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The **SOUND** of **SILENCE**

Interrogating the culture around
Sexual harassment in first generation
federal universities in South Western Nigeria
(CARTA SHINE PROJECT).

GRANT SUPPORTED BY:
Consortium for Advanced Research
Training in Africa (CARTA).



website: www.cartafrika.org

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Introduction

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) was formed, in 2008, to support the development of a vibrant African academy, able to lead world-class multidisciplinary research that impacts positively on public and population health.

CARTA is a collaboration of eight African-partner universities, four research institutions, and nine non-African partner institutions jointly led by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya, and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa.

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The consortium enhances the capacity of African universities to create sustainable multidisciplinary research hubs by supporting junior faculty members to undertake their doctoral training locally and to become internationally recognized research leaders.

CARTA's mission is to create and sustain African research-intensive universities that prioritize maintenance of a pipeline of high-quality multidisciplinary early career researchers (ECRs) in public and population health in the Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) region.

More information can be explored on the **CARTA website**@<https://cartafrica.org>

Research Team Members:

This project will involve experts from various fields including psychiatry, clinical psychology, and public health. All the research team members have an in-depth understanding of research among diverse and vulnerable populations. Also, the team members have a track record in collaboration across diverse locations and disciplines which will ensure that research results will outlive the project.

The Principal Investigator:

Dr. Boladale Mapayi is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Mental Health, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and a consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Psychologist at the OAU Teaching Hospitals Complex, Ile Ife, Nigeria. She had her MBChB degree (2001), M Clin Psychol degree (2012) and PhD (2017) from OAU, Ile Ife. Her core research interests are in the areas of women's and adolescent mental health, sexuality and gender-based violence. She has extensive skills in research methodology and interaction with survivors, vulnerable and abused populations.

The Co-investigators:

Dr. Ibidun Oloniyi is a consultant Psychiatrist and Senior lecturer in the Department of Mental Health, OAU, Ile-Ife. She recently completed her MSc in Global Mental Health at the University of London, where she received training in quantitative and qualitative research methodology. She will be involved in training research assistants, qualitative data collection and analysis. Her research interests include women's mental health and mental health of vulnerable populations.

Dr. Kunle Oginni is a lecturer and a consultant Psychiatrist. He recently completed his Doctorate studies at Kings College London. He has expertise in research into the mental health needs of sexual minorities and advanced statistical methods. He will bring these skills to bear in the analyses of the quantitative data and interpreting results from data involving sexual minorities.

Dr. Funmito Fehintola is a Cohort 9 CARTA fellow in the Department of Community Health. She is a consultant Public Health physician and currently at the thesis and manuscript writing stage of her doctoral research. She will use the skills gained during her PhD journey for data collection and analysis. Her research interest is in Adolescent health.

The Mentors:

Prof. Morenike Ukpong (Institutional mentor) is a Professor of Paediatric Dentistry and a renowned researcher who is meticulous about methodology. Her advanced skills in methodology will serve the project well. She has worked with sexual minorities and understands the importance of disaggregating data to dissect intersectionality in sexual harassment, sex, gender and sexual orientation.

Prof. Abigail Harrison (External mentor) is a Professor in the Department of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Brown University, USA. Her research focuses on gender inequality and empowerment, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa. She conducts interdisciplinary social science research, emphasizing qualitative methods and community-based participatory approaches. The project will benefit from her wealth of experience in the field of gender-based violence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

Sexual harassment (SH) is a widespread and recurring problem in educational settings. In Nigeria, SH came into the limelight through the Cooney's commission panel that was established to address allegations of female students failing examinations for reasons not based on their scholastic abilities. SH is not easy to define, partly because it does not involve a homogenous set of behaviours. In academic settings, SH includes requests for sexual favours and

verbal or physical sexual activities which are used as the basis for employing or awarding academic marks to an individual depending on acceptance or rejection of those advances and creating hostile learning environments when advances are rejected.

The global prevalence of SH in tertiary institutions is high. The prevalence is higher in Nigeria, ranging from 68% to 80% among female respondents and 69 - 99% when a broader spectrum of SH was assessed. There are gender variations in the experience and perception around SH in literature. Some authors have alluded to the fact that indecent dressing is a factor in SH and part of the recommendation for females is propriety in dressing as a means to prevent SH. SH in colleges and universities is grossly underreported. Survivors rarely report the SH experience. This is often because of unequal power relations, fear of loss of status, marks or job as retaliation and the attendant stigma that brings.

A number of studies have investigated the prevalence of SH and associated factors in Nigeria. Many of these studies have focused almost exclusively on heterosexual SH despite reports of same-sex SH. The present study will interrogate the culture around SH in Nigeria universities. We aim to explore the perceptions that drive heterosexual and same-sex SH among students and staff (including an objective assessment of the role of dressing), the social and mental health consequences among survivors, the institutional mechanisms present to prevent and respond to SH, determinants of the decision to report, the resultant actions taken and the lived experience for survivors. This study will investigate the experience of SH by men and women in heterosexual and same-sex relationships in universities in Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the proposed study is to determine the prevalence rates and correlates of SH in Nigerian tertiary institutions, and to explore the lived experiences of individuals who have experienced SH.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To determine the prevalence rates and correlates of heterosexual and same-sex SH among students and staff of first-generation universities in south-west Nigeria.
2. To determine whether the perception of dressing as being provocative is associated with the perceived likelihood of sexual harassment.
3. To explore the attitudes and perceptions of university staff and students about SH
4. To explore responses of SH survivors to the experience of SH
5. To explore the social and mental health sequelae of SH
6. To explore the responses of Nigerian tertiary institutions to SH.

