

RAPE & SEXUAL ABUSE IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA

A Case Study of Lagos State

Survey Report
December, 2019



Disclaimer

This study has been conducted by Africa Polling Institute(API), in collaboration with HeartMinders Advancement Initiative to provide information on all issues which form the subject matter of the document. Africa Polling Institute hereby certifies that all the views expressed in this document accurately reflect the views of respondents surveyed for the poll. The contents of this document is to provide credible information on critical issues to form the basis of this report. However, no representation is made that it is accurate nor complete.

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FOREWORD

Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria have at the spotlight in recent times, with increasing allegations of varying degrees of sexual harassments and abuses on campuses. These allegations have peaked with the recent BBC Africa Eye Documentary on Sex for Grades, which went undercover to investigate the “open secret” of sexual harassment in Universities in Nigeria and Ghana Africa, and to unearth some of the challenges faced by victims of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions. To lend our voice on the subject matter, Africa Polling Institute (API) and the Heart Minders Advancement Initiative recently embarked on a study to gather firsthand information from students of tertiary institutions. Using the convenience sampling technique, a face-to-face survey was conducted on Six Tertiary Institution Campuses within Lagos State, Nigeria’s cosmopolitan city. The study sought to: (1) examine perceived prevalence of rape and sexual abuse on tertiary institutions, (2) identify the major perpetrators, (3) measure support for legislation against the menace, and (4) proffer solutions to curbing these reprehensible acts.

This report is the outcome of the collaborative social research endeavor of API and Heart Minders; and it represents our humble contribution on the issue. It is our hope that the results and findings of the study achieve the following:

1. To highlight the menace of rape and sexual abuse on Nigeria’s campuses; and place a heavy burden of responsibility on authorities of Tertiary Institutions to rise up and address the issue decisively;
2. To stimulate authorities of Tertiary Institutions to partner with relevant security agencies in the country, in order to engage in more effective enforcement of security within and around campus environments. This is mostly important to curbing campus cultism, as cultists have been identified as one of the major perpetrators of campus rape and sexual abuse.
3. To urge Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Human Rights Groups and relevant stakeholders to intensify their campaign and advocacy against rape and sexual abuse across the country; especially on campuses.

Dr. Bell IHUA
Executive Director
Africa Polling Institute (API)

FOREWORD

When I partnered with my dear friend Funke Oguntuga to birth Heartminders Societal Advancement Initiative my inspiration and motivation was to ensure that as new parents, we do not make our children live in a world where there freedom would be denied and where they may be subjected to any abuse whilst ensuring that children and their parents as members of family units live with right values at all times. The activities of the Heartminders team led by Funke Oguntuga over the years have been nothing but inspiring and assuring that with concerted efforts, we can create a world that would be better what we have.

Knowing the disturbing and alarming rate at which cases of rape and sexual abuse are being reported, I was delighted to see Heartminders and Africa Polling Institute take the noble decision to do this piece of work, and I am pleased to write the foreword for the report. The survey puts discussions on the prevalence of sexual abuse and rape in tertiary institutions, a microcosm of our larger society, in perspective, while providing clarity on who the perpetrators and common victims of these acts are on campuses, thus reducing the assumptions which characterise discussions and discourse on the subject matter of rape and sexual abuse especially in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The survey answers poignant questions on who the perpetrators of the acts of rape and sexual abuse are, who their victims are, who and what the enablers are and it unearths perception of students generally on the disposition and the role of the institutions' authorities in aiding the ill.

With contacts made with over 2,000 persons and over 1,600 interview conducted, recording 81% response rate, the survey has shown that the prevalence of rape and sexual abuse in tertiary institutions is a fact and not a myth.

Nothing justifies rape or sexual abuse and it is not a one gender perpetrator based act, as there are indications in the report that some institutions have female perpetrators of sexual abuse in high numbers. This is worrisome and would remain a trigger for continuous call for action.

It is therefore timely to have this report shared as widely as possible to stir action and stand as a reference point for many discourse and advocacy on rape and sexual abuses by CSOs, NGOs, and other stakeholders in Nigeria and beyond.

Our young men and women are being enrolled in these institutions to acquire knowledge and to be prepared for the life ahead of them as they yearn for a chance to fulfil their dreams and desires, therefore as responsible active citizens, we cannot make them helpless in the hands of perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape. We cannot afford to do nothing. This report should stir action that will cause changes which ultimately will help create institutions that are not only conducive and safe for learning but also free of cases of sexual abuse and rape.

Jaiyeola Wale-Balogun
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Heartminders Societal Advancement Initiative

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Finally, I must express my very profound gratitude to the entire BOT of Heartminders Societal Advancement Initiative for their unfailing support and continuous encouragement.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without you all.

Thank you.

Funke Oguntuga
Executive Director Heartminders Initiative



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

API	Africa Polling Institute
AOCOED	Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education
CNN	Cable News Network
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FCTAKOKA	Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LASPOTECH	Lagos State Polytechnic
LASU	Lagos State University
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TIs	Tertiary Institutions
UNILAG	University of Lagos
W.H.O	World Health Organisation
YABATEC	Yaba College of Education



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the result findings of Rape and Sexual Abuse in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria conducted by Africa Polling Institute on behalf of the HeartMinders Advancement Initiative, a Non-Governmental Organisation based in Lagos, Nigeria, and this also forms part of their contribution towards creating an enabling environment for students to give their best without fear of any form of abuse. The survey was conducted in August 2019; Lagos State as a Case Study.

The survey builds on existing research, narratives and media reports; with new information collected through quantitative data from 6 Tertiary Institutions in Lagos State.



'Somewhat Prevalent' (29%) or 'Very Prevalent' (32%). While 39% considered the prevalence of sexual abuse as 'Not at all prevalent' (14%) or 'Not Prevalent' (25%). Further disaggregation of the analysis revealed the same result across gender, age-groups and tertiary institutions.

Also, in describing the prevalence of rape in TIs in Nigeria, interestingly, a slight majority of the respondents (56%) described the prevalence of rape as either 'Somewhat Prevalent' (29%) or 'Very Prevalent' (27%). While (44%) considered the prevalence of rape as 'Not at all prevalent' (16%) or 'Not Prevalent' (28%). The implication of this is, there is a high prevalence of rape in TIs in Nigeria as further disaggregation of the data across all TIs showed that on the average, about 56% of the respondents across all TIs described the prevalence of rape as either "somewhat prevalent" (28%) or "very prevalent" (28%).

