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**FACTORS PREDISPOSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AS PERCEIVED BY LECTURERS IN  
AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY EKPOMA EDO STATE**

**BY**

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**Abstract**

The study investigated factors predisposing sexual harassment as perceived by lecturers in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State. Specifically. The specific objectives of the study were to examine whether sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure is perceived by lecturers as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State and further determine whether gender and age differences exist in lecturers' perception on factors (sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure) predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design. The population of this covered all the 675 university lecturers in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in the 2018/2019 session. The sample of 270 university lecturers was selected for the study. The proportional sampling technique was used to select 40% of the university lecturers from each of the faculties in the institution. The instrument that was used for this study was a questionnaire titled: Sexual Harassment Survey Questionnaire (SHSQ). The reliability of the instrument was done using the test-retest reliability technique. This was done by administering copies of the questionnaire to a trial group of 30 lecturers in University of Ekpoma. The researcher personally administered the questionnaire to lecturers in their offices in various faculties with the assistance of departmental class representatives and (executive members of departmental associations). Research Questions 1 to 4 was analysed with means ( $\bar{X}$ ), standard deviation (S.D). Hypotheses 1 and 2 were tested with the use of t-test for two independent samples. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The result shows that sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure were the factors predisposing sexual harassment among lecturers in Ambrose Alli University, Edo State. Furthermore, gender of lecturers and age determined the variations in the factors predisposing sexual harassment among lecturers in the institution. It was recommended that a special guidance and counselling unit should be created in the institution to equip victims of verbal and physical sexual harassment with coping strategies needed to resist the emotional trauma associated with harassment.

**Introduction**

Sexual harassment is a part of the everyday experience of students and teachers in universities. It is characterized as one of the most omnipresent and rampant form of gender-based violence which many ladies face daily. In the school system, there are implicit and explicit coercive sexual behaviours that are used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student. These include: withholding or threatening to withhold grades earned or deserved, submitting or threatening to submit an underserved performance evaluation, denying or threatening to deny a scholarship recommendation or college application (American Association of University Women, 2006). Sexual harassment, according to Melgosa (2010) occurs when someone at work or at school sends insistent and offensive messages of a sexual nature to another person, making him or her feel uncomfortable. These messages take the forms of erotic comments or jokes, sexual gestures or looks that, in the judgment of an impartial person, are inappropriate, pinching, caressing, or rubbing or pushing up against the person in such a way that the action appears natural, while, it actually causes shame, humiliation and even anguish to the victim, touching oneself or displaying signs of a sexual nature in the presence of the victim, notes, drawings, or e-mails of a sexual nature targeted at the victim, obscene jokes shared with the harassed person, chasing or placing pressure upon the

victim in order to obtain sexual favours, threats such as we are not going to promote you” “I will make sure that your salary is withdrawn or frozen,” “you are going to lose your job” if the person should turn the harasser in and refuse the requested acts.

It is common for harassment, as also observed by Melgosa (2010), to be performed by a high – ranking person in authority over a subordinate. In the university environment, the person doing the harassing may be a lecturer who sexually harasses an undergraduate by making suggestive comments about her look or even touching her in an erotic manner. This type of harassment from “strong to weak” reveals the abusing and insensitive personality of the harasser. Such lecturer may or may not recognize the possible emotional and psychological damage caused, but only seeks to satisfy his\her own sexual appetite. Basically, sexual harassment has been categorized into two major types namely: *quid pro quo* and hostile environment harassment. *Quid pro quo* harassment involves requests for sexual favours, generally by a school employee to a student in exchange for educational participation or benefit. Hostile environment harassment entails harassing sexual conduct that is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from educational activities (Ekore, 2012). Under the context of “quid pro quo”, a female undergraduate student that is desperate about getting a high grade for instance; might not consider the sexual advances of male lecturers in her faculty as sexual harassment but a “win-win” offer. Hence, she could take it as a welcomed idea to get what she wants. Moreover, such students’ reaction towards sexual harassment could differ from a young brilliant female student (of about 21-24years in 200 or 300 level), that is being failed deliberately by a lecturer (who is old enough to be her father), just because he demands sex for grade.

