

THE CAUSES OF SEXUALITY AMONG ADOLESCENTS TODAY

CASE STUDY: KAJARA COUNTY, NTUNGAMO DISTRICT

WESTERN UGANDA

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Tusiime Lucy, declare that this research report is my original work and has never been submitted before to any university or institution for any award as a degree or diploma.

Signature.....*Tusiime*.....

Tusiime Lucy

Date*4th, 08, 09.*.....

APPROVAL

This is to certify that the work of this candidate has been under my supervision and is now ready for submission to be evaluated for the award of Bachelors of Arts with Education of Kampala International University.

Signature.....

Ssekajugo Derrick

Date.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank The Almighty God for his wonderful plans for me. His mighty hand has been on my side supporting and encouraging me. I am specifically thankful for the gift of knowledge and wisdom used to accomplish this research report .I will praise Him always.

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Last but not least, I wish to thank my respondents, teachers, Head teachers, pupils and parents of Kajara County, Ntungamo district. This study would never have been successfully accomplished without their most cherished input. Thanks to all of you mentioned above.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my dear parents Mr. Muhiire Xavier and Mrs. Kyomugisha
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TABLE OF CONTENT	Page
DECLARATION.....	i
APPROVAL.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	v
Definitions of terms.....	viii
Abbreviations.....	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction	1
Back ground of the study.....	1
Statement of the problem.....	2
Purpose of the study.....	2
Objection of the study.....	2
Research questions.....	3
Significance of the study.....	3

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction.....	4
Sexual revolution.....	4
Sexual active differences among adolescents.....	5
Why adolescents become sexually active	5
Sexual risk taking.....	6

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction.....	7
Research design.....	7
Research environment.....	7
Population of the study.....	7
Sample size selection.....	8
Instruments of data collection.....	8
Data collection procedure.....	8
Data analysis.....	8

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Introduction.....	9
-------------------	---

Presentation of learners.....	9
Headteachers' on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents in Kajara county.....	10
Parents' response on the causes of sexuality among adolescents.....	11
Teachers responses on the cause of sexual immorality among adolescent to day..	12

CHAPTER FIVE

INTRODUCTION, RECOMMEDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Introduction	16
Recommendation	16
Conclusion.....	16
REFFERENCES.....	17
APPENDECES.....	18

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Adolescent: Is a person who is no longer a child but not yet an adult. She/he corresponds to teenage years.

Adolescence: Is the development transition between childhood that entails major interrelated physical, cognitive and psychosocial changes.

Genital: Is the fifth of the Freud's psychosexual stages, that of mature sexuality, beginning at puberty.

Growth spurt: Refers to a sharp increase in height and weight that precedes sexual maturity.

Sexuality: The psychosocial domain concerning the development of expression of sexual feelings.

Peer pressure. This is the perceived influence of one's age mates or friends to go along with their behavior.

ABBREVIATIONS

STDS: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

HIV: Human Immune Virus

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to establish the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents in Kajara County, Ntungamo District which is located in western Uganda.

The study has three objectives which were; to determine the profile of respondents as to age, sex and level of education, to determine the causes of sexual acts among adolescents and to suggest the possible solutions to the problem.

Different tools were used to collect data which were; interviews and questionnaires of a descriptive design. The findings indicated that adolescents are experiencing the problem of sexual immorality.

The researcher made recommendations on teachers, schools, the government and administrators on how to solve the problem of sexual immorality among adolescents today as in Kajara county of Ntungamo district.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This section presents the background to the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of study, research questions and scope of study.

1.1 Background of the study

Councilor Shamim (2008) stated that in Uganda there has been the problem of sexual immorality among adolescents. This has widely spread in almost all the parts of the country.

Details about sexual behavior have proliferated through young talks, radios, newspapers and televisions.

Young boys and girls of 12-18 years are already engaged in sexual behaviors like kissing, breast fondling and intercourse. However these young boys and girls are not aware of the dangers of HIV and early pregnancy.

Councilor Shamim tried to ask the adolescents about some of the causes of sexual immorality. They mentioned factors like Desire for money, girl child neglect, mistreatment of children and dressing indecently.

Kwomboka oyara (2004) that Ugandan adolescents have increasingly been in the act of sexuality.

He however stated that sexual relations before marriage are not quite sanctioned in our societies but since young people mature sexually in their early teens, that is between 12-18 years, high sexual capacity and the great romances of literature has turned around the love affair of teenage boys and girls which has been a case for Kajara County, Ntungamo district –western Uganda.

Therefore according to the survey, sex has become a favorite topic among adolescents. During free time (private study time) girls and boys pass time talking about boyfriends and girlfriends, sex and marriage.

