

## **Prevalence and Socio-demographic Factors of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus, Enugu State**

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### **Abstract**

Sexual violence is a serious public health menace that calls for attention. Prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in University of Nigeria, Nsukka is unknown and could be attributed to some socio-demographic factors. The study investigated prevalence and socio-demographic factors of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) Campus, Enugu State. The cross-sectional research design was used for the study. The population for the study comprised of 15,744 female undergraduates in UNN. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to draw the sample size of 405 students. A self-developed Prevalence Sexual Violence Questionnaire' (PSVQ) was used for data collection. Three experts from the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education validated the instrument. Spearman Brown's Correlation formula was used to test reliability of the PSVQ which yielded an internal consistency of 0.815. Out of the 405 questionnaires that were administered, only 392 were completed and used for analysis. The SPSS version 25 was employed for data coding. Frequency and percentage were used to analyse and answer the research questions, while Chi-Square statistics was used to test the null hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The findings indicated that 52.8 per cent of female undergraduates have experienced at least one form of sexual violence. Age, year of study, and relationship statuses were significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in UNN. However, stiffer punishments and measures should be put in place so as to discourage acts of sexual violence as well as ensure that there are adequate and accessible pathways for easy reporting of acts of sexual violence.

**Keywords:** Sexual violence, prevalence, Female undergraduates, Socio-demographic factors

### **Introduction**

Sexual violence is a serious public health menace that calls for eradication in the various Universities across the world. World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) estimated that about one in three of 736 million women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Globally, six per cent of women reported to have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner (WHO, 2021). More estimates indicated that one in three women experience sexual harassment in a public place (Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention [CDC], 2022). It can be seen that sexual violence is a very persistent and sadly underestimated social and health problem that occurs in pandemic proportions. Sexual violence is still very much an issue in Europe, Asia as well as Africa (Tesfaw & Muluneh, 2022).

The prevalence of sexual violence is generally high in Africa. It ranges from 16 per cent in Cameroun, 23 per cent in Sierra Leone, 34.4 per cent in Ethiopia, and 49 per cent in Ghana to 65.6 per cent in Zimbabwe and 67 per cent in Botswana (Hassen & Mohammed, 2021). In sub-Saharan Africa, some countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (47

%), Liberia (43 %), Uganda (45 %), Gabon (41 %), South Sudan (41 %), Zambia (41 %), Burundi (40 %), and Lesotho (40 %) have the high time prevalence of sexual violence among women aged 15–49 years (Ajayi et al., 2021). A major challenge faced in measuring indicators of violence against women in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly West Africa, lies in the lack of reliable data (Ouedraogo et al., 2022). Although studies in sub-Saharan Africa have shown similar prevalence, the true burden of sexual violence among undergraduate students in Nigeria appears to be unknown; as it is estimated to vary between 5 and 38 per cent across different parts of the country. The true magnitude of the problem however remains difficult to determine (Lasisi & Ozurumba, 2021). However, some efforts have been made to establish general prevalence of sexual violence in Nigeria.

A study in Nigeria has shown moderate prevalence of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence among secondary school students (Dibia & Nji, 2015). Unfortunately, majority of sexual violence cases in Nigeria go unreported due to fears on the part of the victim (Erinosho et al., 2018). The academic environment in Nigeria is not excluded from the trend of sexual violence. There is no doubt that campus-based sexual violence deserve serious attention, not just for the offensive nature of the behaviour, but more importantly because of the social and psychological consequences on the victim (Erinosho et al., 2018).