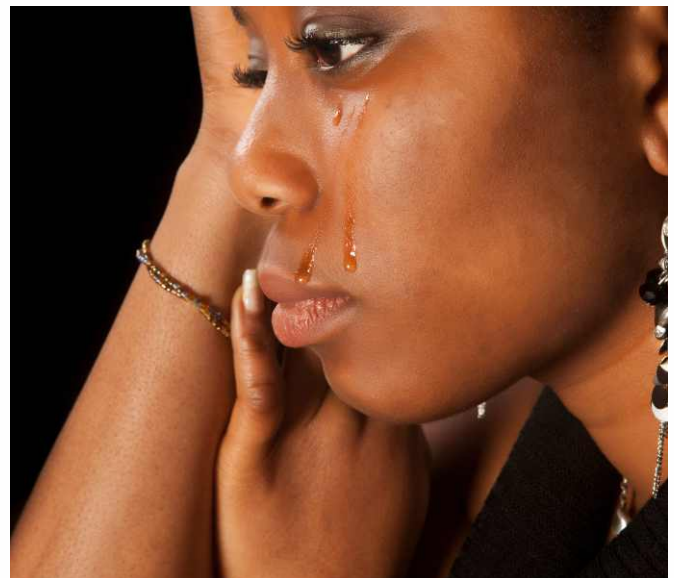
VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Although, the vast majority of respondents (95%) claimed not to know of anyone who had been sexually abused or raped on campus in the last 1 year, 5% of respondents said they personally knew victims who were raped or sexually abused on campus in TIs. Into the investigation into which category of persons are victims of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, findings showed that the vast majority of the respondents (79%) across all TIs indicated that the major victims of rape and sexual abuse on campuses are the female students. Interestingly, 8% of respondents across all TIs indicated that lecturers (male and female) are sometimes victims

of rape and sexual abuse while 7% of respondents indicated that the male students are victims of rape and sexual abuse.

Furthermore, when probed on the nature of the abuse that these victims experienced, majority of the respondents (61%) indicated that the victims were raped by lecturers and cultists, while the remaining (39%) indicated that the victims were sexually harassed and molested.

MAJOR PERPETRATORS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE



Based on findings from the survey, majority of respondents (33%) indicated that cult members are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs, followed closely by (29%) of respondents who indicated that male students are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs. Interestingly, 21% of respondents indicated that lecturers of TIs are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs, and lastly, 14% of respondents indicated that female students are major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs. These findings imply that sexual abuse or rape is not an act carried out by the male gender alone, but by both the male and female gender and it is not particular to any.

Furthermore, when the data was cross-tabulated by some socio-demographics, some interesting findings were revealed. For example, respondents who indicated that cult members are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs were seen more in LASPOTTECH (50%), and AOCOED (41%), respondents who indicated that lecturers are the major perpetrators were seen in YABATEC (25%),

UNILAG (24%) and FCTAKOKA (23%), while those who indicated female students are perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape were found mainly in UNILAG (22%).

REASONS FOR HIGH PREVALENCE OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Overall, the findings showed that across all TIs, 36% of respondents were of the opinion that: drugs abuse (15%); uncontrollable sex urge (12%); peer pressure (5%); and cultism (4%), were the major reasons for the high prevalence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, while 8% of respondents were of the opinion that: indiscipline by some students and lecturers (4%); and inadequate security within campuses in TIs (4%), were the major reasons for the high incidence of rape and sexual abuse in TIs. However, large majority of respondents (63%) were of the opinion that inappropriate and indecent dressing is the major reason why sexual abuse and rape is common on campuses of TIs in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following anecdotal shreds of evidence as well as reports on alleged sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, in line with suggested recommendation by respondents, this survey recommends the following as its contribution to reduce the high incidence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria:

Authorities of TIs should provide guidelines on the conduct of staff and ensure staff of TIs conduct themselves properly and follow these guidelines when discharging their respective duties. They also need to be serious in handling allegations on rape and sexual

abuses on campuses by thoroughly investigating cases tabled against the conduct of their staffs and ensure victims are well protected and not victimized during this process. This will go a long way in removing the barrier of fear and victimization usually faced by students.

Authorities of TIs should work hand in hand with relevant security agencies to provide adequate security around the school environment and even outside the school environment. This will go a long way to tackle the issue of cultism and curb their activities.

CSOs, Rights Groups, and relevant stakeholders should intensify efforts to stop rape and sexual abuse by ways of public enlightenment so as to reduce stigmatization; and develop strategies to advocate against rape and sexual abuse in the society. Also, proper counselling should be given to victims and encourage them on the need to speak up so offenders can be properly prosecuted accordingly.

Authorities in government should show more commitment to end rape by reviewing, implementing and ensuring laws on rape and sexual abuse are fully implemented. They also need to be serious in handling allegations on rape and sexual abuses on campuses by thoroughly investigating cases tabled against the conduct of their *staffs* (it should be *staff*) and ensure victims are well protected and not victimized during this process. This will go a long way in removing the barrier of fear and stigmatization usually faced by students or victims.



INTRODUCTION



consent – for instance, while drunk, drugged, asleep or mentally incapable of understanding the situation. On the other hand, Rape is defined as physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration – even if slight – of the vulva or anus, using a penis, other body parts or an object³.

Drawing from the above definitions, rape is any unlawful violation of a man/woman through intentional penetration of the vagina, mouth or anus with any part of the body or object without consent or consent provided under duress. In the same vein, sexual abuse/violence/assault is holistic, of which rape is a branch

of; sexual abuse/violence/assault takes a step further from rape to include every action against a person's sexuality, either verbal or physical which affects the mental health of an individual. It can, therefore, be argued that rape and sexual abuse are two sides of the same coin, preserving mental health and rights. While rape cases are recognized and reported, sexual abuse to a large extent are broad, most times viewed as a norm and goes unreported.

2.1 Effect of sexual violence

Sexual violence has a profound impact on physical and mental health. As well as causing physical injury, it is associated with an increased risk of a range of sexual and reproductive health problems, with both immediate and long-term consequences. Its impact on mental health can be as serious as its physical impact and maybe equally long-lasting. Deaths following sexual violence may be as a result of suicide, HIV infection or murder – the latter occurring either during a sexual assault or subsequently, as a murder of "honour". Sexual violence can also profoundly affect the social wellbeing of victims; individuals may be stigmatized and ostracized by their families and others as a consequence hence, it is one of the major reasons why most victims prefer to keep silent about it than to report cases of sexual violence⁴.