Statement of the problem

Sexual acts tend to differ among adolescents and many factors are responsible for this. However the causes of sexuality are yet to be established, it was not clear as to what are the causes of sexual acts among adolescents. This study is therefore an attempt to establish the causes of sexuality among adolescents in Kajara County, Ntungamo District.

Purpose of the study

This study was intended to investigate the causes the causes of sexuality among adolescents today in Kajara County of Ntungamo district.

Objectives of the study

1. To determine the profile of respondents as to age, sex and level of education.
2. To determine the causes of sexual acts among adolescents.
3. To suggest the possible solutions to the problem of sexual immorality among adolescents.

Research questions

1. What is the profile of the respondents as to age, sex and level of education in Kajara County?
2. What are the causes of sexual acts among adolescents in Kajara County?
3. What measures ought to be undertaken so as to address the problem of sexual immorality among adolescents in Kajara County?

Scope of the study

The study was conducted in Kajara County, Ntungamo district. Kajara is located 15 miles along Mbarara road and it borders Bushenyi in the north, Rukungiri in the south, Rushenya in the east and Ruhama in the west.

The major reason for selecting this area as a case study is that it is facing a serious problem of sexual acts among adolescents.

Significance of the study

This study will enable the government to establish a policy governing sexual behaviors.

The findings of the study will encourage the community to be sensitized on the causes and impacts of sexual immorality and identify various solutions for it.

Academicians and researchers can also use the study as the basis for further research.

The study will also enable teachers and administrators in schools to become sensitized on sexual immorality and react to it.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter looks at what other scholars have written on this topic. It is the review of the available literature that is relevant to the study area. This information will be got from the journals, reports, text books and internet. It will cover areas such as the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents today.

Sexual evolution

Diane (1998) argues that the early 1920's witnessed an evolution in sexual attitude and behavior. One change has been indulgence in premarital sex especially in a committed relation. Today's teenagers are more sexually active and more accepting of sexual activity. This is especially true of girls.

In 1965 male students and female students called premarital sex immoral. By 1985 only about 16% of the boys and 17% of the girls thought so. Rates of premarital sexual activity have risen accordingly especially for girls. In the mid 1950's only one out of four girls had sexual experience by the age of 18.

Today, more than one out of two girls and three out of four have had sexual intercourse by that age. Fewer than one out of five young people refrain from intercourse teens. Sexual activity range from causal kissing to genital contact. Today teens engage in sexual activities to fulfill a number of needs, only one of which is physical pleasure. Teenagers may become sexually active

for a variety of reasons: to achieve closeness, to seek new experience, to prove their maturity, to keep up with peers, to find relief from pressures, or to investigate the mysteries of love.

Sexual active differences among adolescents

Diana (2001) argues that growth spurt in both boys and girls differ. In girls, It begins at the age of 9.5 to 14.5 (usually about 10) and in boys between 10.5 to 16 (usually at 13 years). Since girls' growth spurt usually occurs early than that of boys, girls between ages of 11-13 are taller, heavier and stronger than boys of the same age. This brings difference in sexual active. At this age, girls experience faster early sexual maturity and ability to reproduce which forces them to be attracted to the opposite sex.

Why adolescents become sexually active

Mavis (1986) argues that American adolescents are becoming sexually active at earlier ages than previous generation and many apparently become earlier than they should. Mavis gave an example of 1980's where teenagers gave a medium age of 18 as "the right age" to start having sexual intercourse, even though most of the 17 years old and nearly half of the 16 year olds had already done so. Teenage girls (and to a lesser extent boys) often feel under pressure to engage in activities they don't feel ready for. Social pressure was the chief reason for early sexual intimacy. Various factors including timing of puberty, personality style, drug abuse, education, family structure, age ethnicity and gender influence are likelihood of sexual activity.

Sexual risk taking

Sally (2001) argues that although American teenagers are sexually active today than at the time of early years, they are not always informed about their health risks or more diligent use of contraceptives. Saul (2001) argues that two major concerns about sexual activity are the risks of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. However the uses of contraceptives act as a safe guard for sexually active teens in regular use of condoms which gives some protection against pregnancy. Unfortunately nearly four out of ten teenagers get their sex education from the media which present a distorted view of sexual activity, relating it with fun excitement, competition, danger, or violence and rarely showing the risk of un protected sexual relations.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This section focuses on study design which covers sampling on data collection and analysis. It involved the review of the data gathering process and explanation of how the hypothesis was tested.

Research design

The research employed a descriptive design. This involved a systematic collection and presentation of data to give a clear insight with an aim to discover the extent of the problem. This method was used because of its suitability in data collection.

Research Environment

The research was carried out in Kajara county, Ntungamo district. Kajara is located 15 miles along Mbarara road and it borders Bushenyi in the North, Rukungiri in the South, Rushenyi in the East and Ruhama in the West.