Sexual violence is usually regarded as an umbrella term that encompasses a range of different sexual offences. It is a gamut of acts including coerced sex in marriage and dating relationships, rape by strangers, organized rape in war, sexual harassment (including demands of sex for jobs or school grades), and rape of children, trafficking of women and girls, female genital mutilation, and forced exposure to pornography (Gavey, 2014). According to WHO (2021), sexual violence is defined as any attempt to obtain a sexual act or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape which is defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, any other body parts or object, attempted rape, unwanted sexual touching and any other non-contact forms. It is important to understand the ramifications of sexual violence as not only a physical act, but also could be verbal or visual sexual abuse or any act that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention (Emeka et al., 2022). Contextually, sexual violence is defined as any unwanted behaviours and advances on a female undergraduate such as unwanted sexual remarks, intimate referencing including verbal sexual threats, and fondling, sending wanted images via social media, rape, harassment, molestation, and inducing of sex by force in exchange for economic or academic benefits. Understanding the prevalence of forms of sexual violence such as harassment, intimate referencing, rape, fondling/grabbing of sensitive body parts, unwanted exposure to pornography and verbal sexual threats is critical for policy considerations and mitigation strategies.

Prevalence is a term that comes up frequently when discussing sexual violence. It shows how much of particular cohort have been affected by sexual violence at a given time. Prevalence is defined as the proportion of a population who have a specific characteristic in a given time period (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). To estimate prevalence, researchers randomly select a sample (smaller group) from the entire population they want to describe. It is reported as a percentage or as the number of cases per 1,000, 10,000 or 100,000 people. Epidemiological data on the prevalence and socio-demographic factors of sexual violence was used to understand the depth of the problem in UNN. For this study, the prevalence of sexual violence refers to the proportion of female undergraduates that are exposed to one form of sexual violence or the other in the past three months. The prevalence was considered alongside some socio- demographic variables.

Socio-demographic variables for sexual violence are those factors that explain the causes and are connected, and can lead to sexual violence (Hailu et al., 2020). Hailu et al. (2020) identified a number of factors which can make individuals vulnerable to sexual violence: they include female sex history of past abuse, poverty, war/armed conflict, psychological or cognitive vulnerability, single parent homes: social isolation (i.e. lacking an emotional support network), parents with mental illnesses, or alcohol/drug dependence. Hence, the socio- demographic factors for this study were defined as those factors that are commonly associated with sexual violence, such as year of study, age, and relationship status.

Year of study means number of academic years spent by a student in a tertiary institution. Year of study is a factor that greatly influences the prevalence of sexual violence. A study by Mezie-Okoye and Alamina (2014) revealed that year of study showed a high prevalence rate among female students who were in their 100 level of study and 200 level of study. This is likely due to the fact that female students are younger and less experienced in the finding their way around in the university and so fall prey to experienced male students and sometimes lecturers. Age refers to the length in time of a person's/being's existence. A study conducted by Hassen and Mohammed (2021) revealed that women less than the 25 years of age are the most common victims of sexual violence. This connection explains their level of maturity/experience in navigating the university environment. Besides age and year of study, another very strong factor is the relationship status of the student. Studies have shown that most women experience sexual violence from their partner/spouse/boyfriend at one point or the other. Ajayi et al. (2021) confirmed that there is high prevalence rate of sexual violence among female students who are in a relationship, and higher in students that are confirmed to be cohabiting due to that relationship. Another study conducted by Odini et al. (2022) confirmed a high rate of sexual violence due to intimate partner violence among undergraduate students who were dating while in school.

The population cohort to be studied is female undergraduates. Female undergraduates are students of tertiary institutions studying/ pursuing a degree programme. It usually features female students pursuing a bachelor degree programme. They are usually within the general age range of 16-30 years. A major part of the female population resides within the school's hostels with some other part living off-campus. This study tried and successfully represented both sides of the population. This was useful in the proper determination of the prevalence of sexual violence among the female undergraduates. The findings of this study would be relevant to female undergraduates, governmental institutions, health educators, non-governmental institutions, parents, policy makers, schools, and researchers when made available to the public by publishing the findings in journals, quarterlies, bulletins etc. and communicating them through seminars, workshops and conferences.