A casual look at statistics from NAPTIP (The agency charged with the responsibility to criminalize practices, conducts that subject human beings to all forms of exploitation which includes in the minimum, sexual and labour exploitation) reveals about (63%) increase in reported cases of sexual violence (which encompasses rape and sexual abuse) from 2017 to 2018¹. One of the growing vices facing Nigerian tertiary institutions is rape and sexual abuse be it from cult groups, peer pressure or intimidation from staffs of these institutions demanding sex from students in return for favours. Rape and sexual abuse are sometimes ambiguous and therefore require conceptual clarification to ascertain if they are interchangeable concepts or not.

Sexual abuse as defined by the American Psychological Association is an unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent². Force in this instance according to W.H.O can cover a whole spectrum of degrees. Apart from physical force, it may involve psychological intimidation, blackmail or other threats – for instance, the threat of physical harm, of being dismissed from a job or of not obtaining a job that is sought. It may also occur when the person aggressed is unable to give

¹https://www.naptip.gov.ng/?page_id=361

²<https://www.apa.org/topics/sexual-abuse/>

³https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/en/chap6.pdf

⁴https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/en/chap6.pdf

According to Imonikhe (2012)⁵, the effect of sexual violence on a student could lead to poor academic performance, drug abuse, anger, reduced self-image/esteem, depression, anxiety, and difficulty with sexual and personal relationship adjustment. This assertion is supported in the works of Mezie-Okoye and Alamina (2014).

Drawing from the above, rape and sexual abuse has no benefit for the perpetrator nor the victim, rather, it hurts the victim and can serve as a trigger to several psychological, reproductive and medical complications. Early disclosure by rape victims will

Nigeria go unreported for reasons associated with victim shaming, stigma, character assassination, public backlash and limited access to justice⁶.

Hinging on institutional decay, a report on Obafemi Awolowo University, attributed sexual abuse between lecturer and students to academic grades⁷. While studies attested that Poor institutional structure to address rape and sexual abuse has further strengthened the incidence of rape on institutions⁸. This is supported by a similar report which affirms that the growing abuse of female university students is



avail necessary medical procedures which will prevent pregnancy, STI and HIV infection

2.2 Rape and sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria

There have been a series of cases of sexual violence in Nigerian tertiary institutions as reported in national newspapers and media. It is therefore imperative to interrogate rape and sexual abuse in tertiary institutions leaning on the reports of newspapers and media.

A report that analysed an alleged case of rape between a 400 level student and Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Calabar, pointed out that majority of sexual violence against female university students in

fuelled by the absence of consistent and clear policy by university governing bodies and school authorities concerning rape and sexual abuse.

Also, a report argued that victims of rape and sexual abuse are more of first-year students and indicated that most of the victims were raped/assaulted while visiting the perpetrators and that in most cases, the victims knew their assailants⁹.

Furthermore, it has been suggested that pornography, indecent dressing, stigmatization / culture of silence are enablers of rape and sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria as this view can be found in published work of scholars who pointed out in their findings that circumstances leading to abuse are; visiting (43.7%),

(26.9%) attended a party or social gathering prior to victimization, (15.6%) were sleeping, (11.9%) were drunk and (10.9%) were drugged¹⁰. This is supported in similar works where findings indicated that inadequate security in the school environment, cultural norm and alcohol/drug are critical to increasing the incidence of rape and sexual assault¹¹.

These works of literature clearly pointed out that rape and sexual abuse has a negative effect which can be a trigger to several psychological, reproductive and health issues on the victim. Also, alcohol, drug use, indecent dressing, poor security, poor institutional structure to punish sex offenders, as well as, the culture of silence due to stigmatization, poor misconception, and acceptance of rape and sexual abuse as a norm by students, among several others, have fuelled incidence of rape and sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

2.3 Key Objectives

Over time, a series of cases about rape and sexual abuse by lecturers of tertiary institutions on students have been reported and it has been perceived that

these institutions have shown little efforts in addressing this issue. Sometimes, these institutions have rebuffed these cases on the foundation that they are all lies and consequently, for the student who reported such cases were further victimized by these same institutions. This situation is what make victims of rape and sexual abuse hardly report incidents of these acts for fear of being victimized or otherwise and hence, they resort to the option of silence.

It is for this reason, the Heart Minders NGO embarked on this survey to gather data from respondents to truly unravel if rape and sexual abuse in Nigerian tertiary institutions is a myth or a fact, and also, if it is a fact, to find out the prevalence of rape and sexual abuse in these tertiary institutions and who are the major perpetrators of these acts.

Furthermore, this survey offers new insights to strengthen the campaign and policy efforts of CSOs, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to stop the violence against women and girls in Nigeria as well as tender some recommendations to help stop these acts.



⁵Imonikhe et al (2012), A Survey of Teachers' and Student's Perception of Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions of Edo State, Nigeria. Asian Social Science ISSN 1911-2017 E-ISSN 1911-2025, Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2012

⁶<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/189950-nigerian-feminists-raise-alarm-on-increasing-rape-cases-on-campus-suggest-solutions-2.html>

⁷<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/20/africa/nigeria-university-sacks-lecturer-sexual-assault/index.html>

⁸Akinbode G. and Ayodeji F. (2018), Sexual Harassment: Experience, Prevalence, and Psychopathology in Some Selected Higher Institutions in Lagos, South-West Nigeria. African Journal for The Psychological Study of Social Issues, Vol. 21 No.3 2018, 111-135

⁹<http://leadership.ng/2019/07/29/sexual-abuse-in-tertiary-institutions-idps-camps-disturbing-prof-donli/>

¹⁰Mezie-Okoye, Margaret-Mary and Alamina F. (2014), Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduate in a Tertiary Institution in Port Harcourt: Prevalence, Pattern, Determinants, and Health Consequences. African Journal of Reproductive Health December 2014; 18(4):79-85.

¹¹Balogun et al (2013), Lecturers Perception of Cause and Consequences of Sexual Assault in Tertiary Institution of Kwara State, Nigeria. Research of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISSN 2222-1719 (paper) Vol.3, No.20, 2013.

METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted on behalf of the Heart Minders Advancement Initiative through a random sampling technique and via face-to-face interviews in 6 tertiary institutions in Lagos State. Quantitative data was collected to gather the perception of the prevalence of sexual abuse and rape in tertiary institutions in Nigeria from the 6th of August to 20th of August, 2019.

The survey employed a quantitative approach as its methodology using a standardized, well-structured questionnaire to elicit responses from students of Six Tertiary Institutions in Lagos State; University of Lagos (UNILAG), Lagos State University (LASU), Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH), Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTEC), Federal College of Education, (Technical) Akoka (FCTAKOKA) and Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Ijanikin (AOOCOED)

A total of 2,036 contacts were attempted with 1,642 interviews completed (response rate is 81 percent) All respondents were aged 18 and older.

SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

A total of 2,036 contacts were attempted with 1,642 interviews completed (response rate 81 percent).