As sexual harassment encompasses a vast range of behaviours, there is much confusion about the problem. In fact, victims often do not understand what they are experiencing, or even when they are being hurt by it. Also, the people around the victim may have difficulty understanding and accepting the fact that harassment is occurring or has just occurred, and their reactions may increase the victim's confusion and isolation (Popoola, 2002). For instance, when sexual harassment victims speak out of what they have experienced, instead of the harassors, victims are often considered as being the problem. For these reasons, and because of the fear that harassment can incite, most victims never report what they have experienced. Stakeholders – educators, social workers, counselors and significant others have often tried to identify possible causes or factors predisposing sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is generally traceable to a number of factors. Some of these factors include the following: moral decadence, perceived defenselessness, lack of institutional penalties against harassment, gender inequality, quest for academic favour, sexual promiscuity on the part of the harasser, indecent dressing, drug abuse and alcoholism among others. Sexual promiscuity is the act of indulging or having sexual intercourse with several casual acquaintances. Misi (2008) opined that sexual promiscuity is the use of one body for the purpose of sexual gratification, remuneration or any other form of consideration. It covers four (4) basic forms namely: a) involvement in commercial sex, b) survival sex, c) casual/unprotected sex, and d) physical sexual assault. Involvement in commercial sex is common among undergraduates who trade their bodies in exchange for money to “sugar daddies and mummies”, randy men and itinerant people who travel from time to time seek the company of young ladies or men in hotels, motels and other accommodation facilities. Survival sex in the latin term is known as *quid pro quo* which literally means “give and take”. In the university system, survival sex can be seen in instances of sex for grade, sex for gifts materials, connections or fame. Casual/unprotected sex is one aspect of sexual promiscuity that often takes the form of having protected/unprotected sex with multiple sexual partners while physical sexual assault can be seen as one meted out on the opposite sex such as unwelcome sexual harassments like grabbing, touching, caressing, and even extreme cases of date raping. According to Uzokwe (2008), sexual promiscuity has made many undergraduates put up advances at their lecturers, to the point of even asking them out for sex or sending them suggestive messages and indecent dressing among others.

Another factor commonly discussed with sexual harassment is indecent dressing. There is a high level of subjectivism in people’s understanding of what indecent dressing is. However, in most public places like the university, Olugbile, Abu and Adalokun (2008) submitted that the two forms of indecent dressing common among undergraduates include: a) wearing of heavy makeup/makeover; and b) wearing revealing apparels/clothings that does not conform with the

dictates of the faculty/department. Most female students wear heavy makeup such as artificial eye contact lens, perfumes, lipstick while the males sometimes have strange haircuts and dye their hair in awkward colours or things. In regards to wearing of sexual erosive dresses, many undergraduates wear clothe that exposes their chest, breast, cleavage, waistline and even buttocks. These forms of dressing pattern all constitute indecent dressing. According to Olugbile, Abu and Adelokun (2008) women that expose their private parts by wearing short skirts, sleeveless clothes, and transparent wears among others, stand the risk of being raped, being sexually harassed. Aside, indecent dressing, they added that drug/substance abuse may also be associated with sexual harassment.

Drug abuse is the “arbitrary” over dependence or miss-use of one particular drug with or without a prior medical diagnosis from qualified health practitioners. Drug Abuse is the harmful use of mind altering drugs. The term usually refers to problem with illegal drugs, which also include harmful use of legal prescription drugs, such as in self-medication. On the other hand, some of the harmful or illegal drugs include but are restricted to: tobacco, Indian hemp, cocaine, morphine, Heroine, Alcohol, Ephedrine, Madras, caffeine, Glue, Barbiturates, Amphetamines among others. Oshikoya and Alli (2006) identified dependence and addiction as one of the major consequence of drug abuse, characterized by compulsive drug craving seeking behaviour, are use that persist even in the face of negative consequences. These changes are maladaptive and inappropriate to the social or environmental setting therefore may place the individual at risk of harm. Experiment with drugs during adolescence (11– 25years) is not only common but also remains one of the causes of sexual harassment. For instance, a male student under the influence of drugs or a substance may sexually harass another person by using derogatory words, grabbing, touching or even attempting to rape a female colleague he finds sexually attracted to. In another context, the pressure from peers could also make him attempt such dreadful act.