Sexual violence is a global issue and its victims are mostly women. Sadly, incidences of sexual violence are on the increase within the school environment and they hamper on the girls' right to education and safe learning space. Victims of sexual violence cases are reported to have high depression rate, failure at academic work, exposure to STIs, high-risk pregnancies and illegal abortions. Unfortunately, many female students are not even aware of the acts which constitute as sexual violence. Also, it is quite terrible that there have been reports which have exposed the stigmatization that comes with reporting such acts and the perpetrators who walk away without being punished for their crimes. These hampers many female students who would also wish to report such acts committed against them. Although a lot of research work has been done on sexual violence, there is need to conduct research on the prevalence and socio-demographic factors of sexual violence in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka on female undergraduates. This study seeks to close the gap and expose the necessary data as well as raise awareness on acts that constitute as sexual violence especially among female undergraduate students.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the prevalence and associated factors of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Specifically, this study determined the:

1. prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months;
2. prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in university of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months; based on year of study;
3. prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in university of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months; based on age; and
4. prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the university of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months; based on relationship status,

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were posed to aid this research.

1. What is the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months?
2. What is the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in university of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months based on year of study?
3. What is the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in university of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months based on age?
4. What is the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months based on relationship status?

### **Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were postulated and tested at .05 level of significance.

1. Year of study is not significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months
2. Age is not significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months
3. Relationship status is not significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the past three months

### **Methods**

**Design of the Study:** cross-sectional research design was used. A cross-sectional research design is a type of observational study design where group of subjects of varying ages are sampled and studied at the same time (Nworgu, 2015).

**Area of the Study:** The study was conducted in UNN. The university ranks as one of the most populous universities with a population of 44,242 students (ICT Unit, 2023). The Nsukka Campus houses 10 out of the 17 faculties of the University, and hence has a more diverse population necessary for the study. In recent times, on the campus there has been news of reported violence against female students and their lecturers which is part of what necessitated the study. Also, the researcher has heard tales of victims who have been assaulted by close friends and classmates which has also gone unreported. It is important to ascertain the prevalence of sexual violence within the academic environment, as it will aid a proper measurement and facilitate a response to action.

**Population of the Study:** The population consisted of all the female undergraduates in UNN totalling 15,744 female students from the 10 faculties in UNN (ICT Unit, 2022/2023 Academic Session).

**Sample and Sampling Techniques:** The sample size used for this study consisted of 405 female undergraduates. The sample size is in line with the suggestion of Cohen et al. (2018)

that when a population is 10,000 and above at 95% confidence level (5% interval), the sample size should not be less than 370. The multi-stage sampling procedure was used to draw out the sample size for the study. The procedure for sample selection involved three stages. In the first stage, the researcher used simple random sampling of balloting without replacement for the selection of five faculties out of ten faculties that were used for the study. The second stage, involved simple random sampling of balloting without replacement for the selection of three) Departments each in the selected faculties. The third stage involved selection of 27 female students from each of the sampled Departments using convenient sampling. This yielded 405 female students.

**Instrument for Data Collection:** A self-developed Prevalence of Sexual Violence Questionnaire (PSVQ) was used for data collection. The PSVQ was divided into two sections: A and B. Section A contained socio-demographic information (year of study, age, and relationship status) of the respondents (and Section B contained questions drawn to ascertain the prevalence of sexual violence. The respondents were requested to place a tick (✓) against the yes or no option(s) that best applies to them.

The face validity of PSVQ was established through the judgement of three experts from the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, UNN. Each of these experts was given a draft of 'PSVQ' alongside the specific objectives, research questions, and hypotheses. The experts determined appropriateness, clarity, suitability of language and ability of the instrument to elicit the desired information for the study. Their corrections and propositions were received and used to modify the final draft of the instrument that was used for the study. The internal consistency of the instrument was established by carrying out a trial-test using on 20 female undergraduates of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus. An index of .82 was established using split half method (Spearman Brown's Correlation Coefficient), using Cohen et al. (2018) as benchmark.