Gender:

Slightly more females (54 percent) than males (46 percent) completed the survey.

Age Category:

The distribution of age-groups in the survey include 18-24 years (89 percent), this is followed by 25-34 years (10 percent) and 35+ years with the lowest frequency (1 percent).

Status of Respondents:

A large majority of the respondents are students (96 percent) and the rest are non-student (4 percent).

Tertiary Institution:

Most of the respondents who completed the survey the University of Lagos (35 percent) had the highest frequency, followed by Yaba College of Technology (21 percent), Lagos State University (14 percent), and Lagos state Polytechnic (11 percent), Federal College of Education Akoka (10 percent) and Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education had the lowest frequency (9 percent).

4.1 Summary of Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Variable Name	Variable Label	N=1,642	%=100
Gender	Male	751	46%
	Female	891	54%
Age Category	18-24 Years	1450	89%
	25-34 Years	172	10%
	35 above	20	1%
Student and Non-Student	Yes	1569	96%
	No	73	4%
Variable Name	University of Lagos (UNILAG)	552	35%
	Lagos State University (LASU)	231	14%
	Yaba College of Technology (YABATEC)	340	21%
	Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH)	169	11%
	Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka (FCTAKOKA)	160	10%
	Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education Ijanikin (AOCOED)	144	9%

Table 1: Demographic Distribution of Respondents

SURVEY RESULTS

This section presents detailed results from the survey.

5.1 High Prevalence of sexual Abuse and Rape in Nigerian TIs

In describing the prevalence of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, respondents were asked: How would you describe the prevalence of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria?

Based on the findings, it should be noted that there is a high prevalence of sexual abuse across all TIs in focus. The majority of respondents (61%) described the prevalence of sexual abuse as either 'Somewhat Prevalent' (29%) or 'Very Prevalent' (32%). While 39% considered the prevalence of sexual abuse as 'Not at all prevalent' (14%) or 'Not Prevalent' (25%). Further disaggregation of the analysis revealed the same result across gender, age-groups and tertiary institutions as can be seen in the figure below.

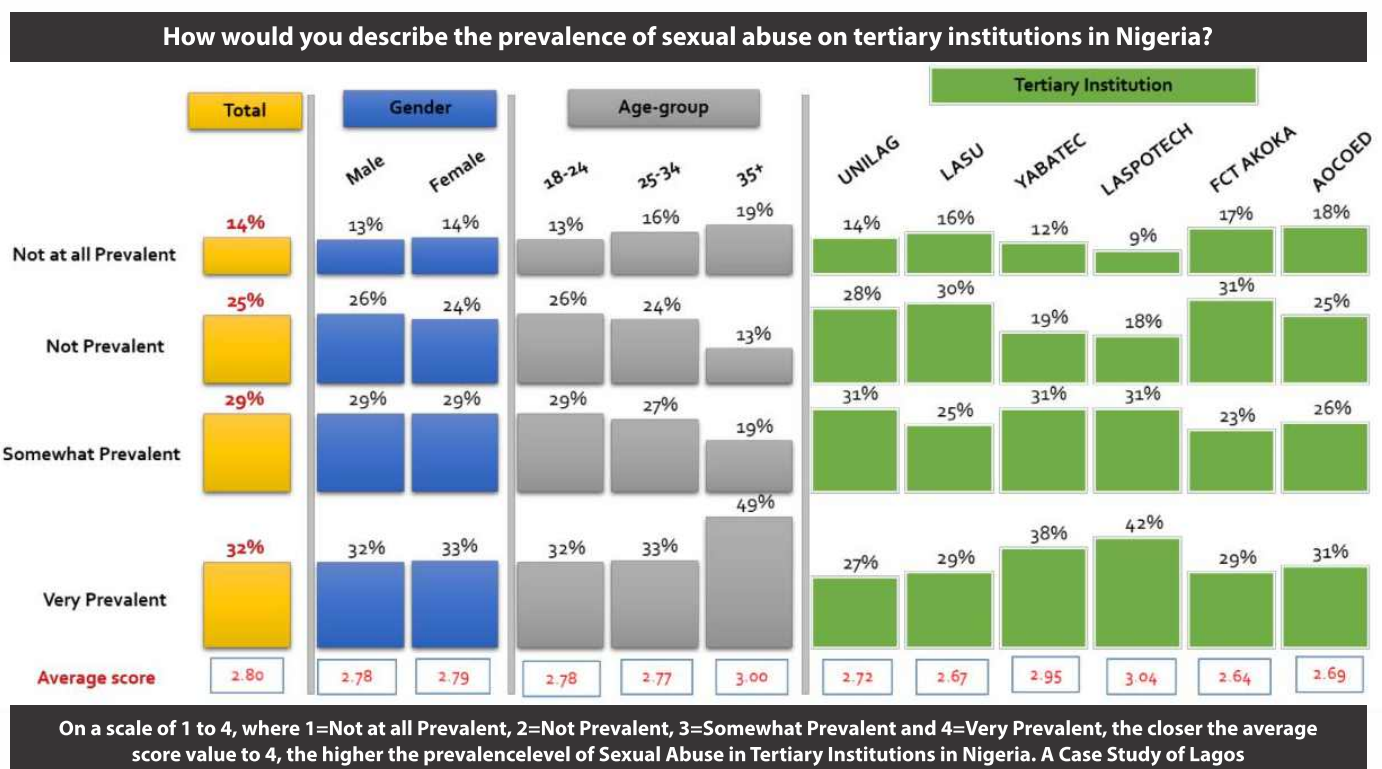
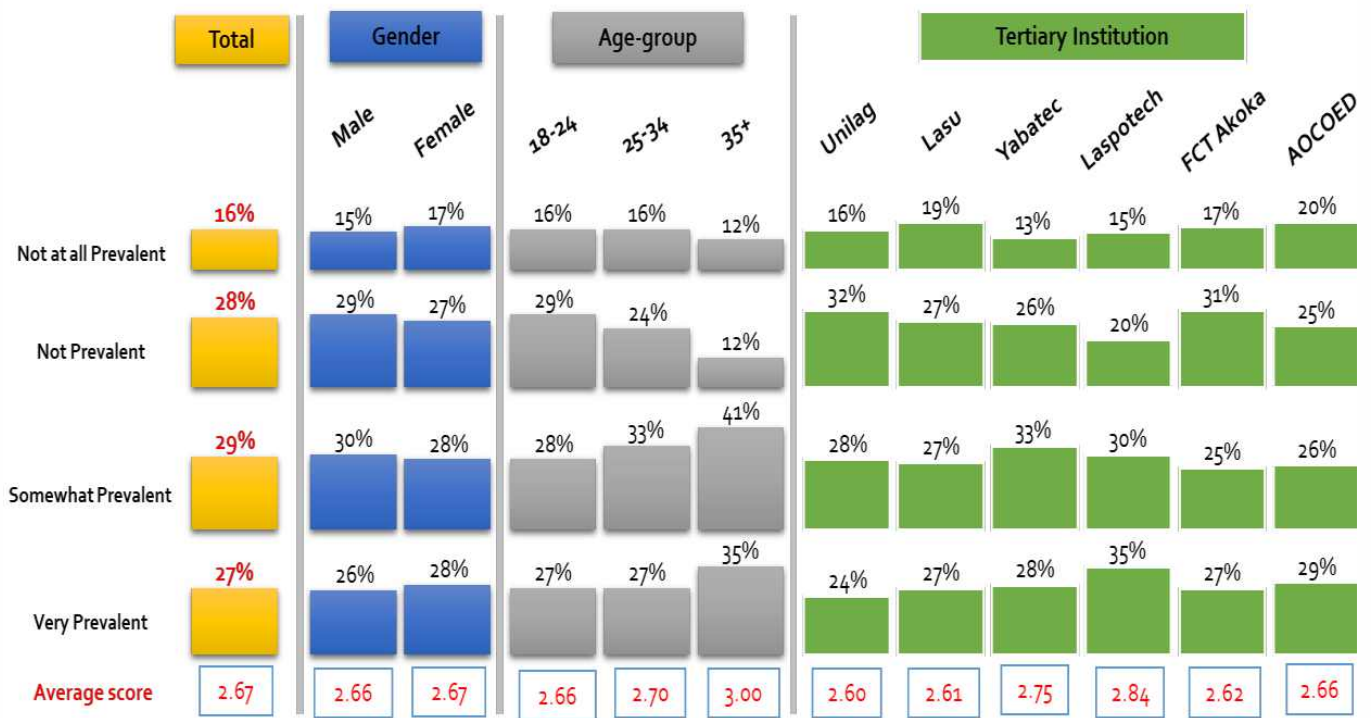