Peer pressure is the influence exerted by a peer group in encouraging a person to change his or her attitudes, values, or behaviours to conform to the group. On the positive side, the pressure to keep up with the peer group can also inspire teens to achieve goals that they might never aim for on their own. This explains why most young people prefer to be in the company of their peers, who offer mutual support in contrast to their parents, who they perceive as authoritarian. Regrettably, peer pressure could directly or indirectly influence adolescents to indulge in risky behavior such as sexual harassment. Direct peer pressure may occur in the form of encouragement in anti-social or deviant activities like rape, sexual harassment, theft, substance abuse, among others. On the other hand, “indirect peer influences can occur when youth associate with peers who drink or smoke, take harmful drugs (Douglas & Strauss, 2007). Therefore, it perhaps becomes problematic as children grow seeing their peers as role model.

Several studies had been conducted by scholars on factors predisposing sexual harassment Sexual promiscuity as a Factor Predisposing Sexual Harassment as perceived by lecturers in tertiary institutions. Studies Udigwe, Adogu, Nwabueze, Adinma, Ubajaka and Onwasigwe (2014) assessed factors influencing the sexual promiscuity behaviour among female adolescents in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. The study was a descriptive cross-sectional study From selected schools in the study area, 100 respondents were selected using stratified random sampling, giving a total of 400 respondents, but response rate was however 97.8%. Pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaires were used to collect information on variables such as: demographic characteristics, pattern of sexual practices/behavior and outcome. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (version 17) statistical software was used for data entry and analyses while the Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) statistical test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level. Results showed that the highest proportion of students who had ever had sex was found among the 16 - 17years age group while the modal age group was 18-19years for non-students. They concluded therefore that the sexual promiscuity behaviour such as unprotected casual sex was found to be a factor predisposing sexual harassment female adolescents in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Morhason-Bello, Oladokun, Enakpene, Fabamwo, Obisesan and Ojengbode (2018) investigated sexual promiscuity behaviour of in-school adolescents in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria. The study was descriptive and cross-sectional in nature. Four schools (2 within the metropolis and 2 in the outskirts) were selected using stratified multistage random sampling technique. Self-developed and administered questionnaire containing both open and close-ended questions

were used in the study. Data obtained were coded and entered into a computer running EPI-Info 2002 software package. Chi-square and parametric and student t-test were used to analyse data collected. Among other findings, results showed that majority of respondents' first sexual exposure were unplanned. The methods of sexual activity were mainly through vagina route but some had practiced oral and anal sex. Overall result showed that sexual promiscuity was major factor predisposing of sexual harassment in-school adolescents in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria.

Obeta and Uwah (2015) examined determinants of dressing patterns of female undergraduate students in tertiary institutions in Abia State, Nigeria. A structured questionnaire comprising 4 point scale was the instrument used for data collection. A population of 29,595 of female undergraduates was obtained from the 4 tertiary institutions in Abia State. Sample sizes of 400 female undergraduate students were randomly selected for the study but only 393 subjects filled and returned their questionnaires. The data collected were statistically analyzed using frequency, percentages and mean. The findings of the study among others revealed that the female undergraduate students dressing patterns are greatly influenced by imitation of western dress styles, peer/social group pressure, Mass Media, imitation of film actresses, Fashion in vogue. The findings of the study also showed among others that indecent dressing wearing transparent clothes, skimpy tops and heavy make ups to class are factors predisposing sexual harassment among female undergraduate students in tertiary institutions in Abia State

Okafor and Duru (2013) examined the relationship between indecent dressing and sexual harassment amongst undergraduates of Nasarawa State University, Keffi. The design of this study is survey. The participants for the study were drawn from the faculty of social sciences of Nasarawa State University. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select a total of 200 undergraduates within the age range of 16–30years from the four departments in the faculty namely: Psychology, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. Out of this, 114 were males while 86 were females. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. The statistical tool used to test the hypotheses formulated for this study was one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to find the relationship between the groups considered in this study. Result among others, indecent dressing wearing transparent clothes, skimpy tops and heavy make ups to class are factors predisposing sexual harassment among undergraduate students in Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

Idoko, Muiyiwa and Agoha (2015) conducted a study on drug abuse and family factors on sexual harassment and behaviour among undergraduate students of University of Ibadan, Nigeria. A sample of 360 respondents 182 male and 178 females aged between 16 and 21 years participated in the study. Using a questionnaire, four hypotheses were tested using regression and Analysis of variance (ANOVA). Result showed that drug abuse is a factor predisposing sexual harassment among undergraduate students of University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Akers and Sellers (2004) contended that “in the United States, drug abuse seem to be a stronger predictor of sexual harassment than parental influence. They argued that drug influence has strong direct effects on adolescent substance use, superior to parental attachment”. In New Zealand, Fergusson, Swain-Campbell and Horwood (2002) assessed deviant peer influence on indiscipline behaviours and substance use. The study found a significant impact of indiscipline behaviour on both psychosocial and criminal outcomes, such as violent crime, property crime, and alcohol and other drug abuse leads to sexual harassment among students

