35

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Knowledge of Sexuality Acquired through Parents of Secondary School Students in Zaria Education Zone, Kaduna State **By: M. Umaru (PhD), Prof. (Mrs) M. A. Suleiman, A. Mohammed (MBBS) and S. Mohammed (PhD)** 1

2. Effect of Coaches Harassment on Athletes Performance in Football Competition in North-Western States-Nigeria **By: Prof. Musa Garba Yakasai, Suraj Muhammad Abubakar and Musa Haladu Darma** 6

3. Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Sport, Physical and Health Education Development in Nigeria. **By Okaka Richard Onoigboria and Elvis I. Agbonlahor PhD** 11

4. Knowledge of Oral Hygiene among Primary Schools Pupils in Kano State. **By: Dr. Abdullahi Mohammed Isyaku and Adamu Umar Wangara** 17

5. Impact of National School Sport on Sports Development in Army Secondary Schools in Nigeria **By: Myfriend Bulus Kpame, Ambo Christopher & Madaki, Aliyu Mohammed** 23

6. Effect of Anaemia in Pregnancy **By: Safiya Bello Ibrahim** 31

7. Family Planning Methods and Practice: Implication for Teenage Pregnancy **By: Bala Yunusa Tilde, Yakubu Bala and Saidu Isa** 39

8. Perceptions of Nigerian Secondary School Students on the Socio-Economic and Socio-Cultural Factors Hindering Educational Achievement: A Gender Focus. **By Obasuyi. O. H. and Igbudu. U.** 46

9. Teaching of Physical Education and Sports Programmes in Schools: The Role of Government in Nigeria. **By: Sani Muktar Bichi** 56

10. An Assessment of Utilization of Insecticide Treated Net (ITN) among Pregnant Women in Bauchi North Senatorial District of Bauchi State. **By: Dr. Abdullahi Mohammed Isyaku, Mallam Mohammed S/Fawa and Mohammed Aminu Mohammed** 63

11. Influence of Geriatric and Social Support Care on Health of Elderly People in Ilorin South Local Government Area, Kwara State **By: Shehu, R.A., Baba D.A., Ogunsakin,E.A and AbdulRaheem, K. A. (Mrs)** 70

12. Enhancing Health and Fitness in Children through Teaching of Health Related Physical Fitness in Schools
By: Azubuike, C. U. (Ph.D)

13. Achieving Health Related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): The role of health and education.
By: Ajani, Olajide Ezekiel and Musa Haladu Darma

14. Environmental Health Hazards Induced by Oil Exploration and Exploitation in the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria
By: Okpako, J.E.F. (PhD) & Orlu, M.N

15. Noise Pollution as an Unappreciated Health Risks among Households and Operators of Business Centres in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. **By: Okpako, J.E.F. (Ph.D) & Elechi, S.O.**

16. Roles of Coach in Nation Building
By: Osita Henry Ojobo and A. BALAMI (PhD)

17. Challenges of Inadequate Funding and its Impact on the Administration and Management of Sports in Tertiary Institutions in Imo State
By: Anyanwu Patience Nnennaya (PhD)

18. Reflecting on Physical Education Curriculum in Nigeria
By: Ajibua Michael Alayode, Bello Abiodun Bukola and Bewaji Olaniyi Kolawole

19. Strategies for Bridging the Gender Gap in the Practice and Study of Physical Education and Sports for more Excellent Service Delivery in Nigeria. **By: Anyanwu Patience Nnennaya (PhD)**

20. Teachers' Awareness of Computer Simulation and Virtual Reality as Tools for Effective Teaching and Learning Physical Education and Sports.
By: Dr. Franz Atare

21. Sports Participation and the Niger Delta Problems: A review of its implication
By: Oshilim Alexander Atagana and Awoma Christopher I.

22. Hiccups on Sports Administration in Nigeria: Any way out?
By: Awoma Christopher I.

23. Sports and Politics: A Panacea for Sports Administration in Nigeria.
By: Udomiaye, Martins

24. Improving the Quality of Life of Specially Challenged Women through Sports. **By Mohammed Musa**

25. Drug Abuse Prevention Strategies for the Disabled Persons in Nigeria.
By: Dr. Ali Tijjani Abdullahi

26. Knowledge and Uptake of School Health Services among Students of Isa Kaita College of Education Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State.
By: Ahmad Makama Getso PhD & Abubakar Tukur Muduru 186

27. The Use of Counselling Technique in the Rehabilitation of Youth Drug Addicts. **By: Dr. Maigari Abdu & Dr.Badamasi Lawal** 192

28. Differences in Short Birth Interval between Urban Rural Women of Child Bearing Age in the North West Geographical Zone of Nigeria.
By: Badamasi Lawal PhD 198