Figure 1: Prevalence of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria

To carry on with the conversation, respondents were further asked how prevalent rape is in TIs in Nigeria. Interestingly, a slight majority of the respondents (56%) described the prevalence of rape as either 'Somewhat Prevalent' (29%) or 'Very Prevalent' (27%). While (44%) considered the prevalence of rape as 'Not at all prevalent' (16%) or 'Not Prevalent' (28%). This only goes further to imply that not only is Sexual Abuse highly prevalent in tertiary institutions in Nigeria but also rape. Further disaggregation of the data across all TIs showed that on the average, about 56% of the respondents across all TIs described the prevalence of rape as either "somewhat prevalent" (28%) or "very prevalent" (28%).



On a scale of 1 to 4, where 1=Not at all Prevalent, 2=Not Prevalent, 3=Somewhat Prevalent and 4=Very Prevalent, the closer the average score value to 4, the higher the prevalence level of Sexual Abuse in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria. A Case Study of Lagos

Figure 2: Prevalence of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria

5.2 Victims of Sexual Abuse and Rape in Nigerian TIs

Respondents were further probed on their knowledge about victims of sexual abuse and rape in TIs and which particular group of persons are usually victims of sexual abuse and rape in TIs. Firstly, in terms of knowledge of victims of sexual abuse and rape in TIs, respondents were asked if they knew anyone personally who had been raped or sexually abused in the last 12 months. Although, the vast majority of respondents (95%) claimed not to know of anyone who had been sexually abused or raped on campus in the last 1 year, 5% of the respondents said they personally knew victims who were raped or sexually abused on campus in TIs. Interestingly, when further probed on the nature of the abuse these victims experienced, majority of the respondents (61%) indicated that the victims were raped by lecturers and cultist, while (39%) indicated that the victims were sexually harassed and molested.