Oyekola and Agunbiade (2018) investigated the prevalence of child sexual harassment and teacher-parents' involvement in its prevention and management in a Nigerian town in Osun State. A cross sectional research design that consisted of quantitative and qualitative method was adopted. A questionnaire was administered among 443 in-school adolescents selected from high school using quota sampling technique and 10 teacher-parents of adolescents were interviewed. The findings showed that CSA was high (59.8%). Generally, parental involvement in the sexual issues affecting their children was somewhat negative. Consequently, child education, child security, discouragement of the use of handsets among in-school adolescents and severe punishments to offenders would help prevent and manage this menace. The result showed that peer pressure is a factor predisposing sexual harassment among adolescents in Osun State Falade and Fasuan (2017) examined the situation of the girl child and the several cultural and socio-economic factors that could contribute to the raising the sexual harassment of the girl child to violence,

rape and how the future could be secured for the girl child through good governance. Following this, the paper therefore observes the consequences of these vulnerability-enhancing risk factors among girl's children. The study relied on secondary data which involve the use of content analysis of the data, a field research to observed court cases on rapes and sexual violence and interview with some relevant people on the subject matter. The study found that good governance which entails rule of law, child protections services and sex-education would help to secure the future of the girl-child. The result shows that peer pressure could lead to sexual harassment

In the study by Imonikhe, Idogho, and Aluede (2012), they examined how teachers and students of tertiary institutions perceived sexual harassment. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The data for the study were obtained quantitatively and qualitatively from a simple randomly selected sample of 200 lecturers and 200 students from government owned tertiary institutions in Edo State of Nigeria during the 2009/ 2010 academic session. Specifically, of the 400 respondents who participated in this study, 200 of them were from the university and the remaining 200 were from the polytechnic. The demographic characteristics of these participants included 100 male students and 100 female students, 120 male lecturers and 80 female lecturers. A questionnaire, entitled Lecturers' and Students' Perceptions of Sexual Harassment Scale was used to gather data for the study. The reliability of the instrument was determined through the test- retest method on a sample of 20 students of University of Benin, Benin city, Nigeria. The scale yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.85. The analysis of data was carried out using frequency counts and simple percentages. The findings from the respondents reported the following factors of sexual harassment: sexual comment jokes, gesture (99%); touched, grabbed or punched in a sexual way (97% ); leaned over or cornered (92% ); receiving sexual notes or pictures ( 97% ); pressured to do something sexual other than kissing (93.5%); intentionally brushed up against in a sexual way(92.5% ); had your way blocked in a sexual way(88.5%): had clothing pulled in a sexual way(95% ); had clothing pulled off or down (85% ); forced to kiss someone (69%); and had sexual message written about you on public walls(85% ) are factors predisposing sexual harassment in government owned tertiary institutions in Edo State of Nigeria

Taiwo, Omole and Omole (2014) investigated the reoccurrence of sexual harassment and its psychological implication among students in five higher education Institutions in South West, Nigeria. The study population comprised of the student body across various faculties including Arts; Administration; Education; Engineering; Clinical Science; Health Sciences; Law; Social Science; Technology and Agriculture in the selected higher institutions in Osun state. A total number of 2500 (M=1221, F=1279) students selected through systematic sampling participated in across-sectional survey that used semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire in September 2012. A self-developed and well-structured questionnaire with six themes and seven items per theme was use in the study. The instrument was validated through a test-re-test method. Cronbach's alpha result yielded a validity of  $r=0.79$ , which was sufficient for administration. Result showed that the prevalence of sexual harassment in all the five education institutions is very high (97%) within the age of female students aged between 22years and below. Sexual harassment was also reported as a frequently occurring phenomenon that is announced through various media such as friends (92%), campus news bulletin (4%) and sharing of personal encounter (4%). They concluded that sexual harassment in more among female students aged between 22years and below.