Project Methodology

Research Design

This study will use a mixed methods design that consists of policy review, survey, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), In Depth Interviews (IDIs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and a quantitative study.

Study Sites

The study will focus on South West Nigeria where the culture is largely homogenous. The study sites will be the oldest federal universities which were founded at about the same time (between the end of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1960s) - the University of Ibadan (UI), the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), and the University of Lagos (UNILAG).

Population

The target population for this study are staff and students of the selected universities.

Procedure

The study will be divided into two main parts.

Quantitative:

The proposed sample size for the survey is 550 respondents from each of the three institutions. Proportional sampling will be used to calculate the sex and the staff to student ratios for recruitment.

Qualitative:

This will have two levels:

Desk Review:

A purposive sampling approach will be adopted in identifying, screening and selecting policy documents on sexual harassment across the three institutions. All the documents will be analysed based on their contents.

IDIs, KIIs and FGDs:

A purposive approach will be adopted in identifying Key informants in the Directorate of Student affairs (DSA), Anti Sexual Harassment (ASH) Committees and disciplinary committees in the 3 universities. A snow balling method will guide the process and a total of 15 KIIs will be conducted with 5 KIIs per university. Both students and staff who have survived SH will be targeted for IDIs. Recruitment will be done through interactions with core units of each university, such as the DSA, security unit, personnel unit and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that have had interactions with SH survivors across the three universities. The sensitivity of SH cases and the stigma attached call for a recruitment strategy that will ensure privacy, confidentiality and freedom to share experiences without reservation. An estimate of three IDIs will be targeted in each university. Interviews will be held on several (face to face, through telephone or video) platforms depending on suitability.

FGD participants will be randomly selected through a call on identified portals for students and staff in these universities to join a virtual hybrid FGD on SH. Participants will be chosen based on their consent to participate and equal gender representation will be prioritized. The sample size for the FGDs will range from 6 to 10 participants per session with two student FGD sessions and one staff FGD session per university. A total of nine FGDs will be conducted and it is expected that saturation within and across gender and locations will be achieved with this.

The quantitative data will be captured using a survey for the staff and students of the 3 institutions using a self-administered questionnaire which will be shared through the institutions' portals. The questionnaire will consist of a modified instrument with questions from the: (a) Sexual Experiences Questionnaire (SEQ W & E) (b) Administrator-Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ARC3) tool (c) Campus Conduct Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct tool (d) Pictures and questionnaire items to assess the tendency to perceive dressing as provocative and the likelihood of SH (e) sexual desire (f) the Patient Health questionnaire and (g) Suicidal behaviour questionnaire revised.

Ethical Considerations

The research protocol will be submitted for ethical review and approval to the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC), Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Lagos and University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Written consent will be taken from the participants in the survey and recorded verbal consent for the interviews and FGDs. Confidentiality will be ensured and psychological therapy will be offered to participants who exhibit or report distress.

Project Deliverables

As part of this research plan

1. All co investigators and research assistants will be trained on SH response and prevention. Acquisition of experience, advanced research skills and potential collaboration sources in the field of SH research by all members of the research team.
2. Presentation of policy briefs to the universities on the state of their SH policies and what (if anything) they need to revise to abide by global best standards.
3. Presentation of research findings at regional and international conferences.
4. Manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals.

Expected impact of the project

1. This project will lead to improved stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of the burden of sexual harassment in the selected universities.
2. It will improve the institutions' capacity to respond to sexual harassment.
3. It will provide important data concerning same sex sexual harassment in the selected universities.

Help for survivors:

If you or anyone you know have experienced sexual harassment of any kind, please reach out to any of the following organizations for support .

Lagos

BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights

Website: <http://www.baobabwomen.org>

Office Address: Agbonyi Road, Lagoon Estate, Lagos, Nigeria.

Phone: 08023330981; 014747931; 018980834.

E-mail: baobabwomen@yahoo.com

Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT)

Head Office DSVRT, Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja.

E-mail: info@dsvrtlagos.org

Toll Free Phone number: 08000333333

Project Alert on Violence Against Women

Website: <http://www.projectalertnig.org/>

Office address: 21 Akinsanya Street, Off Isheri Road, Ojodu-Berger, Lagos.

Phone number: 08180091072

E-mail: projectalert@projectalertnig.org

Oyo

FIDA Oyo State Chapter

Address: Aare Afe Babalola Bar Center, Opp. Old NTC, Iyaganku, Ibadan.

Phone No: 08034711989, 08167785700

E-mail Address: oyofida@gmail.com

Osun

FIDA Osun State Chapter

Office Address: No 150 Station Road, Osogbo, Osun state

Phone No: 08034659120, 08134349678, 08035746377

E-mail Address: Feozy2@gmail.com

Ilerioluwa Development Initiative

Address: Ilerioluwa House, Ogo-Oluwa, KM 4 Gbongan - Ibadan Rd, 230284, Osogbo
Phone: 08188316392

**Medical Women's Association of Nigeria,
Osun State Chapter (MWANOSUN)**

OAUTHC, Ile Ife, Osun state, Nigeria

Phone number: 08033930096

E-mail: mwanosun@gmail.com

**Women against rape,
sexual harassment and exploitation (WARSHE)**

OAU, Ile Ife, Osun state, Nigeria

Phone number: 08034078730

E-mail: warshen@yahoo.com

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Dr. Funmito Fehintola



Dr. Ibidun Oloniniji



Dr. Kunle Oginni



Dr. Boladale Mapayi



Prof. Morenike Ukpong



Prof. Abigail Harrison

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