**Method of Data Collection:** In order to gain access to the respondents, a letter of introduction was obtained from the Head, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Oral consent was obtained from the respondents before administering the questionnaire. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to 405 respondents by the researchers. The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected on the spot. Out of the 405 copies administered to the respondents, 392 copies were returned, which gave a return rate of 96.8 per cent. The returned questionnaires were duly filled out and used for analyses.

**Method of Data Analysis:** The returned copies of the completed questionnaire were properly cross-checked for completeness of responses. The information from copies of the questionnaire was coded into IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS, version 25 for windows). Research questions were analysed and answered using frequency and percentage. The prevalence was categorised into three groups: no or low prevalence (0-9.9%), moderate prevalence (10-30%), and high prevalence (above 30%). This categorisation shows the severity of sexual violence. The null hypotheses were tested using Chi-square statistics at 0.05 alpha level at one degree of freedom. The null hypotheses were rejected when the probability value ( $p$ -value) is less than the alpha level, but where  $p$  value is greater than the alpha value, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

**Results**

**Table 1: Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus in the last three months (n= 392)**

S/n	Item statements	f	%	Decision
1	Harassment	135	34.4	High
2	Fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part	65	16.6	Moderate
3	Forced vaginal/anal intercourse	16	4.1	Low
4	Sex for financial/academic favour	23	5.9	Low
5	Unwanted exposure to pornography in form of sending explicit images	24	6.1	Low
6	Degrading sexual comments	51	13.0	Moderate
7	Rape	14	3.6	Low
8	None	185	47.2	-

Data in Table 1 show that more than one-third (34.4%) of the female undergraduates have experienced harassment as a form of sexual violence and almost half (47.2) of the respondents have not experienced any form of sexual violence.

**Table 2: Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus between based on Year of Study (n= 392)**

S/n	Item statements	First year (n=161)	Other years (n=127)	Final year (n=104)
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Harassment	44(27.3)	38(29.9)	53(51.0)
2	Fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part	22(13.7)	16(12.6)	27(26.0)
3	Forced vaginal/anal intercourse	5(3.1)	7(5.5)	4(3.8)
4	Sex for financial/academic favour	7(4.3)	3(2.4)	13(12.5)
5	Unwanted exposure to pornography in form of sending explicit images	7(4.3)	13(10.2)	4(3.8)
6	Degrading sexual comments	15(9.3)	13(10.2)	23(22.1)
7	Rape	2(1.2)	8(6.3)	4(3.8)
8	None	91(56.5)	60(47.2)	34(32.7)

Data in Table 2 show that among the forms of sexual violence experienced by female undergraduates; final year undergraduates had experienced harassment more than the other students and first year undergraduates (final year=51.0% > other year=29.9% >first year=27.3%). This is followed by fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part (final year=26.0%>First year=13.7% > other year=12.6%).

**Table 3: Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus based on age (n= 392)**

S/n	Item statements	16-20	21-25	26+ years
		years (n=165)	years (n=204)	(n=23)
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Harassment	41(24.8)	82(40.2)	12(52.2)
2	Fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part	22(13.3)	36(17.6)	7(30.4)
3	Forced vaginal/anal intercourse	4(2.4)	11(5.4)	1(4.3)
4	Sex for financial/academic favour	4(2.4)	17(8.3)	2(8.7)
5	Unwanted exposure to pornography in form of sending explicit images	9(5.5)	14(6.9)	1(4.3)
6	Degrading sexual comments	19(11.5)	30(14.7)	2(8.7)
7	Rape	3(1.8)	10(4.9)	1(4.3)
8	None	97(58.8)	81(39.7)	7(30.4)

Data in Table 3 show that among the forms of sexual violence, the age group of 26 years and above (52.2%) were found to have experienced harassment more than other age groups. This is followed by fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part (30.4%) while for degrading sexual comment recorded higher among 21-25years (14.7%).