Abe (2012) focused on the definitions and awareness of sexual harassment among selected university students in Lagos metropolis. Their experience and reaction to being personally harassed were explored, leading to their proposed solution to the problem. A total of 400 respondents were randomly selected from the two faculties of education in the metropolis. An adapted questionnaire was used to collect relevant data. Simple percentage was used to analyse data. Some of the findings included gender difference in definitions of sexual harassment. Similarly, more females than males had experienced sexual harassment; while only females reported cases of physical assault such as rape. The problem of sexual harassment has remained unaddressed in our educational institutions. It does not only prevent students from attaining their maximum intellectual, emotional and educational potentials but may also be regarded as a psychological threat to a conducive learning environment. Various forms can occur in the university setting among undergraduates and they include rape (by strangers or in dating relationships), unwanted sexual advances, sexual harassment, demanding sex in return for favours, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, fondling or

grabbing of sensitive parts. Due to the sensitive nature of sexual violence and the culture of silence in our society, there is very little reporting of such incidents. Nonetheless, victims of sexual harassment tend to feel overwhelmed and require ample support. Where this is unavailable/ inaccessible, they would be less likely to report and seek help (Abe, 2012; Arulogun, Omotosho & Musibau, 2013). A better understanding of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in the university campuses is critical for primary prevention.

Furthermore, it has been observed that moral excellence in universities is gradually on a decline. Many male lecturers are alleged to have turned the educational system to a goldmine, demanding sexual gratification before they award pass marks to graduate their victims who are mostly females. This scenario sometimes happens very subtly, 'warning sign.' For instance, a female student is likely to be at a loss when a male professor's friendly concern starts to feel like a demand for a sexual relationship that she does not want but afraid to reject. It is alleged that female lecturers also sexually harass their colleagues and some students verbally and psychologically in a manner that is seemingly at the low ebb compared to the males (Abe, 2012; Ekore, 2012). Although, many studies on sexual harassment has been carried out in studies. Many of them examined dimensions and prevalence of sexual harassment in various school setting –such as colleges of education in Edo and Delta States (Utebor, 2014), public universities (Imonikhe, Idogho & Aluede, 2012; Ekore, 2012) and even in private universities (Abe, 2012; Arulogun, Omotosho & Musibau, 2013). Interestingly, most of the studies were carried out within the South western region of Nigeria (Edo and Delta particularly) and simply focused on investigating the prevalence and dimensions of sexual harassment in Nigeria. The studies did not delve into exploring the factors predisposing sexual harassment in public universities in Edo State. Hence, a knowledge gap exists. To fill this gap, it has become pertinent to investigate factors predisposing sexual harassment as perceived by lecturers in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State.

### **Research Questions**

The following were the research questions raised to guide the study:

- 1) What is the perception of lecturers on sexual promiscuity as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?
- 2) What is the perception of lecturers on indecent dressing as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?
- 3) What is the perception of lecturers on drug abuse as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?
- 4) What is the perception of lecturers on peer pressure as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?
- 5) Is there any difference in lecturers' perception on factors (sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure) predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State according to gender?
- 6) Is there any difference in lecturers' perception on factors (sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure) predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State according to age?

### **Hypotheses**

The following were the research hypotheses formulated for the study:

- 1) There is no significant difference between male and female lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State
- 2) There is no significant difference between young and old lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

## Methodology

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. Population of the Study. The population of this covered all the 675 university lecturers in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in the 2018/2019 session. The sample of 270 university lecturers was selected for the study. The proportional sampling technique was used to select 40% of the university lecturers from each of the faculties in the institution. The size of sample is consistent with the argument of O'Sullivan, Rassel and Berner (2008) who noted that a proportionate sample size of 40% or even a sample as low as 1% is quite adequate if the sample is drawn from a set of homogenous groups or strata (which represents faculties in this study). The distribution of lecturers and sample drawn. The instrument that was used for this study was a questionnaire titled: Sexual Harassment Survey Questionnaire (SHSQ). The questionnaire was divided into three sections –Section A and B. Section A addressed demographic information of students such as: gender and age.

