

EXPOSITION OF THE INCIDENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Chinwe Patricia Iloka

Abstract

It is a major contemporary issue regarding the incidences of sexual violence against women. The media has played efficacious role to bring this social bane to the beam light. However, there is still the scholarship gap which is uncovered by the media. In other words, an expository research is equally a pre-requisite for awareness and condemnation of the menace of sexual violence against women. These backdrops propel the researcher to tailor the aim of this study to expose the incidences of sexual violence against women. The research methodology was doctrinal approach, using expository and analytical research design. The main sources of data collection were various legal literatures, both from the physical library and the e-library. It was observed that there are chunks of occurrences of sexual violence against women which the women need devoted awareness creation on them and pragmatic approach to curb the menace. Therefore, it was recommended, among others, that feminist jurisprudence, human right scholars and the government should promote the exposition of the dynamics of sexual violence against women to scare to potential perpetrators and wise-up the women as well. Finally, this article was made to be significant to all stakeholders in human rights and feminism.

Keywords: Women, Exposition, Incidences, Recent, Cases, Legal, Human Rights, Sexual Violence

Introduction

Sexual violence is a distinct species of domestic violence which is a crime of power and intimidation. It relates highly to sexual assault. Not only can the abuse be emotional, physical, psychological, and financial, but it can be sexual. Some of the signs of sexual abuse are very similar to those of domestic violence. Sexual violence can happen to all classes of persons, irrespective of age and gender. That is to say, no one is exempted from the menace of sexual violence.

However, this study shall specifically examine sexual violence against women. A lot of incidences have occurred relating to women facing sexual violence. Failure to be well informed on this menace and its dynamics leads to perpetuating the cankerworm the more. It is worthwhile exposing the dynamics of sexual violence against women through the reported incidences. This and more are the tasks which this study is devoted to achieving.

Meaning of Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.¹ Coercion can cover a whole spectrum of degrees offeree. 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 consent - for instance, while drunk, drugged, asleep or mentally incapable of understanding the situation. Sexual violence includes rape, defined by some

¹World Health Organization, World Report on Violence and Health (World Health organization, 2002) P.149.

as physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus, using a penis, other body parts or an object. The attempt to do so is known as attempted rape. Rape of a person by two or more perpetrators is known as gang rape. Sexual violence can include other forms of assault involving a sexual organ, including coerced contact between the mouth and penis, vulva or anus.

Related Concepts

(a) Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is intimidation, bullying or coercion of a sexual nature, or the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favours. Sexual harassment includes a wide range of behaviours from seemingly mild transgressions to serious forms of abuse, and some forms of sexual harassment overlap with sexual assault. Sexual Harassment may include leering, pressure for dates, pressing or rubbing against a person, obscene phone calls, bra snapping, wolf-whistles, lip-smacking, indecent exposure, sexual discrimination, displaying explicit materials, sexist jokes, unwanted grabbing, comments about person's body, soliciting sexual services.²

(b) Sexual Violence and Elderly Sexual Assault

Elderly sexual assault is victimization of persons over the age of 60, most of who suffer from decreased functionality, frailty, and weakness and therefore are reliant on care takers. Many people who are victimized do not make report to the police. The most common assailants are caretakers, adult children, spouses and fellow facility residents. Signs that an elder is being assaulted include increased vaginal tearing, bleeding, bruising, infection, pelvic injury, soft tissue or bone injury. Also, an altered mood might be an indication of sexual assault. These symptoms include extreme agitation, post-traumatic stress disorder, withdrawal, panic attacks, STDs, exacerbation of existing illness, sleep disturbances, longer recovery times.

Some Recent Incidences of Sexual Violence Against Women

Case 1³

Police operatives in Agugu Police Divisions, Ibadan, Oyo State, have arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly defiling a four-year-old girl. The suspect who is being quizzed was alleged to have lured the innocent little girl with money. The victim (names withheld) suffered severe injury in her private part. Narrating how the incident happened, mother of the little girl, Madam Babalola told *Crime watch* that the incident occurred on 29th July, 2012 when she came out of her room and discovered that all the children were playing in front of the house. "I didn't see my little girl. I started searching for her until I saw her and she was looking dull. I started questioning her and took her to my room. She told me that she was in Femi's room and that she was feeling pains in her private part and I saw sperm.