29. The Effect of a Carbohydrate Loading on Running Performance During A 25-Km Treadmill Time Trial by Level of Aerobic Capacity in Athletes of Imo State, Sports Council.
By: Nwaiwu Nnochir & Okoroafor Uzochukwu 204

30. Students' Level of Awareness on Implementation of FLHE Curriculum in North-West Zone, Nigeria. **By: Maigari Abdu PhD** 211

31. School Feeding Programme an Implication for Health Improvement among Primary School Pupils In Kebbi State.
By: Ahmad Makama Getso PhD & Iliya Bulus 216

32. Human Resource Management: An Important Tool for Sports organizations
By: Musa Njidda (PhD) 222

33. Strategies of Preventing Mother-To-Child-Transmission of HIV: A Means of Ensuring Mother and Child Health
By: Ahmad Makama Getso (Ph.D) & Ajani, Olajide Ezekiel 230

34. Perceived Behavioural Determinants of Participation in Leisure Activities of Junior and Senior Civil Servants of Sokoto State
By: Dr. Emmanuel J. Chom and Mr. Aminu S. Shuaibu 237

35. Considerations when Prescribing Exercises by Health Care Providers
By: Musa Sa'ad Muhammad RN, PhD. 248

36. The Effect of Aerobic Exercise and Calcium Supplementation on Selected Anthropometric Variables in Obese Women in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano – Nigeria. **By: Sadiq Isma'ila PhD** 259

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALITY ACQUIRED THROUGH PARENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ZARIA EDUCATION ZONE, KADUNA STATE

By

M. Umaru (PhD), Prof. (Mrs) M. A. Suleiman
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and

S. Mohammed (PhD)

Abstract

The Adolescents tends to be curious about sexuality due to the physiological changes taking place in them. Parents, being their first teachers might withhold information on sex. The purpose of this research is to investigate the secondary school students knowledge about sexuality as delivered by parents in Zaria education zone. A questionnaire was developed, validated and pilot tested for reliability. A random sampling technique was used to sample three hundred and eighty six students from ten schools. One – sample t-test and independent t-test statistical techniques were used to test the hypotheses. The main finding revealed that the adolescents in secondary schools have low level of knowledge about sexuality as received from parents. It was recommended that parents should make it a duty to pass sexual information to their children so that a healthy sexual lifestyle would develop.

Introduction

Adolescents acquire knowledge of sexual issues from either peers, popular magazines and other print media, pornographic materials or any other information available to them on the matter (Oloide, Oronsaye, and Okonofua, 2001). These sources of information on matter related to sexuality is not really without problem of communicating the negative part of knowledge that imperiled the adolescents. The Adolescents might end off developing a habit of fondling the genitals, homosexual or lesbians. The adolescents are generally curious about sexuality because most of them lack the basic knowledge of it (Hellandendu, 2011). Parents are the first source of knowledge for children and adolescents. They must pass on the correct information about sexuality to their wards without fear of spoiling the child as culture restriction. This important role of parents, if carefully delivered would correct any negative information about sexuality that was acquired by the students from other sources. Having this in mind, a research on knowledge of sexuality acquired through parents' of secondary school students in Zaria Education Zone was undertaken to find out the students' knowledge on matters related to sexuality as delivered by their parents and also whether differences exist in knowledge on matters related to sexuality between male and female students.

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Methodology

An expost-facto design was used. A random sampling technique was used to select population of three hundred and eight six (386) respondents among the students of secondary schools in Zaria education zone. Two hundred and thirty nine (239) male and one hundred and forty seven (147) female students. A questionnaire was developed by the researchers to obtain the required information. It was validated and tested for reliability and 0.85 was found. The ten schools were randomly selected. Thirty eight (38) questionnaire copies were distributed to nine secondary schools while the tenth (10) school was given forty-four (44) copies of the questionnaire due to the strength in population. The researchers personally collected data from all the sample secondary schools within three days. All the distributed copies of the questionnaire were retrieved because they were served, responded and collected on the same day for each school visited. The analysis was based on the total number distributed and retrieved. One-sample t-test and independent t-test were used to analyze the hypotheses.

Results

The analyses were presented as follows: Hypothesis one: the information about sexuality acquire by secondary school students in Zaria Education Zone through their parents is not significant. To test this hypothesis, frequency and percentages of responses to the items on the questionnaire were computed and transformed to one sample t-test as reflected in Table 1.