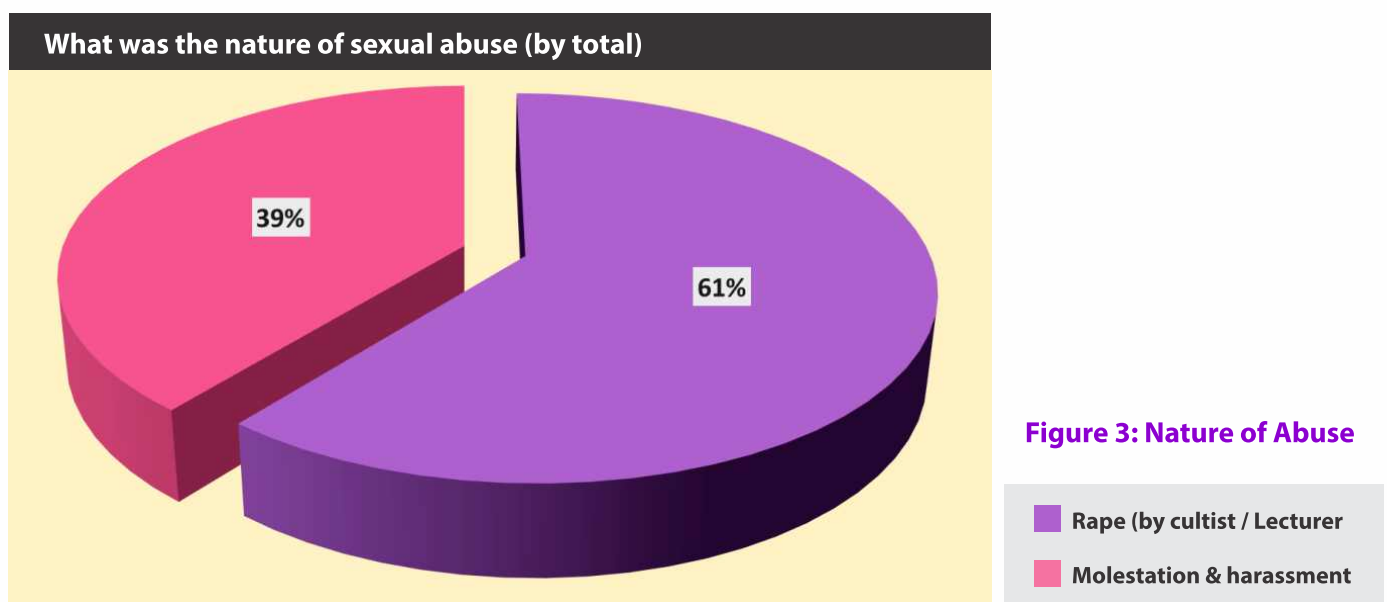
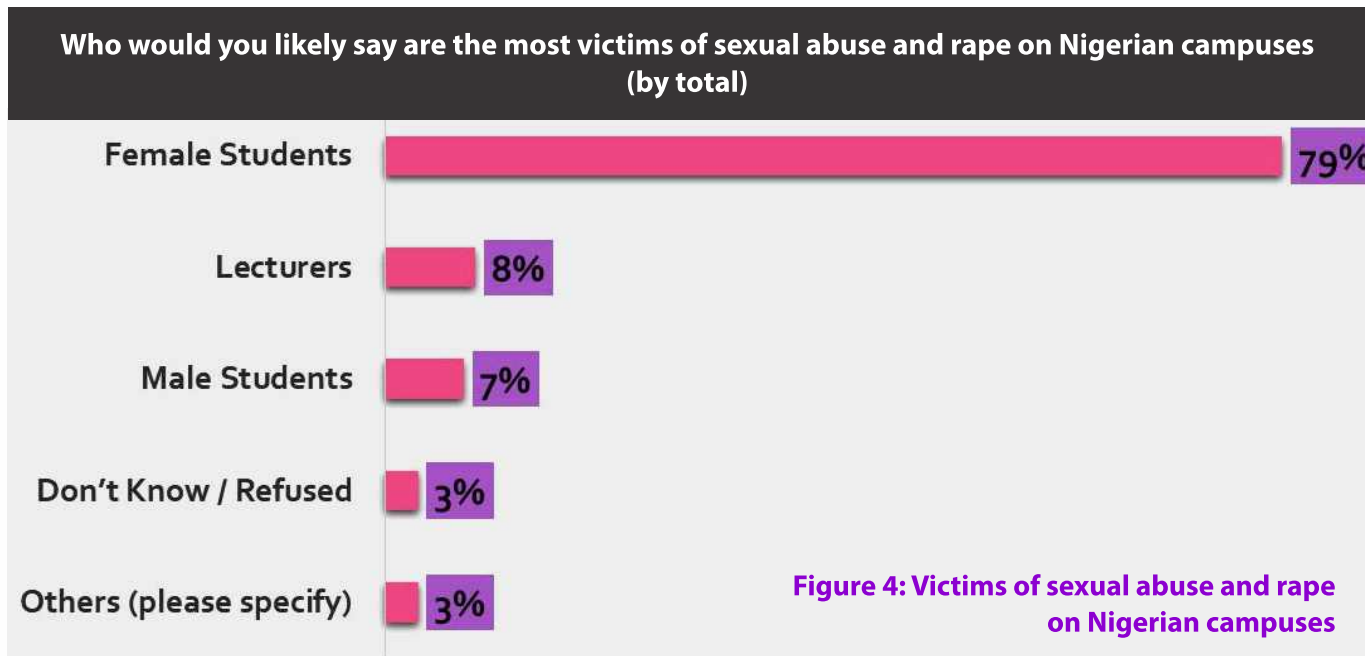


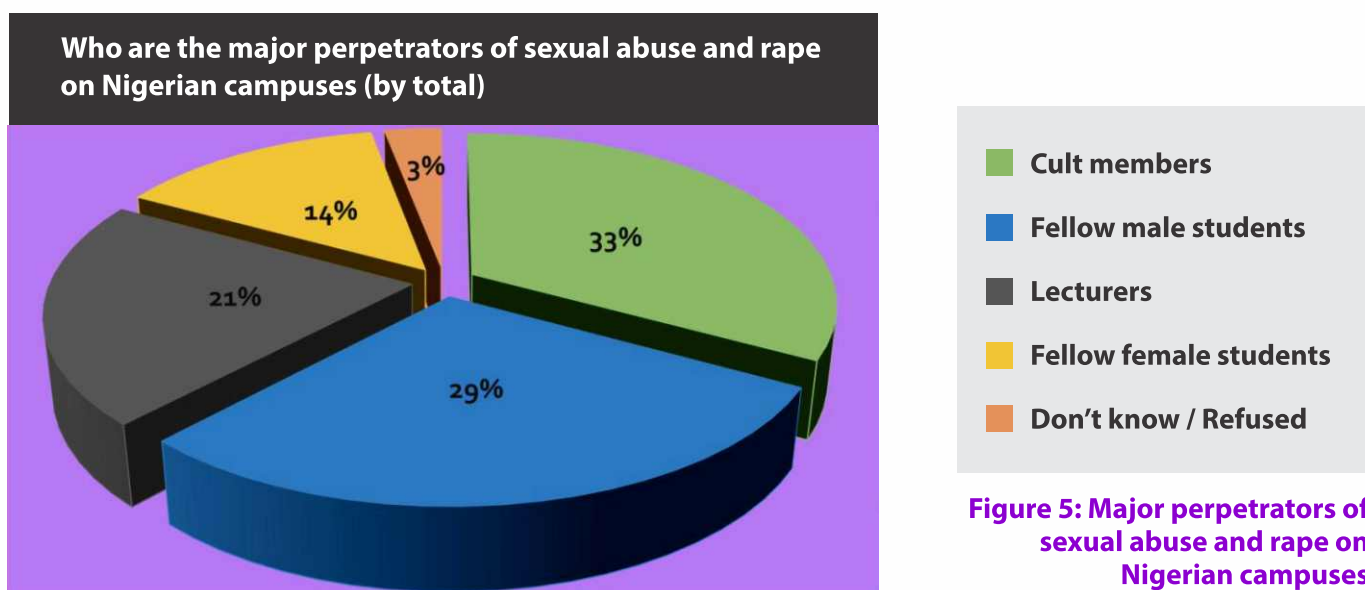
Figure 3: Nature of Abuse

■ Rape (by cultist / Lecturer)
■ Molestation & harassment

In addition to investigating which category of persons are victims of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, respondents were further probed on who likely are the victims of sexual abuse and rape on Nigerian campuses. From the findings, the vast majority of the respondents (79%) across all TIs indicated that the major victims of rape and sexual abuse on campuses are the female students. Interestingly, 8% of respondents across all TIs indicated that lecturers (male and female) are sometimes victims of rape and sexual abuse while 7% of respondents indicated that the male students are victims of rape and sexual abuse as well.



Lastly, when respondents were probed on who the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, although 3% of respondents indicated they don't know and declined giving their responses, majority of the respondents (33%), indicated that cult members are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape, followed closely by (29%) of respondents who opined that male students are also perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape. Interestingly, a significant number of respondents (21%) claimed that lecturers also indulge in this indecent act. More findings also revealed female students are not left out, as respondents (14%) claimed that female students join in the act of sexual abuse and rape in TIs. This implies that sexual abuse and rape is not an act carried out by the male gender alone, but by both genders.