**Table 4: Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus based on relationship status (n= 392)**

S/n	Item statements	Single	Dating	Married
		(n=299)	(n=72)	(n=21)
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1	Harassment	100(33.4)	26(36.1)	9(42.9)
2	Fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part	42(14.0)	17(23.6)	6(28.6)
3	Forced vaginal/anal intercourse	10(3.3)	5(6.9)	1(4.8)
4	Sex for financial/academic favour	13(4.3)	10(13.9)	0(0.0)
5	Unwanted exposure to pornography in form of sending explicit images	15(5.0)	8(11.1)	1(4.8)
6	Degrading sexual comments	36(12.0)	12(16.7)	3(14.3)
7	Rape	7(2.3)	7(9.7)	0(0.0)
8	None	151(50.5)	24(33.3)	10(47.6)

Data in Table 4 show that among the forms of sexual violence, married women experienced harassment (42.9%) more when compared to the dating (36.1%) and single (33.4%). This is followed by fondling/grabbing of sensitive body part; married (28.6%) followed by dating (23.6%) and single (14.0%).

**Table 5: Summary of Chi-Square Test of Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus based on Year of Study (n=392)**

Variable (Year of Study)	Prevalence		$\chi^2$ value	df	p-value	Decision
	Yes O(E)	No O(E)				
First Year	91(76.0)	70(85.0)	14.397	2	.001	Significant
Other years	60(59.9)	67(67.1)				
Final year	34(49.1)	70(54.9)				
Total	185(185.0)	207(207.0)				

*O(E) = Observed frequency (Expected frequency); df = degrees of freedom*

Table 5 shows a significant association between the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka campus and year of study ( $\chi^2 = 14.397$ ,  $p$ -value = .001 < .05) since the  $p$ -value is less than the level of significance at 2 degrees of freedom. This implies that year of study is significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduate students.

**Table 6: Summary of Chi-Square Test of Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus based on Age Brackets (n=392)**

Variable (Age Bracket)	Prevalence		$\chi^2$ value	df	p-value	Decision
	Yes O(E)	No O(E)				
16-20 years	97(77.9)	68(87.1)	16.082	2	.000	Significant
21-25 years	81(96.3)	123(107.7)				
26 years and above	7(10.9)	16(12.1)				
Total	185(185.0)	207(207.0)				

*O(E) = Observed frequency (Expected frequency)*

Table 6 shows a significant association between the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka campus and age bracket ( $\chi^2 = 16.082$ ,  $p$ -value = .000 < .05) since the  $p$ -value is less than the level of significance at 2 degrees of freedom. This implies that age is significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduate students.



**Table 7: Summary of Chi-Square Test Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus based on Relationship Status (N=392)**

Variable (Relationship Status)	Prevalence		$\chi^2$ value	df	p-value	Decision
	Yes O(E)	No O(E)				
Single	151(141.1)	148(157.9)				
Dating	24(34.0)	48(38.0)	6.865	2	.032	Significant
Married	10(9.9)	11(11.1)				
Total	185(185.0)	207(207.0)				

*O(E) = Observed frequency (Expected frequency)*

Table 7 shows a significant association between the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka campus and relationship status ( $\chi^2 = 6.865$ ,  $p\text{-value} = .032 < .05$ ) since the  $p$ -value is lesser than the level of significance at 2 degrees of freedom. This implies that relationship status is significantly associated with the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduate students

### Discussion

Findings in Table 1 showed an overall high prevalence of sexual violence. This is expected and unfortunate because it confirms the general stories and reports of sexual violence within the Nsukka Campus. The prevalence obtained in the study is higher than the findings of Ajayi et al. (2023) who reported a lower prevalence, as well as Lasisi and Ozurmba (2021). These findings of Lasisi and Ozurmba (2021) which was conducted in the north central geopolitical zone confirm an increase in the trend of sexual violence within the academic environment. There are chances that the prevalence of sexual violence among female undergraduates is higher than the reported prevalence because some studies averred that many forms of sexual violence are not reported by the victims (Laima et al., 2021). The high prevalence of sexual violence in this study confirms the speculations that sexual violence still remains a serious public health concern which should be addressed.

