2004). Nevertheless, males prefer younger mate, while females mostly consider religion. This study also found that education, which is a constant in this study, has the highest priority in partner selection and it is a big factor in the likelihood of risky sexual behaviour.

Some other contributing factors include channel of meeting, meeting place, parental consent and sexual mood as at when the partner is available and individual maturity to handle sexual issues.

Recommendations

Adequate counselling, guidance and monitoring are required of parents for youths in decision-making situations, especially sexual issues. Youths are implored to indulge patience and understanding beyond the physical attraction and first impression when meeting an intending sexual partner. Awareness of sexual risks should be intensified; throwing caution to the wind for a moment could cause eternal damage, and in extreme cases, death.

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