

## Assessment of Parental Attitude towards the Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools in Kaduna State

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the study was to assess Parental Attitude towards the Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools in Kaduna State. To achieve the purpose, ex-post facto research design was used. The instrument used for the study was questionnaire which was divided into six (6) sections. Section (A) contains the demographic characteristic of the respondents, B- parental attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools, C- Attitude of parents in urban and rural areas towards the teaching of sex education. D- Attitude of parents of various marital statuses. E- Differences between male and female attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools. The questionnaire was administered to a total of 460 parents, but 362 were filled and return 78.7% responses rate. Data was statistically analysed. The result of the finding shows that, there is no significant difference between parental attitude towards the teaching of sex education, majority of the respondents supported the teaching sex education in secondary schools, parents attitude changes based on their marital status, parent in urban and rural areas do not have similar attitude towards the teaching of sex education. It was therefore recommended that (1) Teaching of sex education should be encourage in all secondary schools (2) Parents in urban and rural areas should be educated to develop positive attitude towards the teaching as well as educating the children at home on the subject matter.

**Keywords:** Parental Attitude Teaching Sex Education.

### 1. Introduction

Sex education is the education given to a child about the act of sex. It is contrary idea of exposing the individual to the natural, physiological as well as physical differences between a male and a female or the physical sound relationship that may exist between male and female children, as well as that integral part of education dealing with the inculcation of the knowledge of family living and sexual behaviour which sharpen's health promotion (world health organisation WHO &USAID (2001).

In other words, sex education is an instruction in the processes and consequences of sexual activity, ordinary given to children, adolescents or an individual according to Microsoft corporation, (1998-2003). Historically, the task of educating adolescents about sex has been seen as the responsibility of parents. Although, parent- children communication in sexual matter may be hindered by parental inhibitions or by various inter- generation tensions. It has been observed that children rarely receive adequate information on sexual matters from their parents. Consequently, school have taken the responsibility of giving the children first-hand information about sex so as to equip them adequately on how to relate with other children of the opposite sex, process of human reproduction, the functions of male and female sex organs, the origin, spread and effects of sexually transmitted infections as well as family roles and structures.

According to Collins, (2002) & Robin (2002), the issue of sex education has been a controversy as parents do not seem to accept as to how, when and what to teach children regarding sex education. In a nutshell, the attitude of parents towards the teaching of sex education in school has been a matter of serious concern and this has a remarkable impact on the spread of sexually transmitted infections especially HIV/AIDS as well as unwanted pregnancy, abortion and death.

World Health Organisation (WHO) (1991) defined health as the state of complete physical, mental, and social well being of an individual and not the absence of disease or infirmity alone. Health education is that aspect that aimed at improving health related knowledge, attitude and behaviour. It is activated in schools to help student / pupils make and take intelligent decision that influences quality of life. An example of which is the teaching of sex education in schools. There is significant morbidity and mortality rate which could have been handled by the parents and schools if sex education teaching had been encouraged and implemented effectively. According to the interview conducted for Kaiser family foundation (2000), most parent (65%) believe that sex education should not only encourage young people to delay sexual activity but also prepare them to use birth control and practice safe sex once they do become sexual activity. The developed attitude could be classified as either positive or negative in orientation. Kreny (2012) stated that major determinant of attitude formation of an individual are want, information, group affiliation and personify.

Ariba (2000) noted that there are many reasons why sex education should be taken seriously since our world today has become just a global village. There are negative impacts on the recipient population that could be catastrophic unless such population are well informed and have involved in appropriate behaviour to cope with such information. The teaching of sex education will lead to avoidances of both physical and mental health traumatic occurrences experienced by both youths and adults due to ignorance. The young have the understanding of human reproduction, through the teaching of sex education also the consequences of prostitution are made known to the students (Emenike, 2008). The evil effects of adultery such as shame, guilt and hurt, the danger of criminal abortion, the agonies of unmarried matters and the hate of sex perversion are spelt out to students.

## 2. Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs)

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) formerly called venereal diseases, are spread by sexual contact. Some are also transmitted not by sexual contact alone, but blood transfusion. There are group of infections in which the principle of transmission is by casual contact. According to Obimu (2001), several kinds of STIs are epidemic including gonorrhoea infection, Urethra, not caused by gonorrhoea, (non- gonococcal urethritis, non-specific Urethra (NSU); genital herpes virus, genital warts, scabies (mites) and urethral and vaginal infection caused by the bacterium, chlamydia trachomatis, the protozoa trichomonas, and the yeast monilia, AIDS and hepatitis are also transmitted by unprotected sexual contact that penetrates through sex without the use of condom.