I asked my daughter who did it and she said it -was Femi. This was around 7.30pm quickly reported the case to my parents. I challenged Femi, who denied having Sex with my daughter. I took my daughter to Adeboye Hospital Yemetu, Ibadan and the doctor confirmed she was actually defiled. Later, my neighbour

²Ibid.

³N. Uwujare, 'Man Arrested for Defiling 4-yr-Old Girl' *The Daily Sun*, Septembers, 2012, p. 36.

*went to Agugu Police Station and reported the case to the police and Femi was arrested.*⁴

The victim told the *Crime watch* that it was Femi who brought out his penis and put it in her private part in his room and later gave her money to buy biscuit. The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Mrs. Olabisi Ilobuafor, described the case as ugly incident and that the doctor's report confirmed that the suspect defiled the little girl. She said the case had been transferred to the State CID Iyaganku, Ibadan for further investigation.⁵

Case 2⁶

The Umuada Igbo, the cultural umbrella of all Igbo speaking women in the world, has vowed to take up the prosecution of rape cases in Igbo land. The women, who met at Eke Umunnachi in Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State and Central School Ebenebe in Awka North Council Area on Saturday to sensitise women on their rights, said they had already taken up four of such cases in Anambra and Enugu States. They said their resolve to intervene was informed by the rising incidence of rape in Igbo land, adding that they could not sit idly and watch the development. The leader of the group, Dr. Kate Ezeofor, described rape as the worst form of female abuse and decried its increase in the society. She also decried the situation where victims were reluctant to report to the police because they were afraid of being attacked by the suspects in the future and the stigma associated with rape.

Others who spoke during the event included the Deputy National Legal Adviser, Mrs. Nkem Anyaogu, and Chief Esther Onwubunka, among others. One of the women Mrs. Philomena Nnamani said, "The stigma is too much for women to bear, any rape case should be reported to Umuada Igbo and we will take it up, we are not ending it in the South-East but any state where victims abound." The women at the programme commended the group for taking the initiative to sensitise women and called on all men who engaged in female abuse and rape to desist from it or face the wrath of the women and the land.⁷

Case 3⁸

A 23-year-old girl known as Ngozi Francisca Okoli, a native of Umuhu Nkolofia in Akwa-Etiti village was murdered by men of the underworld in her father's compound on 29th July 2012. Ngozi's death occurred shortly after some group of armed men surrounded their family compound in Akwa-Etiti at about 4.30am. The five armed men manhandled her parents and collected their money and other valuables. Speaking to the Christian Outlook, George Okoli father of the deceased explained that at about 4.30am they heard footsteps at their backyard, and on getting up, the hoodlums flashed torch light in his eyes and asked him with their two children (Ngozi and Chidi) to lie face down. They instructed him to comb the house and surrender the money and belongings they have which they did. Mr. George further said that he smelled something fishy when they asked Ngozi (deceased) to come and give them money dragging her along with them while the girl screamed but that he was powerless to confront them. Ngozi's father noted that when this was happening, one of the

⁴Ibid .

⁵E. Obe, 'Igbo Women vow to take over Rape Cases' The Punch, August 12, 2012, p.5.

⁶P. Okpala, 'Virgin Girl killed by Rapists' The Christian Outlook, September 15, 2012, p.18.

⁷Ibid.

⁸P. Okpala, 'Virgin Girl killed by Rapists' The Christian Outlook, September 15, 2012, p.18.

men told another to go and bring block so they will use it and hit her, and he asked them "what has she done and why do they want to kill her".⁹

They started beating him with iron and different kinds of weapon they came with. They later took Ngozi away to another small room while they locked him and his wife (Mrs. Rose Okoli) with their son Chidi with one of the men watching them. Immediately, he heard the voice of the daughter screaming "please I cannot do it; I have not done it before" At around 6.00am he said that they struggled themselves out of the place they locked them and rushed to the room the armed men took Ngozi, he said that when they got there and opened the door, they saw her lying on the floor. They swiftly got her up, cleaned the blood on her body and called the vigilante and police men who came and took photographs and reports, and afterwards she was taken to Fatima Hospital Awka-Etiti where the doctor confirmed her dead before she was deposited in the Mortuary.¹⁰