For this study, prevalent forms of sexual violence were harassment, fondling or grabbing of sensitive body parts and degrading sexual comments. This was expected given that most reports on sexual violence indicate these particular forms of sexual violence. The most common/experienced form of sexual violence was harassment for this study which varies from the findings of Mezie-Okoye and Alamina (2014) which recorded fondling/grabbing of sensitive body parts as the highest form of sexual violence; but it is in agreement with Laima et al. (2021) that recorded sexual harassment as the highest form of sexual violence. The finding agrees with the study of Hassen and Mohammed (2021) which recorded a higher prevalence for sexual harassment followed by attempted rape and rape. This could be as a result of high level of cohabitation among undergraduates in University of Nigeria as well as night activities such as night classes, bon fires, among others.

Findings in Table 2 revealed that final year female undergraduates have a higher percentage for experiencing sexual violence. This is surprising and because it is expected that first year female undergraduates in their naivety may have encountered sexual violence often. The finding contradicts a study by Mezie-Okoye and Alamina (2014) which identified that first year female undergraduates experience sexual violence higher compared to other years. This difference may be due to the fact that most female students in their first year approached the university environment with cautiousness unlike final year undergraduates who had spent

a lot of time in the school and as they advanced in the school system, they are more likely to come in contact with situations which would increase their likelihood to encounter sexual violence. Table 5 also indicated a significant association between sexual violence among female undergraduates and their year of study. This concurs with studies conducted in Rwanda (Nuwabaine et al., 2023) and Zambia (Masaiti et al., 2022) that also reported a significant negative association between study levels and sexual violence. This may be because the more educated one is, the more informed the person is on ways to mitigate the problems of sexual violence. Moreover, evidence shows an increase in sexual knowledge and a positive change in attitude towards violence following education and this would even be more pronounced if education is focused towards sexual practices (Nuwabaine et al., 2023). Therefore, it is paramount that there is continuous university community sensitisation targeting freshers and re-emphasizing to the other years and final years, the dangers of sexual violence and other forms of violence.

Findings in Table 3 indicate that female undergraduates who were 26 and above had more encounters with sexual violence compared to other age groups. This is surprising and could be due to the fact that the undergraduates above 26 that were studied were little. The finding is in contrast with another study by Ahmed et al. (2020) which identified a different age group (21-24 years) to have experienced sexual violence more. The study findings found that although those above 26 recorded a higher percentage, it is closely followed by the age group of 21-25 years. These findings were expected because majority of female undergraduates fall within 16-34 years, which are at highest risk of sexual violence (Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programmes, Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Crime Victimization Survey, 2020).

Findings in Table 4 showed that married undergraduates were found to have a higher percentage in experiencing sexual violence. This may be due to the fact that the married female undergraduates studied are quite small but this finding contradicts with the findings of other studies such as Laima et al. (2021) who found sexual violence relatively low in married women. This is because their marital status provided some sort of cover/protection. Whereas the finding agrees with a study by Hassen and Mohammed (2021) which reported that married women are more likely to report sexual violence due to their status and the increased likelihood for intimate partner violence.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:

1. Interventions should be done in form of creating awareness among undergraduates on acts and behaviours which are considered sexual violence so as to reduce the prevalence of sexual violence.
2. It would be imperative to organize easy channels for the reporting of sexual violence cases among students and make sure that perpetrators are punished accordingly to reduce the prevalence.
3. Parents and guidance should check up on their children from time to time to ascertain their needs, thereby reducing their dependence on others which could promote sexual violence.

### **Conclusion**

The overall prevalence of sexual violence was quite higher than those who hadn't experienced any form of sexual violence. Final year undergraduates were found to have experienced sexual violence more than other years. Undergraduates aged above 30 and those who were married were found to report more on experiencing sexual violence.

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