Ariba, (2000) & Adebajo, (2007) revealed that large numbers of infections are transmitted largely or exclusively by sexual contact. In addition to those epidemic disease, other diseases includes syphilis, crab like, vaginal infections, caused by haemophilus bacterium, molluscum contagious, chancroid (soft-sore), lymphogranulema, venescum and grand loma inquiraler. The epidemic nature of STIs makes it difficult to control preventing this ugly situations require among others measures of investigating the causative factors, education of the populace and specifically too, the teaching of sex education at the grassroots which includes schools, market places, organising workshops and seminars for the people at the work place and even the parents themselves. It is against this background that this study seek to assess the Attitude of Parents towards the Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools in Kaduna State. Kaduna state is divided in to three (3) Senatorial Zone. These are Southern Senatorial Zone, Central Senatorial Zone, and the Northern Senatorial Zone. Five (5) government secondary schools were selected from each of the zone within the state for the study.

## 3. Statement of the Problem

The development of any society requires adequate information and adoption. No citizen can develop productively without acquiring different types of the education including sex education. The importance of sex education is unquantifiable because the knowledge acquired contributes to massive reduction of morbidity and mortality of different types of sexually transmitted infections. The role of sex education could play emphasized due to the value sex education plays on an individual child, in schools, health related agencies, non- governmental organisations and development partners drives towards educating people particularly the youth about ravaging efforts and consequences of the dreaded

sexually transmitted infection such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, syphilis among others. (WHO, UNICEF & WARAPA)

In spite of series of efforts been made by individuals, International organisations and agencies, national organisations in health related areas to arrest this situation, sexual health related behaviour disease are still common among secondary school children on this issue, and this has resulted in significant recurrent of sexual behaviour that gave birth to many health related issues and death.

#### 4. Purpose of the Study

- To assess the attitude of parents towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools in Kaduna State.
- To assess the attitude of parents in urban and rural areas towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state
- To identify the attitude of parents of various marital status towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state.
- To assess the difference between male and female attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools.

#### 5. Research Questions

- What is the attitude of parents towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state?
- What is the attitude of parents in urban and rural areas towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state?
- What is the attitude of parents of various marital status towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state?
- What is the male and female attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools in Kaduna state?

#### 6. Hypotheses

There is no significant negative attitude of parents towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state.

There is no significant difference between parents in urban and rural areas in their attitudes towards the

teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of parents of various marital status towards the teaching of sex education in government secondary schools in Kaduna state.

There is no significant difference in the attitude of male and female parents in Kaduna state.

#### 7. Methodology

Methodology of this study dealt with the research design, population, sample and sampling technique, instrumentation, procedure for data collection and methods of data analysis.

Research Design was ex-post facto, and population for the study comprised all the parents of students in all the government secondary schools in Kaduna state.

Cluster sampling techniques was adopted in the existing three senatorial zones of the state. There are a total of 23 local government areas in the three (3) senatorial zones in Kaduna state. These are; Southern Senatorial zone which has eight local government areas with 159 schools. Central Senatorial zone has seven local government areas with 116 schools. Northern Senatorial zone has eight local government areas with 114 schools. Five (5) government secondary schools were selected from each of the zone as sample for the study through simple random sampling procedure. Questionnaire was used as the instrument. It was validated by three (3) experts in the field of health education, with the reliability of 0.89.

Copy of questionnaires were administered to each of the secondary under study within the three (3) senatorial zones. Stratification was made by grouping the students in ss1, ss2, ss3 and Jss3, to ensure that only students who are able explain to their parents about how to fill the questionnaire was given copies of questionnaires. A total of 460 students were given copies of questionnaire to be conveyed to their parents. Among the administered questionnaire, 367 copies (78.7%) were filled and returned.

Simple random sampling procedure was used to select five (5) student from each classes; ss1, ss2, ss3, and jss3.

The data collection was statistically analyzed and the result is presented below.

The demographic characteristics of the respondent include Age, gender, marital status, location and number of children used for the study.