Case 4¹¹

A father of four, Mr. Joseph (other name withheld by us), is currently cooling his heels in a dingy police cell after he was arrested for allegedly attempting to rape a five-year-old girl in Merian Area of Lagos. Joseph was picked up by the police on Friday, August 10, after the neighbour's raised an alarm at no 14, Kehinde Street, Olota, Meiran. The strange incident caused a major stir in the neighbourhood as residents gathered to catch a glimpse of the suspect in front of the house, even as his neighbours rained verbal invectives on him. In no time, the anxious spectators had turned into an angry mob; they swooped on the suspect, beating him black and blue. His hands were later tied and he was handed over to the police.

*Daily Sun*¹² learnt that the suspect, who lives in the same house as the parents of his victim, had lured the little girl (names withheld) into his room and attempted to have carnal knowledge of her. Checks revealed that Joseph, who was the only one at home, took the girl into his room while her mother (fondly called Auntie Sola by neighbours), an estate agent, went out to honour some appointments with some of her customers. Joseph was allegedly apprehended when returned suddenly from her outing and raised the alarm that suspect must have forced himself on her daughter in his living room on the day of the incident. The alarm alerted the neighbours who rushed to the suspect's living room to rescue the girl. Auntie Bola said: it really amazed me that my neighbour, who has four children, would do a terrible thing like trying to rape my daughter. I had gone out to see some of my customers some streets away from my residence. When I returned, I called out for my daughter but she was nowhere to be found.¹³

I kept calling her name and Joseph answered from his room that he had sent her to get some items nearby shop. "When I got tired of waiting for her to return, I decided to peep through the mosquito net on his door and I spotted my daughter's slippers in his sitting room."¹⁴ Oluwole said she was shocked when she entered Joseph's sitting room only to see him adjusting his shorts while her daughter knelt on the floor with her hands raised up. "I asked him why he was punishing my daughter in his bedroom and he told me he did that to correct her for buying junk. I quickly raised alarm and residents rushed to his apartment. When we undressed my daughter, we saw his

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ W. Balogun, 'Angry Mob batters Ex-Policeman' For attempting to rape Five-Year-Old Girl' The Doily Sun, Septembers, 2012, p.17.

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

semen rushing down her knees,"¹⁵ Responding to questions from our correspondent, the little girl said: "He called me into his room and asked me to remove my pants. When I refused, he forcibly removed them, dropped me on the bed and slept on me. When my mummy arrived and was calling me, he covered my mouth with my clothes. But when he discovered that my mummy was coming towards his room, he asked me to kneel down and raise my hands."¹⁶ Speaking on the effect the ugly incident has been having on her daughter, Auntie Bola, who had difficulties controlling the tears streaming down her face, said: "My daughter has been highly traumatized since the incident occurred. She can no longer stay in the room without somebody being with her. But I have started working on her psychology. We have also taken her to the hospital and the results of the checks the doctor carried out on her indicated that she was nearly penetrated."¹⁷

When Daily Sun called again at the home of the victim's parents recently, her mother said members of Joseph's family had been coming to beg them to drop the case. She said; "Although, the matter has been charged to court, the family members of Joseph have been coming to beg us to drop the case. Some days ago, about 13 members of his family came to beg us. They pleaded that we should drop this case because of God. They promised to refund all the money that we paid to the hospital as a result of my daughter's condition, saying we should consider that man's image was already damaged. They brought a certain slip and asked me to sign on it to show that I had agreed to drop the case. After much persuasion, I agreed and signed the paper but we are still going to court. They also brought a cheque of N10, 000 as payment for hospital bills but I've not collected that from them. I don't want a situation that would permit them to turn the case against me in future." Some residents, who spoke with reporter in confidence, described Joseph as randy and irresponsible and that he was dismissed from Nigerian Police more than five years ago.¹⁸