Furthermore, when the data was cross tabulated by some socio-demographics, some interesting findings were revealed. For example, respondents who indicated that cult members are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape in TIs were seen more in LASPOTECH (50%), and AOCOED (41%). Also, respondents who indicated lecturers are the major perpetrators were seen in YABATEC (25%), UNILAG (24%) and FCTAKOKA (23%). While those who indicated that female students are perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape were found mainly in UNILAG (22%).

	Total	Gender		Age Category			Tertiary Institution					
		Male	Female	18 - 24 Years	25 - 34 Years	35 +	UNILAG	LASU	YABATEC	LASPOTECH	FCT AKOKA	AOCOED
Cult members	33%	34%	30%	32%	36%	55%	18%	39%	36%	50%	32%	41%
Fellow male students	29%	26%	32%	29%	31%	15%	33%	31%	28%	31%	28%	25%
Lecturers	21%	22%	20%	21%	20%	20%	24%	19%	25%	5%	23%	17%
Fellow female students	14%	15%	14%	15%	10%	10%	22%	7%	8%	11%	15%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	0%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%

Table 2: Major Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse and Rape by Total, Gender, Age-Category and TIs

5.3 Reasons for High Prevalence of Rape and Sexual Abuse in Tis

In order to find out the reason for the high prevalence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs, respondents were asked in their own opinion what could be responsible for the rising incidence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria. Findings across all TIs, 36% of respondents were of the opinion that: drugs abuse (15%); uncontrollable sex urge (12%); peer pressure (5%); and cultism (4%), were the major reasons for the high prevalence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria. While 8% of respondents were of the opinion that: indiscipline by some students and lecturers (4%); and inadequate security within campuses in TIs (4%), were the major reasons for the high incidence of rape and sexual abuse in TIs. However, large majority of respondents (63%) were of the opinion that inappropriate and indecent dressing is the major reason why sexual abuse and rape is common on campuses of TIs in Nigeria.

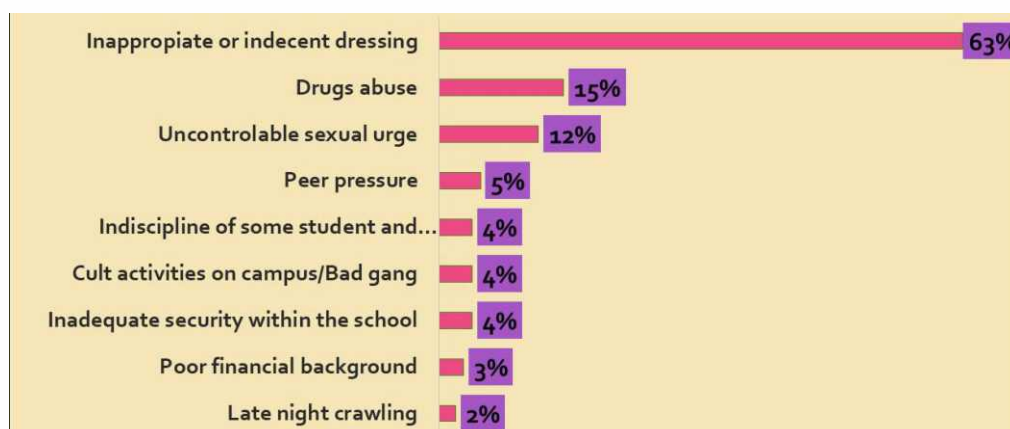


Figure 6: Reasons for the rising incidence of rape and sexual abuse

Furthermore, vast majority of respondents (94%) across all TIs in focus were of the opinion they would welcome any legislation on rape to end sexual abuse in Nigeria.

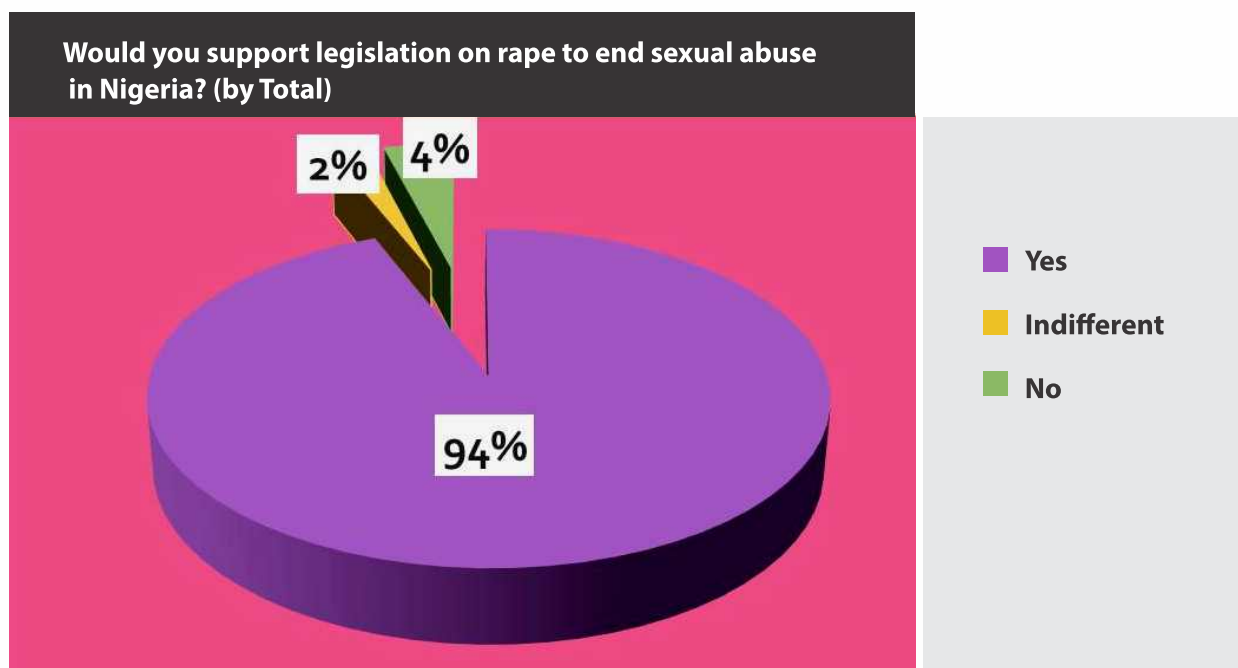


Figure 7: Estimate of respondents in support of legislation on rape to end sexual abuse in Nigeria

5.4 Perceived Solutions to addressing Sexual Abuse and Rape in TIs

Following anecdotal evidences and reports on alleged sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria, this survey sought to find feasible solutions from respondents on what can be done to curb the high incidence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs in Nigeria. Findings from the survey highlighted that 1% of respondents were of the opinion that victims should be encouraged to speak up and report offenders of sexual abuse and rape, while majority of respondents (37%) suggested that there should be public enlightenment and serious advocacy about rape on campuses in TIs, this was closely followed by 25% of respondents who suggested TIs should have strict rules on campuses to guard against indecent dressing which will in turn reduce sexual urges and have a significant effect in the reduction of sexual abuse and rape in TIs.