**Table 1:** Demographic characteristics of respondents

S. N	Variables	Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	No Response	3	8%
		29 – 30 yrs	57	15.7%
		31 – 40 yrs	75	20.7%
		41 – 50 yrs	74	20.4%
		51 – 60 yrs	79	21.8%
		61 yrs & above	74	20.4%
		<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>	
2	Gender	No Response	3	8%
		male	165	45.6%
		Female	194	53.6%
			<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>
3	Marital status	Married	197	54.4%
		Divorced	64	17.4%
		Widow/Widower	39	10.8%
		Separated	61	16.9%
			<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>
4	Location	Rural	179	49.4%
		Urban	183	50.6%
			<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>
5	Number of children	1 – 2	87	24.0%
		3 – 4	141	39.0%
		5 – 6	89	24.6%
		7 & above	45	12.4%
			<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table one shows that 57% of the respondent were within the range of 20 – 30 years, 20.7% of them were within 31 – 40 years, 20.4% of the respondents were within the age of 41 – 50 years, 21.8% of them were within 51 – 60, while 20.4% of them were within the age of 61 years and above.

On the aspect of gender, 45.6% of the respondents were male while 53.6% were female. 8% did not response. Colum three of the table shows the marriage status. 54.4% of the respondents were married, 17.4% divorced, 10.8% were widow and widower and 16.9% of them were separated. Concerning number of children, 24% of the respondent have 1 – 2 children, 39% 3-4 children, 24.6% have 5-6 while 12.4% of them have 7 children and above.

**Table 2:** Frequencies and Percentage of Responses on Assessment of Parental Attitude Towards the Teaching of Sex Education.

S.N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
1	Teaching of sex education is an important form at social services	70	100	70	82
		19.3%	27.6%	19.3%	22.7%
2	Teaching of sex education is something I always want to encouraged	95	75	77	85
		26.2%	20.7%	21.3%	23.5%
3	Teaching of sex education is good because it enlightens children about facts of life	60	70	153	60
		16%	19.3%	42%	16%
4	Teaching of sex education is interesting because it deals with reality of life	50	80	80	92
		13.8%	19.3%	22.1%	25.4%
5	It encourage exploring the body	80	70	72	90
		22.1%	19.3%	19.9%	24.9%
6	Teaching of sex education is dull	112	40	60	90
		30.9%	11%	16.6%	20.7%
7	It promotes immoral behaviour	120	103	52	72
		33.1%	28.5%	14.4%	19.9%

Table 2 above shows the parental attitudes towards the teaching of sex education. 26.7% of the respondee were of the opinion that teaching sex education is something they always wanted to encourage, 20.7% agreed, 21.3% disagreed and 23.5% strongly disagreed while a few (8.3%) could not respond. 19.3% of the respondents strongly agreed, 27.6% agreed that sex education is an important form of social services, while 22.1% of them disagreed and 25.4% strongly disagreed. 11% of them show no opinion. On the aspect of teaching sex education as interesting information, because it deals with reality of life, 13.8% strongly agreed to it, 22.1% agreed, 22.1% disagreed and 25.4% strongly disagreed to the statement.

22.1% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that sex education encourage exploration of the body while 19.9% and 24.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. Furthermore, 30.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that the teaching of sex education is dull, 11% agreed, and 16.6% disagreed while 20.7% strongly disagreed.

In addition, 33.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that sex education promotes immoral behaviour, 28.5% agreed, 14.4% disagreed, 19.9% strongly disagreed that fact. Finally, 34.5% of the respondents opined that teaching of sex education is good because it gives a person the opportunity to correct misconception about the subject matter. 28.7% agreed, 13.8% disagreed, 10.2% strongly disagreed and 2.8% were adamant.

**Table 3;** Frequencies and Percentages of Responses on the Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools.

SN	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
1	Teaching of sex education provides opportunity for proper counselling	120	88	74	50
		33.1%	24.3%	20.4%	13.8%
2	The teaching of sex education exposes students to immorality	200	90	45	14
		55.2%	24.9%	12.4%	3.9%
3	It allows student to understand their body better	90	111	80	70
		24.9%	30.7%	22.1%	19.3%
4	Exposing student to sex education will lead to experimentation	180	100	10	67
		49.7%	27.6%	2.8%	18.5%
5	Teaching of sex education may encourage spread of HIV/AIDS.	180	80	57	31
		49.17%	22.1%	15.7%	8.16
6	Teaching of sex education promote waywardness	210	100	33	16
		58%	27.6%	9.1%	4.4%
7	I am indifferent to the teaching of sex education to secondary schools	200	50	42	40
		55.2%	13.8%	11.6%	11%
8	Teaching of sex education to secondary schools students should be discouraged	150	49	45	29
		41.4%	32.9%	12.4%	8%
9	My negative attitude to the teaching of sex education is because, it is left in the hands of young teachers.	250	70	13	20
		69.1%	19.9%	3.6%	5.5%
10	I will appreciate if it teaching is handled by professionals	290	112	20	25
		52%	30.9%	5.5%	6.9%
11	My attitude to it's teaching is because of my own experiences.	180	100	32	40
		49.7%	27.6%	8.8%	11%