Case 5¹⁹

The women in the south-east geo-political Zone, under the aegis of Umuada Igbo Nigeria have vowed to prosecute any person involved in raping young girls, widows and aged women in the Zone and beyond. Announcing the decision of the women to fight headlong the rape menace, which had become worry-some, president of Umuada Igbo, Chief Kate Ezeofor said the body had already taken up four established cases. Ezeofor, who spoke to journalists at the weekend when the women gathered at Eke Umunnachi in Dunukofia Local Government and Central school Ebenebe in Akwa North Council, all in Anambra State, and the four cases they were presently handling were in Anambra and Enugu.²⁰

She further disclosed that the cases were the rape of a five-year-old-girl by a 45-year-old-man and the rape of two sisters by a 41-year-old-man. The other two were the rape of an eight-year-old-girl by a 46-year-old man and the Opi Nsukka mass rape of Women between 70 and 80 years by young men in the area. Nothing that rape or defilement was on the increase in the society, Umuada Igbo lamented that, "rape is the worst type of female abuse."²¹ They also lamented that the eight-year-old girl who was rape by the 46-year-old man, was working in clutches because of lack of treatment, as the parents could not

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹G. Anyanwu, 'South East Women go Tough on Rapists' The Daily Sun, August 13, 2012, p. 6.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid.

afford medication for her. According to the group, victims were always reluctant to report to the police for fear of being harmed by the suspects in future, just as they "are afraid because of the stigma associated to the issue and some due to poverty, accept money to keep their mouths shut."²²

Case 6²³

Another pathetic and devastating sexual violence meted out to children was narrated by Christian Agadibe²⁴ captioned "I lost my virginity at 7-12-year-old orphan impregnated by cleric. At an age when most of her mates are in primary school, a 12-year-old girl Monsurat has been put in the family way by a 43-year-old Muslim Cleric in Lagos. Young Monsurat, an orphan was allegedly impregnated by an Alfa who she said often lured her into his shop for sexual escapades that started about one year ago. The girl who became an orphan at a tender age told Sunday Sun that although she lost her virginity when she was seven years old by another man, she was sure that the 'Alfa' is the father of her unborn baby. She said that the illicit sexual affair with the man who enticed her with money and shelter when she had no place to sleep, started when she was 10-years-old. He warned the girl that if she tells anybody about the sexual ravishment, he would use juju on her since she was from Ijebu. The man stopped giving her money the moment she became pregnant. The accused denied the allegation saying that he is a married man with three kids, about the same age with Monsurat and that he had never had any carnal knowledge of her."²⁵

Case 7²⁶

The people of Nimbo in Uzo Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State are now following a recent attack on the peasant farming community by Fulani herdsmen. At least two villagers were killed in the mayhem unleashed on them by the herdsmen who allegedly settled on the community's farmlands in contravention of a subsisting court order. The invaders also allegedly raped women, burnt houses and vandalized yam barns before fleeing the area.²⁷

Case 8²⁸

Cynthia, sultry 24-year-old-post graduates students of the Nasarawa State University, and daughter of retired Major General Frank Osokogu, had made many friends on the social networking site, Face book, just like majority of youths, worldwide, who are addictive users of the social networking sites. Among her face book friends are two 'gentlemen', Okwuoma Echezona Nwabuofor, an undergraduate of the University of Lagos, and Eziekel Odera lkechukwu Olisa, an accounting student of Anambra State University. After months of confidence building, according to one of the suspects, they struck a deal with her, last month to let them make her boutique in Abuja. The poor lady must have believed and even trusted them. Business or friendship, Cynthia must have developed some mutual affection and trust with the men before she got to that tragic junction in her life, which perhaps, explains why she never had any scruples

²²Ibid.

²³C. Agadibe, 'I lost my Virginity at 7-12 Year Old Orphan impregnated by Cleric', The Sunday Sun July 29, 2012, p. 4.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶K. Uchendu, 'Fulani Herdsmen attack Enugu Community', The Sunday Sun, August 19, 2012, p. 11

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸S. Oshunkeye, 'Cynthia, Face Book and Internet Beasts' The Sunday Sun, August 26, 2012, p.71.

about allowing them to pay her way from Abuja to Lagos, pick her from the Murtala Mohammed Airport, and drive to the hotel they had booked for her in FESTAC Town.²⁹