Furthermore, 38% of respondents suggested that the best way to reduce the high incidence of sexual abuse and rape in TIs is that: authorities of TIs should show more concern and seriousness in prosecuting offenders of sexual abuse and rape (21%); also, there should be provision of tight and adequate security within the environment in TIs (9%). This will go a long way to curb the activities of cult groups as opined by (8%) of respondents.

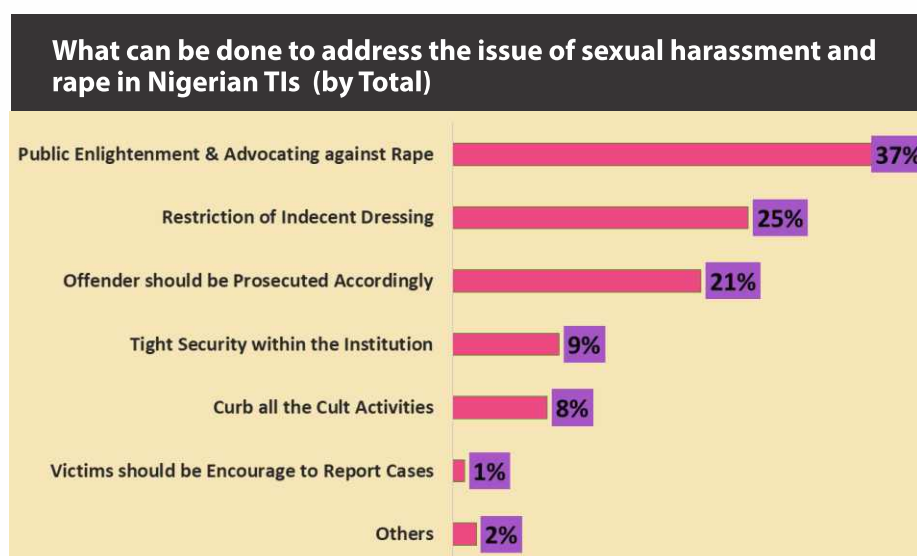


Figure 8: Suggested recommendations by respondents

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

As duly noted in the literature of this survey, rape and sexual abuse have a negative effect on the lives of victims and it continues to thrive because most victims fail to report these incidents to authorities due to various reasons as highlighted in the literature. This survey has brought to light the prevalence of rape and sexual abuse in Nigerian TIs and thus recommended the following:

Authorities of TIs should provide guidelines on the conduct of staff and ensure staff of TIs conduct themselves properly and follow these guidelines when discharging their respective duties. They also need to be serious in handling allegations on rape and sexual abuses on campuses by thoroughly investigating cases tabled against the conduct of their staffs and ensure victims are well protected and not victimized during this process. This will go a long way in removing the barrier of fear and victimization usually faced by students.

Authorities of TIs should work hand in hand with relevant security agencies to provide adequate security around the school environment and even outside the school environment. This will go a long way to tackle the issue of cultism and curb their activities.

CSOs, Rights Groups, and relevant stakeholders should intensify efforts to stop rape and sexual abuse by ways of public enlightenment so as to reduce stigmatization; and develop strategies to advocate against rape and sexual abuse in the society. Also, proper counselling should be given to victims and encourage them on the need to speak up so offenders can be properly prosecuted accordingly.

Authorities in government should show more commitment to end rape by reviewing, implementing and ensuring laws on rape and sexual abuse are fully implemented.



APPENDIX

Appendix

Survey Questionnaire

PERCEPTION SURVEY ON PREVALENCE OF RAPE IN NIGERIAN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF LAGOS STATE

INTRODUCTION

Good day. My name is:..... I am represent Heart Minders NGO based here in Lagos. We are currently conducting a perception survey on the prevalence of Sexual Abuse and Rape on Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria; using Lagos State as a Case Study. Kindly note that your responses will be analyzed as part of target respondents to get an overall picture and no response will be attributed personally to you. So, please feel free to tell us what you think. This questionnaire will take about 10 minutes. Do you wish to continue?

SECTION 1:

1. How would you describe the prevalence of sexual abuse in tertiary institutions in Nigeria?		
	Not at all Prevalent	1
	Not Prevalent	2
	Somewhat Prevalent	3
	Very Prevalent	4
	Don't Know / Refused	5

2. What about rape; how would you describe the prevalence of rape on tertiary institutions in Nigeria?		
	Not at all Prevalent	1
	Not Prevalent	2
	Somewhat Prevalent	3
	Very Prevalent	4
	Don't Know / Refused	5

3. In the last 12 months, do you personally know anyone who has been sexually abused or raped on campus?		
	Yes	1
	No	2

4. What was the nature of the sexual abuse? OPEN-ENDED QUESTION		

5. Who would you say are the mostly the victims of sexual abuse and rape on Nigerian campuses?		
	Male Students	1
	Female Students	2
	Lecturers	3

Appendix

	Others (please specify)	4
	Don't Know / Refused	5

6. Who are the major perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape on Nigerian campuses?

	Fellow male students	1
	Fellow female students	2
	Lecturers	3
	Cult members	4
	Others (please specify)	5
	Don't Know / Refused	6

7. In your opinion, what is responsible for the rising incidence of sexual abuse and rape in Nigerian tertiary institutions? **OPEN-ENDED QUESTION**

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8. What can be done to address the issue of sexual harassment and rape in Nigerian tertiary institutions? **OPEN-ENDED QUESTION**

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9. Would you support legislation on rape to end sexual abuse in Nigeria?

	Yes
	No
	Indifferent

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

10. Date of Interview

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11. Gender

	Male
	Female

12. Age

	18-24 Years
	25-34 Years

Appendix

	35 Years plus
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13. Are you a Student in this tertiary institution?		
	Yes	1
	No	2

14. Which tertiary Institution?		
	University of Lagos Unilag	1
	Lagos State University Lasu	2
	Yaba College of Technology Yabatec	3
	Lagos State Polytechnic Laspotech	4
	Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka FCTAkoka	5
	Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education Ijanikin (AOCOED)	6