Table 3 shows responses of the respondents on the teaching of sex education in secondary schools. 33.1% of the respondents strongly agreed and 24.3% agreed that the teaching of sex education provides opportunity for proper counselling, while 20.4% and 13.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. About 8.3% of them showed no respond. 55.2% strongly agreed and 24.9% agreed that teaching of sex education exposes students to immortality, 12.4% disagreed and 3.9% strongly disagreed that fact. 24.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that it allows student s to understand their body better, 199% agreed to that while 22.1% disagreed and 19.3% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 49.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that teaching of sex education exposes students to experimentation. 27.6% agreed, while 2.8% of them disagreed and 18.5% strongly disagreed. Also 49.7% of them opined that the teaching of sex education may encourage the spread of HIV/AIDS, 22.1% agreed and 15.7% disagreed while 8.6% strongly disagreed. 58% Of the respondents have the opined that, teaching of sex education may promote waywardness, 27.6% agreed, 9.1 and 4.4% do not support the statement. 55.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that their indifferent to the teaching of sex education to secondary school students, 13.8% supported it as well. While 11.6% did not.

In addition, 41.4 and 32.9% strongly agreed respectively that teaching of sex education should be discouraged, but 12.4% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed to that issue. 69.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that their negative attitude to the teaching of sex education was because it is left in the hands of young teachers. But 5.5% of them objected to it. Similarly, 52.5 of the respondents stated that they will appreciate if the teaching is handled by professionals while minority objected to the fact.

Finally, majority of the respondents i.e. 49.7% opined that their attitude towards the teaching of sex education is because of their own pass experiences. But a few of them 11% did not support that fact.

Hypothesis 1

**Table 4;** T-Test for differences between Parents in their Attitude in Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools in Urban and Rural Areas.

location	N	mean	SD	SC	DF	T	p
Urban	183	6.5663	1.04146	.170766	360	7.213	.000
Rural	197	1.5055	50056	.02631			

T= 1.96 df 360 < 0.05

The result in table 4 above revealed that the calculated t-value at 7.213 is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 360 degree of freedom. The p value is .000 which is lower than 0.05 level of significant. The null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between parents in urban and rural areas in their attitude to teaching of sex education in secondary school is thereforE rejected.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant differences in the attitude of parents to the teaching of sex education in secondary schools based on marital status.

Summary of ANOVA for differences between the Attitude of Parents in Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools based on marital status.

Source	Df	Ss	Ms	F	P
Between groups	4	3395.92	848.981	72.728	.000
Within groups	356	41550.986	116.722		
Total	360	44946.906			

F 4,356= 2.37< 0.05

The data on table 5 above indicated that p .000 is less than 0.05 level of significance. The f calculated value of 72.728 is greater than the table of 2.37 at df of 4.352. therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. Parents attitude to the teaching of sex education in secondary schools changes based on their marital status.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is no significance differences in Attitude of Parents of different Age group.

Summary of AMOVA for Differences Between the Attitude of Parents of Different Age Groups

Source	Df	Ss	Ms	F	P
Between Age groups	4	3620.99	405.248	16891	.000
Within Age groups	356	1907.97	53.592		
Total	360	22.699.91			

F 4, 356 = 237 < 0.05

Table 6 revealed the p .000 which is lower than 0.05 level of significance. And the calculated f value of 16.891 which we higher than the table value of 2.37 at difference of 4.356. therefore, the null hypothesis rejected. There is significant differences in attitude of parents of different age groups.

Hypothesis 4; there is no significant differences between male and female parents in their Attitude Towards the Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools.

t- test for differences between male and female parents in their Attitude towards Teaching of Sex Education in Secondary Schools.

Gender	Dn	Mean	STD dev	STD Error	Df	t	P
Male	165	1.5387	.51017	.02681	357	8.126	.000
Female	194	7.5663	116.722	2.49040	1.70766		

T= 1.96, df 357 < 0.05

Table 7 shows the calculated T value of 1.96 at df of 357. The p .000 is lower than the 0.05 level of significance. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.