Section B dwelt on the various factors affecting sexual harassment among undergraduates in the institution. This section contained item statement containing four (4) broad factors affecting sexual harassment as follows: Sexual promiscuity (items 1-5), indecent dressing (items 6-10), drug abuse (items 11-15) and peer pressure (16-20). For instance, item 3 on sexual promiscuity, reads “*the desire to experimenting with sex makes people indulge in sexual harassment*”. Item 6 on Indecent dressing reads “*wearing extremely tight clothing that show one’s body shape can make people indulge in sexual harassment*”. Item 11 on drug abuse reads “*drug abuse can makes one sexually assault the opposite sex*” while items 19 on peer pressure reads “*people that give into peer pressure easily are at risk of indulging in sexual assault*”.

All the items were rated on a four-point likert scale: Strongly Agreed – 4, Agreed – 3, Disagreed – 2, Strongly Disagreed-1. A mean score of 2.50 was used as the benchmark for determining lecturers’ perception on the item statements. This was obtained by adding up the four-point responses (: Strongly Agreed – 4, Agreed – 3, Disagreed – 2, Strongly Disagreed-1) and dividing the sum of the scales (10) by the total number of scales (4) to give 2.50. Hence, a score of 2.50 or higher represents agreement while means score of 1 to 2.49 would be taken otherwise. The reliability of the instrument was done using the test–retest reliability technique. This was done by administering copies of the questionnaire to a trial group of 30 lecturers in University of Ekpoma. Adopting the Cronbach reliability analysis method, copies of the instrument was administered to the 30 lecturers in the institution. Their responses were entered into the computer system to determine the reliability of their responses on the prevalence and dimensions of sexual harassment. After the analysis, the reliability alpha on the factors predisposing sexual harassment is as follows: sexual promiscuity ( $\alpha = .84$ , items 1-5), indecent dressing ( $\alpha = .88$ , items 6-10), drug abuse ( $\alpha = .71$ , items 11-15) and peer pressure ( $\alpha = .73$ , 16-20).

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire to lecturers in their offices in various faculties with the assistance of departmental class representatives and (executive members of departmental associations). A letter to respondents was attached to explain the purpose of the research exercise so that even in the absence of the researcher, the respondents could respond to the items in the questionnaire. This was done to solicit their co-operation in collecting the desired information from them. Copies of the questionnaire were administered and collected immediately after administration to enhance the return rate. Research Questions 1 to 4 would be analysed with means ( $\bar{X}$ ), standard deviation (S.D). Hypotheses 1 and 2 would be tested with the use of t-test for two independent samples. The choice of the t-test statistics was informed by the need to determine the mean differences on perceived factors predisposing sexual harassment with respect to categorical variable of not more than two levels namely gender and age intervals. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

## Results

**Research Question 1:** What is the perception of lecturers on sexual promiscuity as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?

**Table 1: Mean score and Standard Deviation of the perception of lecturers on sexual promiscuity as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State**

S/n	Items	N	Mean	Std.dev.	Remark
<b>Sexual Promiscuity</b>					
1	The inability to stay faithful to one sexual partner leads to making sexually suggestive remarks about the looks of others	270	2.60	1.007	Agreed
2	The desire to experimenting with sex makes people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.69	.968	Agreed
3	The desire to indulge in unprotected sex with others leads to sexual harassment	270	2.67	1.031	Agreed
4	The desire to get paid whatever you want with your body make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.53	1.062	Agreed
5	Addition to sex pills can predispose people into sexually assaulting the opposite sex	270	2.52	1.066	Agreed
<b>Overall mean = 2.60</b>					

\* Significant mean ( $\bar{X} \geq 2.50$ )

Result in Table 1 showed that majority of the respondents agreed on items 1, 2, 3, and 5 at a mean score of 2.52 to 2.69 respectively. Furthermore, the overall mean score of 2.60 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, it is concluded that perception of lecturers on sexual promiscuity as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is high.

**Research Question 2:** What is the perception of lecturers on indecent dressing as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?

**Table 2: Mean score and Standard Deviation of perception of lecturers on indecent dressing as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State**

S/n	Items	N	Mean	Std.dev.	Remark
<b>Indecent Dressing</b>					
1	Wearing extremely tight clothing that show one's body shape can make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.36	1.101	Disagreed
2	wearing clothes that exposes one's chest/breast can make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.50	.990	Agreed
3	Wearing trousers(shirts) that are below the waist line can make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.60	1.051	Agreed
4	Wearing skimpy clothing can make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.65	1.072	Agreed
5	Wearing too much of face make up can make people indulge in sexual harassment	270	2.51	1.113	Agreed
<b>Overall mean = 2.52</b>					

\* Significant mean ( $\bar{X} \geq 2.50$ )

Result in Table 2 showed that majority of the respondents agreed on items 2, 3, 4 and 5 at a mean score ranging from 2.50 to 2.65 respectively and disagreed on item 1 at a mean score of 2.36. Furthermore, the overall mean score of 2.50 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, it is concluded that the perception of lecturers on indecent dressing as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is high

**Research Question 3:** What is the perception of lecturers on drug abuse as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?