Even if she harboured any shadow of doubt about the duo, on that fateful day, Sunday, July, 22, 2012, her faith in them must have blotted that out. So, off they drove to the hotel. That was the last time her loving parents, siblings, her real friends, anyone would see, speak to or hear from her. From what the two 'gentlemen' have told the police, they sexually assaulted Cynthia after injecting her drink with Revnol, a drug with anaesthetic properties used in short-term treatment of insomnia, and as anaesthesia in some surgical procedures. We are yet to be told if the lady died while they were defiling her or whether they clobbered or suffocated her to death. But after the deed had been done, we have been further told, one of them used an MTN cellular line to call the receptionist to come and remove the body of the bastard'. We also learnt that cops from the Area 'E' FESTAC Police Command responded promptly to the distress call by the hotel manager, and raced to the crime scene. There, they were confronted by the gory evidence of the iniquity committed by the god forsaken reprobates.³⁰

The police men found Cynthia's lifeless body bound in chains in the room. They took the corpse to the morgue and began to establish the victim's identity. It would be full week, later, that the Osokogu family would know the tragedy that had befallen them. Since then, they have been in deep mourning. Since then, too, the nation has been so shell-shocked it has not stopped wondering why some criminals would turn a seemingly harmless social networking machine to such a deadly weapon. This is a terrible thing to happen to a beautiful and brainy lady like Cynthia. No matter her errors in the matter, and we all have our personal failings, she does not deserve this tragedy. Her death, at the bloom of life, is a monumental Joss not only to her family but also to the nation. My heart goes to major General Osokogu and his wife, Joy, over this irremediable loss of their only daughter. I pray God to wipe away tears, comfort them, strengthen them and forever forbid evil from befalling their family. Like the bereaved father said, the lady's death should serve as a warning, not only to our youths who are addicted to face book and other social networking sites, but also to other users, to be more circumspect before accepting offers of friendship from strangers. Like the devil their father, criminals-blackmailers, con artists contract killers, hit men-are on the internet, just like they are in the streets, looking for people to defile, defraud, destroy, despoil and dispatch the land of dead.³¹

Case 9³²

A 33-year-old man, Nkemakonam Nwoke is in trouble because he molested female minors. Nwoke who lived at 7, Chief Nwatu Street Emene, Enugu is said to have defiled eight female kids of ages ranging between 3 and 6 years at his neighbourhood. Nkem's molestation of the eight minors was unnoticed until one of the girls who could no longer cope reported to her mother that the man was doing 'bad-bad' things with them. With further probing, the said parent was able to get the truth from her daughter who confessed that the man was molesting eight of them one after the other. Consequently, parents of the victims contacted mediating for the loss privileged and Women Development and the man was arrested. Narrating the story to our reporter in Enugu, Dr. (Mrs.) Betty Agujiobi who runs the NGO recalled how she got involved in the matter. I received a distress call from Emene, so I rushed there and it was a case of a

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid.

³²P. Obi, 'I love having Sex with Children', The Sunday Sun, September 23, 2012, p.10.

33year-old-man defiling minors in his area. One of the children was no longer comfortable with his lewd tendencies and she had reported to her mother and that was how the community knew.³³

The man had been defiling the children for over one year. "When I got there I had to interview the man and he admitted doing it. Asked, why he molested the children, he said he didn't know that he takes delight in having sexual relationship with children. He said he's shy and can't talk to mature girls. I probed further to find out if probably he used his fingers or his manhood and he told me he didn't use his fingers but his manhood. The oldest amongst his victims appeared to be very shy to say what the young man had been doing with them. Others told me what happened and they spoke in Igbo saying *Nkemna eme anyi ihe aruntala* (*Nkem* does bad-bad things to us). I asked further to find out the type of bad things he was doing to them and they explained what he had been doing with them and I had no option than to contact the police.