Population of the study

The data was collected from students, head teachers, local council leaders and parents in the selected county. Supplementary information was got from youth councilors of the selected area because it has been facing a serious problem of sexual immorality.

Sample Size Selection

The researcher included people of mature age across the county of Kajara. The sample of 16 respondents was selected from whom the researcher was able to obtain quality information. 4 parents, 4 elders, 5 students both boys and girls, 2 teachers and one head teacher was selected. The selection was randomly done which enabled the researcher to avoid biased information.

Instruments of data collection.

The instruments of data collection were interview guides and questionnaires. To get a variety of responses questionnaires were designed to meet the needs and objectives and the research questions. Interviews were also held with the illiterate group. The other source of data collection was the already written records of head teachers and D.E.O in particular.

Data collection Procedure

Permission for conducting the research was obtained from the Faculty of Education of Kampala International University. After acquiring the letter the researcher organized the tools of data collection which were to be dispensed to the respondents.

Data analysis

The data obtained was prepared well, processed and analyzed after which it had to be presented in percentages and frequency distribution tables and graphs to give a clear pictorial view of the findings.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter consists of the findings obtained by the researcher from the field. The findings basically focus on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents today. Various perceptions on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents were presented to the researcher by students, teachers, Head teachers, parents and district education officer.

Table 4.1 showing Learner's (students') perception on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents today.

Causes	Number of respondents	Percentage
Not to be teased for being virgins	24	30%
Want to be loved	21	26.25%
Think they are ready	05	6.25%
Pressure from friends	30	37.5%
Total	80	100%

Source: Primary data 2009

From the table above, out of the 80 respondents interviewed, 25 mentioned that adolescents both boys and girls don't want people to tease them for being virgins, 21 said they want to be loved, 5 said they think they are ready , and 30 mentioned pressure from peers who are friends.

4.2 Head teachers' responses on the cause of sexual immorality among adolescents in Kajara County.

It was found out that adolescents are sexually immoral because of poverty, family education level, social economic status and curiosity.

Table 4.2 showing head teachers' responses on the causes sexual immorality among adolescents.

Causes	Number of respondents	Percentage
poverty	10	16.13%
Family education level	25	40.32%
Curiosity	20	32.36%
Social economic status	07	11.13%
Total	62	100%

Source: Primary data 2009

From the above table out of 62 respondents, 10 mentioned poverty as the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents, 25 mentioned family education level, 20 mentioned curiosity, 07 mentioned socio economic status.

4.3 Parents' responses on the causes of sexuality among adolescents.

It was found that adolescents are sexually immoral due to curiosity, proving maturity, inadequate women teachers and administrators, inheritance and keeping up with peers.

Table 4.3 showing parents' responses to factors responsible for sexual immorality among adolescents in Kajara County.

Causes	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
Curiosity	20	33.33%
Proving maturity	10	16.67%
Inadequate women teachers and administrators	08	13.33%
Inheritance	10	16.67%
Keeping up with peers	12	20%
Total	60	100%

Source: Primary data 2009

From the table above, out of 60 respondents, 20 mentioned curiosity, 10 proving maturity, 08 inadequate women teachers and administrators, 10 inheritance, 12 keeping up with peers.

4.4 Teachers' responses on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents today.

It was found that factors like drug abuse, achieving closeness, Inheritance, lack of interest in education, Family education levels and poverty.

Table 4.4 showing teachers' responses on the causes of sexual immorality among adolescents today in kajaraounty.

Causes	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
Drug abuse	20	22.73%
Family education level	16	18.18%
Lack of interest in education	10	11.36%
Inheritance	10	11.36%
Achieving closeness	06	6.82%
Poverty	26	29.5%
Total	88	100%

Source: Primary data 2009

From the above table, out of 88 respondents, 20 mentioned drug abuse, 16 , family education level, 10, inheritance, 06, achieving closeness and 26 poverty.

Presentation of factors responsible for sexual immorality among adolescents today.

Poverty; In this study, it was established that most of the parents in Kajara county do not have enough money to meet adolescents needs such as Good dressing and cosmetics for the case of girls. Thus girls tend to exchange sex in order to meet their desires.

Still, it was established that also boys tend desire things like mobile phones and expensive Jean trousers which seem to be expensive for parents to provide. Thus tend to share sex with people especially sugar mummies who can easily provide such. Thus poverty is responsible for sexual immorality among adolescents today because adolescents want to fall in the same category.

Drug abuse; In this study, it was also established that drug abuse is responsible for sexual immorality among adolescent.

Research established that adolescents both boys and girls who use drugs become more sexually active and start their sexual activity at an early age between 12 to 17 years.

The most common drug used by adolescents is alcohol and cigarattes. Thus adolescents after taking such drugs tend to be adventuresome, their sexual feelings arouse and tend to be open sexual activities like necking, breast fondling, kissing and intercourse.