### 8. Discussion

The study was aimed at assessing parental attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools in Kaduna state. It contains the demographic characteristics of the respondents which includes

variables such as; the Age 57 (15.7%) were at the ages of 20-30 years, 75 (20.7%) ages 31-34, 74 (20.4%) ages 41-50 years, 79 (21.8%) 51-60 years and 74 (20.4%) 61 years and above.

The study also deals with gender; 165 (45.6%) were male, 194 (53.6%) were female, while 197 (54.4%) were married, 64 (17.4%) were divorce, 39 (10.8%) were widow and widowers and 61 (16.9%) were separated. Similarly, on their various locations of the respondents, 179 (49.4%) and 183 (50.6%) live in

rural and urban areas respectively. Parents that have 1-2 children were 87 (24%) 3-4 children were 141 (39%) 5-6 were 45 (24.6%) and those with 7- 8 and above were 45 (12.6%).

On the issue of parental attitude towards the teaching of sex education magnify of the parents supported that fact that is an important form of social services, and that the teaching of sex education is something they always want to encouraged, that it promotes immoral behaviour. While the a lot of the respondents did not agreed with the fact that teaching of sex education is good because it enlighten children about fact of life, deals with reality of life, and half of them opined that it encourages exploring the body. This is in line with Ariba (2000) who noted that, there are many reasons why sex education should be taken seriously since our world today has become just a global village. There are negative impacts on the recipient population that could be catastrophic unless such population are well informed and have involved in appropriate behaviour to cope with such information.

The findings also revealed the parental responses on the teaching of sex education in secondary schools. Good numbers of parents opined that it encourages the spread of HIV/AIDS promotes waywardness, should be discouraged, it should be handled by professionals and that their negative attitude toward the teaching was due to their experiences. This finding did not support Ariba (2000) and Adebajo (2007) whom expressed that epidemic nature of STIs makes it difficult to control. Preventing this ugly situations require among others measure of investigating the causative factors, education of the populace and specifically the teaching of sex education at the grassroots.

The finding revealed that there is significant differences between male and female parents in their attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools. This is because the issue of sex education calls for the involvement of both parents. Although mother appeared to be more concern about the sexual life of their children because they do not want to make mistakes. To support this, Microsoft Corporation (1993 and 2003) broadly confined that the level of understanding of the subject matter is not the same for both parents.

The result of the finding also revealed that there is significant differences between the parents that come from urban and rural areas in their attitudes towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools.

This may be due to the assumption that individuals irrespective of where they come from.

However, attitude remains relatively stable and calm but changes in several ways such as through accumulation of experiences, age, poverty, education, environment among others. In relation to this, an individual develops a favourable attitude towards people who satisfy wants.

Finally, the finding revealed that there is significant differences in the attitude of parents to teaching of sex education in secondary schools base on marital status, whether married, single, divorced, widow or widower towards the teaching of sex education. The findings signify that every individual maintain his/her relative position along a dimension of issue. Supporting this fact, Kaiser Family Foundation (2000) stated that most parents believed that sex education should not only encourage young people to delay sexual activity nut also prepare them to use birth control and practice safe sex once they do become sexually active.

## 9. Conclusion

The attitude of parents towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools has been a matter of serious concern and this is affecting the dissemination of vital information, the absence of which has led to the spread of sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy, as well as the spread of HIV/AIDS, death due to abortion to measure by a few. The result of study also revealed that majority of the respondents agreed to the teaching of sex education in secondary schools in Kaduna state. Gender does not influence parent's attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools. Parent's attitude to the teaching of sex education in secondary schools changes base on their marital status. Parents in urban and rural areas do not have similar attitude towards the teaching of sex education in secondary schools.

There is significant difference between the male and female parents in their attitude towards the teaching of sex education in the secondary schools.

## 10. Recommendations

Based on the result of the findings, the following are recommended:

- The teaching of sex education should be encouraged in all the secondary schools

- The teaching of sex education should be regarded as an important form of social services in community and society at large.
- The government or ministry of education should intensify enlighten campaign so as to make people aware that teaching of sex education does not expose students to promiscuity nor does it promote immoral behaviour or waywardness rather promotes health habit.
- Parents should be encouraged to develop positive attitude to the teaching of sex education in school irrespectively of their marital status.
- Both parents in urban and rural areas should be educated on the advantage of teaching sex education in schools so that negative attitude will be corrected.
- Male and female parents should be well informed on the teaching of sex education and to build good attitude to the subject matter.
- Parent should be educated on the issue of sex education, thereby motivated to rise the issue in their various home by taking more on it to their children. This will help in parents, teacher and relationship.

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