The police came and arrested the man and also told them the truth. He said he would not deny it and that probably God wanted to expose him.³⁴

Agujiobi said further "But the man called me and said there was one thing he wanted to find out. He said there was one thing he wanted to know how long he would spend in prison if he's convicted. I told him it would be about 7 to 14 years and he said if the jail number is multiplied by the number of children it will be too severe that he would prefer if it would see what we can do but that he has to maintain his story. Agujiobi said further that after they were tested for HIV/AIDS and the results were negative I asked their parents to take them for tests for other sexually transmitted infections and they went. They all tested positive and were placed on drugs. Before then, one of the parents told me that her three-year-old girl was experiencing vaginal discharge which was abnormal and that she never knew why until this thing came to light.³⁵

All eight children live in a cluster settlement in the same vicinity at a low income settlement at Emene where anyone who owned a television is seen as a lord. This young man entices these children with his television which tunes to the cartoon network. Parents didn't know these children ran to him anytime he was around. Whenever he wanted to molest them he would send some to go and buy biscuits and probably tell them the place to go which was normally a distance from his home. They complied and molested them one after other. He told me that he would spray his towel and lay the children on the towel and do whatever he wanted to do with them. Agujiobi revealed that three of the victims are from the same parents. The suspect who was arraigned at an Enugu East Chief Magistrate Court was remanded in prison custody and the file transferred to the Director of public prosecution.³⁶

Case 10³⁷

A lady believe to be in her twenties has been raped to an unconscious state by four men around Cemetery Road in Warn, Delta State. The victim, who is now receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital, was said to have boarded a taxi cab with four male passengers from Odion Road to her residence in Aguowe Street, Off Mac Demot Road. Daily Sun gathered that the driver suddenly took a different direction toward Cemetery Road to the chagrin of the victim. It was further learnt that the victim challenged the driver of the taxi but the other passengers drew a dagger and threatened to kill her if she raised any alarm. They thereafter, drove down to a storey

³³Ibid.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷P. Osuyi, 'Girl Gang-Raped to a Coma in Delta', The Daily Sun, January 4, 2013, p. 9.

building on the Cemetery Road where the miscreants had a field day raping the victim until she became unconscious. However, luck ran out on them as the matter was reported to the quick Response Squad of the Delta State Police Command in Warri, who swung into action and arrested one Akpofure, Seih and Obrakpo all Nos. 24, 64 and 66, Cemetery Road Warri.³⁸

Public relations Officer of the command, ASP Famous Ajieh, who confirmed the arrests in Asaba yesterday, stated that the police were currently on the trail of the fourth suspect, one Ebeme. Ajieh said the arrested suspects had confessed to the crime, adding that one Black Berry phone used by the suspects in recording the rape action was recovered. Ajieh informed that the command also had in its custody three suspected murderers and kidnappers including Ikweke, Uwaguna and Evjouke. He said the gang members were arrested for allegedly killing one Emmanuel Chukwunolu, who refused to be kidnapped on December 23, 2012 at Ebeneku in Ndokwa West Local Government Area of the state. The police spokesman added that investigation into the matter was on with a view to arresting other members of the kidnap syndicate.³⁹

Case 11⁴⁰

A 45 year-old commercial cyclist, Alabi Bakare has been sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour by a magistrate court sitting in Ikeja, for raping three under-aged girls. The Chief Magistrate A.O. Isaac, who presided the case found Bakare culpable of the sexual assault leveled against him by the police. He was arraigned on a one-count charge of raping a five year-old girl, little Alimotukazeem but he pleaded not guilty. Police prosecutor, ASP Bert Nwaokoye, had told the court that the defendant (Bakare) had a carnal knowledge of the minor on 3rd August, 2012 at about 7pm at No 19 Oluwakemi Street, Alapere, ketu Bakere who was an Okada rider and married to two wives was also alleged to have, in the recent past, sexually assaulted two little girls in the neighbourhood whose names were simply given as Jumoke, 3, and Azeezat, also 3. He further averred that investigation into the case revealed that Bakare has been having carnal knowledge with these minors over time before luck ran out of him in the act. According to the prosecutor, it was one Kehinde Ogundare, a neighbour to the culprit who caught him in the act with the little children and reported the case. The prosecutor also said that Bakare who was a Okada rider and a neighbour to the Plaintiffs kids was the person that usually ferries the children to and from school every day.⁴¹

Sexual Violence against Women

Sexual violence against women is a global human rights injustice of vast proportions with severe health and social consequences. Sexual Violence is a significant problem all over the world. Sexual Violence refers to sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given.