**Table 3: Mean score and Standard Deviation of perception of lecturers on drug abuse as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State**

S/n	Items	N	Mean	Std.dev.	Remark
<b>Drug Abuse</b>					
1	Drug abuse can make one sexually assault the opposite sex	270	2.41	1.040	Disagreed
2	Taking more the prescribed dosage of a drug can predispose sexual harassment	270	2.46	1.061	Disagreed
3	Taking unregistered drugs from authorized sources can predispose sexual harassment	270	2.53	1.149	Agreed
4	Using pills that are not recommended for a particular ailment predisposes sexual harassment	270	2.39	1.094	Disagreed
5	Drug abuse leads to sexual harassment with the aim of satisfying immediate sexual urge	270	2.51	1.048	Agreed
Overall mean = 2.46					

\* Significant mean ( $\bar{X} \geq 2.50$ )

Result in Table 3 showed that majority of the respondents agreed on items 3 and 4 at a mean score of 2.51 and 2.53 and disagreed on items 1, 2 and 4 at a mean score range of 2.39 to 2.46 respectively. Furthermore, the overall mean score of 2.46 is lesser than the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, it is concluded that the perception of lecturers on drug abuse as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is low.

**Research Question 4:** What is the perception of lecturers on peer pressure as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State?

**Table 4: Mean score and Standard Deviation of perception of lecturers on peer pressure as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State**

S/n	Items	N	Mean	Std.dev.	Remark
<b>Peer Pressure</b>					
1	Listening to the suggestions of friends can make one sexually assaulting the opposite sex	270	2.47	1.065	Disagreed
2	People indulge in sexual assault because a lot of people their age have already had sex.	270	2.60	1.092	Agreed
3	Friends could push others into doing sexual harassment	270	2.65	1.152	Agreed
4	People that give into peer pressure easily are at risk of indulging in sexual assault	270	2.52	1.093	Agreed
5	Students make unwanted advances at their peers because their peers urge them to.	270	2.53	1.033	Agreed
Overall mean = 2.55					

\* Significant mean ( $\bar{X} \geq 2.50$ )

Result in Table 4 showed that majority of the respondents agreed on items 2, 3, 4 and 5 at a mean score ranging from 2.52 to 2.65 respectively but disagreed on items 1 at a mean score of 2.47. Furthermore, the overall mean score of 2.55 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Hence, it is concluded that the perception of lecturers on peer pressure as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is high

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference between male and female lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

**Table 5:** T-test analysis on difference between male and female lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

Variable	Sex	N	$\bar{X}$	S.D	t-cal.	P-value	Remark
Sexual promiscuity	Male	128	2.52	.754	-1.666	.097	Reject null hypothesis
	Female	142	2.68	.820			
Indecent dressing	Male	128	2.40	.781	-2.454	.015	Reject null hypothesis
	Female	142	2.63	.772			
Drug abuse	Male	128	2.40	.794	-1.097	.273	Retain null hypothesis
	Female	142	2.51	.824			
Peer pressure	Male	128	2.51	.849	-.832	.406	Reject null hypothesis
	Female	142	2.59	.799			

\* *t-calculated is significant at 0.05 level*

Result in Table 5 shows that the calculated t-value of -1.666 for Sexual promiscuity, -2.454 for indecent dressing, -1.097 for Drug abuse and -.832 for Peer pressure were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant difference between male and female lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant difference between young and old lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

**Table 6:** T-test analysis on difference between young and old lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

Variable	Age	N	$\bar{X}$	S.D	t-cal.	P-value	Remark
Sexual promiscuity	Below 45years	113	2.29	.706	-5.838	.000	Reject null hypothesis
	45years & above	157	2.83	.776			
Indecent dressing	Below 45years	113	2.32	.747	-3.769	.000	Reject null hypothesis
	45years & above	157	2.67	.778			
Drug abuse	Below 45years	113	2.23	.735	-4.075	.000	Reject null hypothesis
	45years & above	157	2.62	.823			
Peer pressure	Below 45years	113	2.30	.790	-4.419	.000	Reject null hypothesis
	45years & above	157	2.74	.799			