Table 1: **One Sample t-test showing Parents – Students Information about Sexuality**

S/No	Variable	Mean	SD	SE	t-value	Df	P
1.	Parents informed me about change in voice.	3.77	1.397	.071	3.755	388	.000
2.	Parents informed me about appearance of hair around the private part.	3.62	1.469	.094	1.605	388	.109
3.	Parents informed me about appearance of breast.	3.66	1.418	.072	2.164	388	.031
4.	Parents informed me about wet-dream.	3.17	1.490	0.76	-4.338	388	.000
5.	Parents informed me why the waist widen.	2.76	1.315	.067	-11.121	388	.000
6.	Parents informed me about dating.	3.08	1.441	.073	-5.788	388	.000
7.	Parents informed me about menstruation	3.28	1.411	.072	-3.109	388	.022
8.	Parents informed me about sex.	2.86	1.444	.073	-8.759	388	.000
9.	Parents informed me about birth control.	2.62	1.421	.072	-12.219	388	.000

S/No	Variable	Mean	SD	SE	t-value	Df	P
10.	Parents informed me about pre-marital sex	3.72	1.387	.070	3.163	388	.00
11.	Parents informed me about sexually transmitted diseases	3.58	1.439	.073	1.040	388	.29
12.	I feel comfortable while parents are informing me about sexuality.	2.66	1.364	.069	-12.177	388	.00
13.	Father mostly informed me about sexuality.	2.24	1.324	.067	-18.821	388	.000
14.	Mother mostly informed me about sexuality.	3.00	1.515	.077	-6.541	388	.000
	Average Mean Score	**3.1425**	**.86513**	**.04386**	**-8.150**	**388**	**.000**

Fixed Mean (3.50); t (1.96); df (388); $P < 0.05$.

Table 1 indicate insignificant acquired information about sexuality that was passed to secondary school students through their parents as denoted by an average mean score of 3.1425 as compared with the constant value of 3.50. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.
Table 2 denote difference between secondary school male and female students in information about sexuality which was acquired through their parents. A hypothesis was raised, thus. There is no significant different between secondary school male and female students in information receive through parents about sexuality in Zaria Education Zone.

Table 2: **t-test for the difference between male and female secondary school students in information received through parents about sexuality**

Gender	Mean	SD	SE	t-value	Df	P
Male	3.0475	.93246	.06032	1.069	384	0.2%
Female	3.3013	.72826	.06007			

t (1.96) df (386); $P < 0.05$

Table 2 denote insignificant difference between male and female secondary school students of Zaria Education Zone in sexuality information received through their parents as indicated by a t-value of 1.069 as against 1.96. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

Discussion

This research assessed information about sexuality received by secondary school students through their parents in Zaria Education Zone. Passing of information about sexuality is a major issue among parents due to the fact that parents and children feel shy and most thought it would serve as gateway for introducing the adolescents to sex. Owuamanan (1995) put it that sexuality is an indecent subject that should be discussed only in private prior to date. He further reported that young people engaged in risky sexual behaviour patterns and are not quick in taking actions that would prevent or reduce the risk that accompany such act. Given the severity of negative consequences associated with sexual activity, it becomes mandatory to pass information about sexuality to the adolescents for healthy development. Laurie, Suzanne, and Shannon (2000) reported that parents were the primary sex educators of children and adolescents who feel a personal connection to family are at less risk of participating in risky sex behaviour including early initiation of sexual intercourse.

Unfriendly home situation created by parents is a great barrier to positive communication and as well a difficulty in talking about sexual issues. Fox and Inazu (1980) and Laurie, Suzanne and Shannon (2000) reported that the majority of mothers felt very uncomfortable discussing topics such as dating, menstruation, sex and birth control with their daughters vis a viz, the female adolescents while talking with their parents. Hutchinson and Cooney (1998) and Laurie et.al (2000) reported in another study that 73.8% mothers and 20.0% fathers had provided them with at least some information on general human sexuality. They further reported that the majority of their parents did not talk about some important topics such as postponing sex, sex pressures, and sexual transmitted diseases, with the contributions of fathers falling far below that of mothers and that female receive more information than male. The findings of this research reveal similar information because both male and female adolescents reported low acquired information about sexuality through their parents. However, such information as changes in voice, appearance of hair in private parts, appearance of breast, pre-marital sex, and sexually transmitted diseases were discussed with parents, with mothers' contributions being high. The study further reveal low difference between male and female in the information about sexuality receive through parents. However, by implication, female receive more information about sexuality than their counterpart because of the difference in mean score of 3.3013 as against 3.0475.

It is very important for parents to understand those parental values, monitoring, control, autonomy, worth support, and characteristics of a family (socio-economic status, educational attainment, marital status) are factors that significantly relate to issues in sexuality, which parents most carefully utilize inorder to develop healthy adolescents sexuality.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this research, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The students have low level of information about sexuality through their parents.
- Both male and female students do not differ in the information about sexuality receive through parents.

Recommendation

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were made:

- Parents should make it a duty to pass on information about sexuality to their children so that the adolescents would develop a healthy sexual life.
- Parents should ensure that no issue about sexuality is neglected while informing adolescents about sexual life.

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