

PREMARITAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS PRACTICES AND ITS HEALTH HAZARDS AMONG STUDENTS OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, LOKOJA, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated premarital sexual behaviours practices and its health hazards among students of Federal University, Lokoja (FUL), Nigeria. This study was hinged on three specific objectives which include investigating the practice of premarital sex among students of FUL, determining the factors that predispose students to premarital sexual behaviours among undergraduates, and ascertaining the health hazards of premarital sex on students. This study used the Symbolic interactionism theory to explain the social phenomena studied; and adopted the descriptive survey research design with the two-stage sampling techniques through stratified random sampling techniques as well as the purposive random sampling techniques to reach and elicited responses from the 330 selected samples. Questionnaire and In-Depth Interview were employed as the primary instrument of data collection. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software, while the qualitative data was content analyzed descriptively to support the quantitative aspects of the findings. The findings indicate that 71.8% of FUL students reported ever having sexual activity for fun and other reasons, 54.0% reported inconsistent condom use and multiple sexual partners which indicated that most students engaged in risky sexual behaviours that exposed them to risks of contracting HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, including deaths arising from abortions of unplanned pregnancies. The study, therefore, recommended, among others, that aggressive sensitization and institutional targeted interventions should be embarked upon to stem certain behaviours are capable of placing FUL students at greater risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

Keywords: Behaviour, Hazards, Health, Perception, Premarital-Sex, Students