\* *t-calculated is significant at 0.05 level*

Result in Table 6 shows that the calculated t-value of -5.838 for Sexual promiscuity, -3.769 for indecent dressing, -4.075 for drug abuse and -4.419 for peer pressure were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant difference between young and old lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

### Discussion of Findings

The result shows that perception of lecturers on sexual promiscuity as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is high. The result is in line with that of Udigwe, Adogu, Nwabueze, Adinma, Ubajaka and Onwasigwe (2014) who found that the highest proportion of students who had ever had sex was found among the 16 - 17years age group while the modal age group was 18-19years for non-students. They concluded therefore that the sexual promiscuity behaviour such as unprotected casual sex was found to be a factor predisposing

sexual harassment female adolescents in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. The result supports that of Morhason-Bello, Oladokun, Enakpene, Fabamwo, Obisesan and Ojengbede (2018) who found that sexual promiscuity was major factor predisposing of sexual harassment in-school adolescents in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria. The result shows that the perception of lecturers on drug abuse as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is low. The result supports that of Obeta and Uwah (2015) who found that the female undergraduate students dressing patterns are greatly influenced by imitation of western dress styles, peer/social group pressure, Mass Media, imitation of film actresses, Fashion in vogue. The result corroborates that of Okafor and Duru (2013) who found that indecent dressing wearing transparent clothes, skimpy tops and heavy make ups to class are factors predisposing sexual harassment among undergraduate students in Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

The result shows that the perception of lecturers on peer pressure as a factor predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State is high. The result is in line with that of Idoko, Muiyiwa and Agoha (2015) who found that drug abuse is a factor predisposing sexual harassment among undergraduate students of University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The result supports that of Oyekola and Agunbiade (2018) who found that peer pressure is a factor predisposing sexual harassment among adolescents in Osun State. The result shows that there is a significant difference between male and female lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The result is in line with that of Falade and Fasuan (2017) who found that peer pressure could lead to sexual harassment. The result is in line with that of Imonikhe, Idogho, and Aluede (2012) who revealed that factors of sexual harassment: sexual comment jokes, gesture (99%); touched, grabbed or punched in a sexual way (97%); leaned over or cornered (92%); receiving sexual notes or pictures (97%); pressured to do something sexual other than kissing (93.5%); intentionally brushed up against in a sexual way (92.5%); had your way blocked in a sexual way (88.5%); had clothing pulled in a sexual way (95%); had clothing pulled off or down (85%); forced to kiss someone (69%); and had sexual message written about you on public walls (85%) are factors predisposing sexual harassment in government owned tertiary institutions in Edo State of Nigeria

The result shows that there is a significant difference between young and old lecturers on their perception of the factors predisposing sexual harassment in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The result is in line with that of Taiwo, Omole and Omole (2014) who found that the prevalence of sexual harassment in all the five education institutions is very high (97%) within the age of female students aged between 22 years and below. The result corroborates that of Abe (2012) who found that gender difference in definitions of sexual harassment. Similarly, more females than males had experienced sexual harassment; while only females reported cases of physical assault such as rape

## **Conclusion**

Sexual harassment still remains a social menace experienced among female undergraduates in higher institutions of learning in Edo State. Based on the findings, it was concluded that sexual promiscuity, indecent dressing, drug abuse and peer pressure were the factors predisposing sexual harassment among lecturers in Ambrose Alli University, Edo State. Furthermore, gender of lecturers and age determined the variations in the factors predisposing sexual harassment among lecturers in the institution.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) The university management should institute legislations or anti-sexual harassment policies that would help protect female undergraduates against all dimensions of sexual harassment from others.
- 2) The Students Union Government (SUG) and members of various students' departmental associations should ensure that necessary guidelines on behavioural conduct and acceptable social behaviours among students of the opposite sex are well communicated in the institution through bulletins, departmental notice boards and other students' forum in faculties.

- 3) A special guidance and counselling unit should be created in the institution to equip victims of verbal and physical sexual harassment with coping strategies needed to resist the emotional trauma associated with harassment.
- 4) There should be proper specification of dress codes in school and public places.

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