Use of contraceptives; According to research carried, it was established that most adolescents use contraceptives most especially pill plans in their sexual intercourse. So the fact adolescents' was only placed on pregnancy is no longer there. The level of contraceptive use at first intercourse for 15-18 has increased substantially today.

Curiosity; In the study it was established that boys and girls have got desire to know what is taking place especially in the field of sexual related matters.

Much emphasis is placed on pornography such as written materials, photographs or films displaying explicit sexual activity. Most adolescents in Kajara county, Ntungamo district are exposed to such materials, generally among groups of peers at school, at home or in the neighborhood. Thus pornography was found out as intended to create arousal to about eighty percent of adolescents hence they desire to the same things among adolescents of opposite sex by practicing what is already seen.

Not to be teased for being virgins; The researcher established that some adolescents are being teased for being virgins. It was found out in Kajara county some adolescents believe that virgins are naturally docile, and in future will fail to give birth for the case of girls. Whereby, some peers started teasing them that they were going to develop bones. This forced some of the adolescents to start the act of sexual immorality.

Want to be loved; In the study, it was established that most adolescents want to be loved. Most of them believed that once they don't engage into sexual acts with their opposite sex friends will be rejected. Hence Adolescent boys and girls tend to engage into sexual practices.

Family education level; the researcher established that the level of education of students' families is also a cause.

Students who come from families where parents have high levels of education like doctors, teachers and engineers tend to sex restraint. This is because they to be hard working and have got little time sexual immorals. But some students from families with low education levels tend to put little or no emphasis education because they are aware they will not reach higher levels and hence have got much time which encourage them to get engaged in sexual activities.

Inheritance; In the study, it was established that most adolescents girls and boys who get engaged in sexual activities imitate their parents. Most students whose parents like playing sex between different couples have transferred the same behavior to the children.

More still, children who are given birth outside marriage tend to inherit their parents and get engaged into sexual activities. Thus in Kajara county, inheritance was given as one of the causes for sexual immorals.

Inadequate female teachers and administrator. The researcher established that there are few female teachers and administrators at post primary levels in Kajara county.

Thus, there is lack of guidance and counseling especially on the girls side about sexual related activities like kissing and intercourse and it's side effects.

Hence adolescent girls have been increasingly getting involved into sexual related activities out of ignorance of it's related

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.

5.0 Introduction;

This chapter focuses on the discussion of the findings as presented and interpreted in chapter four it also contains conclusion reached after discussion and recommendation arising from the conclusions.

5.1 Recommendation.

The findings of this study lead themselves to a number to a number of recommendations which must be properly used by the government, head teachers, teachers and parents in order to control sexual immoral among adolescents.

The government should recruit counselors in schools. Counselors advise adolescents to read books and discourage them from watching too much television. They don't learn much from the television but books enrich them with knowledge.

Also there should be programmes like voluntary counseling and should be accessible to help those who are sexually active in the early childhood. There should be introduction of co-curricula activities in sports like football, netball, volley ball which can keep adolescents minds busy all the time. Also adolescents can join church choir. For those adolescents who lack channels through schools, it is up to the parents to guide and above all listen to their children.

Conclusion

It was generally observed that Kajara County has been facing a serious problem of sexual immoral among adolescents.

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Author (s). (Year). Title;Edition.Place.Publisher.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR HEAD TEACHERS AND TEACHERS

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Kampala International University. I am carrying out a research study on the causes of sexuality among adolescents today. I have decided to conduct the study in secondary schools which are in Kajara County, therefore request you to assist me fill the questionnaires so that I can gather relevant information about the study about the study. Your responses will be treated with highest confidentiality.

Section A

Designation: Head teacher

Teacher

Years spent in designation Less than 5 years

5-10 years

Above 11 years

Section B

(i) Poverty is one of the causes of sexual activities among adolescents

Strongly agree

Agree

Un decided

disagree

Strongly disagree

(ii) What are the causes of sexuality among adolescents?

.....

.....

(iii) What are the impacts of sexual activities among adolescents?

.....

.....

.....

(iv) What do you think are the solutions of sexual activities in your society?

.....

.....

(v) What do you think are the solutions the government should implement to avoid sexual immorality among students?

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX 2

QUESTIONNAIRES TO STUDENTS

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Kampala International University . I am carrying out a research study on the causes of sexuality among adolescents today. I have decided to conduct the study in secondary schools which are in Kajara County, therefore request you to assist me fill the questionnaires so that I can gather relevant information about the study about the study. Your responses will be treated with highest confidentiality.

Section A

Class.....

Sex.....

Age.....

Section B

(i) What are the factor the factors that prompt adolescents in sexual activities?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Girls have got high rate of sexual activities.

Agree

Strongly agree

Un decided

Disagree

Strongly disagree