Anyone can experience Sexual Violence, but .most victims are female. The person responsible for the violence is typically male and is usually someone known to the victim. The person can be, but is not limited to, a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or family member. Sexual violence against girls is a global human rights injustice of vast proportions with severe health and social

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Ibid .

⁴⁰J. Ikem, 'Okada Rider bags 5-Year Jail Term for Raping Minors' The Christian Outlook, January 19, 2013, p. 21.

⁴¹Ibid.

consequences. Ending sexual violence will allow girls worldwide to live safer and healthier lives and fulfil their right to freedom from violence, exploitation, and abuse.⁴²

Sexual violence occurs throughout the world, although in most countries there has been; little research conducted on the problem. Due to the private nature of sexual violence, estimating the extent of the problem is difficult. Research in South Africa and Tanzania suggests that nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.⁴³

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.⁴⁴ Its impact on mental health can be as serious as its physical impact, and may be equally long lasting.⁴⁵ 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. Coerced sex may result in sexual gratification on the part of the perpetrator, though its underlying purpose is frequently the expression of power and dominance over the person assaulted. Often, people who coerce their spouses into sexual acts believe their actions are legitimate because they are married. Rape of women and of men is often used as a weapon of war, as a form of attack on the enemy, typifying the conquest and degradation of its women or men or captured male or female fighters. It may also be used to punish people for transgressing social or moral codes, for instance, those prohibiting adultery or drunkenness in public. Women and men may also be raped when in police custody or in prison.⁴⁶

The WHO has conducted a survey of available data and studies globally to assess the extent of this issue and issued a chapter-length report, called "Sexual Violence," as part of the WHO's larger 2002 "World Report on Violence and Health."⁴⁷ The report states that, globally, one in four women will likely experience sexual violence by an intimate partner and one in three girls report their first sexual experience being forced. Survey data taken during single calendar years in the 1990s showed that women reported being sexually assaulted at high levels in certain cities globally. During a 12-month period, 8% of women in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil reported assaults; 4.5% in Kampala, Uganda; 5.8% in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The rates over time show an even more drastic problem. Between 1989 and 2000, 7.7% of women in the United States reported sexual crimes against them; 23% in north London, U.K.; 29.9% in Bangkok; 15.3% in Toronto, Canada. More than 40% of women in parts of Mexico and Peru reported sexual violence during that period. Among the countries studied, Finland stood out for having the lowest rate—5.9%.⁴⁸

⁴²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, 'Sexual Violence' Online Dorai>ose<:<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/index.html>> accessed on 4th October, 2021.

⁴³G. Buga, 'Sexual Behaviour, Contraceptive Practice and Reproductive Health among School Adolescents in Rural Transkei' (2011) 86 South African Medical Journal, 523.

⁴⁴M. Holmes, 'Rape-Related Pregnancy: Estimates and Descriptive characteristics from a national sample of women'(2011) 175 American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.624.

⁴⁵S. Swiss, 'Violence against Women during the Liberian Civil Conflict' 279 Journal of the American Medical Association, 625.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷World Health Organization, World Report on Violence and Health (World Health organization, 2002) P.149.

⁴⁸Ibid.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In general, sexual violence has been a neglected area of research. The available data are scanty and fragmented. Police data, for instance, are often incomplete and limited. Many people do not report sexual violence to police because they are ashamed, or fear being blamed, not believed or otherwise mistreated. Data from medico-legal clinics, on the other hand, may be biased towards the more violent incidents of sexual abuse. The proportion of people who seek medical services for immediate problems related to sexual violence is also relatively small. Although there have been considerable advances over the past decade in measuring the phenomenon through survey research, the definitions used have varied considerably across studies. There are also significant differences across cultures in the willingness to disclose sexual violence to researchers. Caution is therefore needed when making global comparisons of the prevalence of sexual violence.

Recommendation is further distilled from the prism of observation that there are chunks of occurrences of sexual violence against women which the women need devoted awareness creation on them and pragmatic approach to curb the menace. Therefore, it is recommended, among others, that feminist jurisprudence, human right scholars and the government should promote the exposition of the dynamics of sexual violence against women to scare to potential perpetrators and wise-up the women as well.