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Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Medicine and Medical Research
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMMR_48466
Title of the Manuscript:	SEXUAL ASSAULT: A REVIEW OF THE TREND AND EFFECTS AMONG NIGERIAN FEMALE ADOLESCENTS
Type of the Article	Minireview Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>#1 (Abstract) "A literature review was carried out on its prevalence, forms, risk factors and effects using Google search. Additional information was from medical textbooks and journals.." This is not the best way to describe a "scientific review"... Authors could write "using multiple databases, namely MEDLINE, Web of Science Core Collection, and Google Scholar..." Medical textbooks provided additional information.</p> <p># 2 (Abstract) The estimated prevalence of adolescent sexual assault has been noticed to vary widely in different studies in Nigeria. This wide variation in its prevalence ranged from 6-74%. The wide variations in prevalence rates may be due to the different rates of reporting incidents in the various places. This could be more brief... The authors repeat "wide variation/variations"... "The estimated prevalence of sexual aggression among adolescents varied widely in different studies in Nigeria, ranging from 6 to 74%. Broad variation may be due to different incident reporting rates at multiple locations."</p> <p># 3 (Abstract) "Sex education should be given at home, school and other settings to both males and females in order to be most effective." (other settings ---» "and from other formal sources")</p> <p># 4 (Introduction) "Adolescent sexual assault in Nigeria is a huge public health problem which is associated with many physical, reproductive health and psycho-social consequences; both in the short term and long term. It occasionally results in death due to shock, severe physical injury or murder. The information is repeated during discussion... It should be "brief" here (introduction). e. g. Adolescent sexual assault in Nigeria is a huge public health problem, with short-term and long-term health consequences: physical, reproductive and psycho-social. Occasionally results in death. (This is what I think is lacking throughout the paper.. More "brief and accurate" information.) ---» "Scientific writing"</p> <p># 5 (Introduction) "There are several types of adolescent sexual assault such as acquaintance rape, date rape, statutory rape, and incest [1]. Acquaintance rape refers to sexual assault by a person or persons known by the victim. This is observed to occur in more than half of the cases. Incest is said to occur when the perpetrator is a family member; including step parents or other parental figures in the home. Date rape is said to occur when sexual assault is perpetrated by someone who had agreed to go on a date with her. It is usually accomplished with the use of alcohol and/or drugs such as rohypnol. Statutory rape is said to occur when the victim is a minor or under-aged, as stated by the law, which is 18 years in the Nigerian law [6]. Below this age, she is (the adolescent is) defined as being legally incapable of consenting to sexual intercourse due to her age."</p> <p>Comment: description of "types of adolescent sexual assault", the authors should follow the same order.</p>	<p>Authors are very much appreciating the comments and suggestion of the reviewer. We have made the correction and revised our manuscript by considering those comments</p> <p>Correction made</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Revision done</p>



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	<p># 6 (MATERIALS AND METHODS) --- see #1 (Abstract) “Extensive literature search of published journal was conducted in internet Google using the search terms “adolescent sexual assault in Nigeria “sexual abuse among children in Nigeria” and “teenage sexual abuse in Nigeria”. This was supplemented by including search for sexual assault pattern and effects of sexual abuse in Nigeria. PubMed, ISI web of science and other indexed journals on sexual assault in Nigeria were searched. Apart from the online published literature on sexual assaults in Nigeria, all materials that addressed sexual assaults in Nigeria such as textbooks and journals in the medical library were used in the study. (limits of language and timeline)? Authors could describe whether the literature was excluded based on the language or year of publication.</p> <p># 7 (Results) (Table 1). ---» the authors could place the studies in the table, placing in order of year of publication Chinawa et al (2013) ----- xx% Manyike et al (2015) ----- yy% (...)</p> <p># 8 (Results) “The Nigerian demographic health survey (NDHS)” Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) documented a prevalence rate of 6.6%</p> <p># 9 (Results) “This is because less than half of sexually assaulted adolescents would tell anyone; and less than 10% usually report to the authorities.” “This is because ---» Probably because... (my comment is that probably other reasons also justify this fact. So probably seems more reasonable than “this is because”)</p> <p># 10 (Results) “This culture of under-reporting may also be a consequence of a culture of male dominance and female economies and/or social disempowerment.” My comment: this sentence is perfect.</p> <p># 11 (Results) “FORMS Several forms of sexual assault have been reported [3,18,20]. Some of them involve physical contact with the victim while others do not involve physical contact.”</p>	<p>We have followed the journal guideline for referencing</p> <p>Correction done in the manuscript</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Correction made</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Author made the correction in yellow highlights</p>
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	<p># 12 (Results)</p> <p>“EFFECTS The effects of adolescent sexual assault could be physical, reproductive health or psycho-social.” Suggestion: Medical consequences of sexual assault could be physical, reproductive or psycho-social.</p> <p>As "EFFECTS" are one of the issues focused on the title, I consider that this part of the article should be more elaborated</p> <p>There is new ACOG Committee Opinion on sexual assault (March, 2019) with important information regarding medical and mental/psychological consequences.</p> <p># 13 (Results)</p> <p>“PREVENTION “An important key to prevention is sex education which should ideally start from the home; but also should be given at school and different settings in the society.” – This could be improved (...) “Sex education should be given at home, school and other settings to both males and females in order to be most effective.” – This is another sentence with repeated information.</p> <p>Comment: It is crucial to note that the message should be designed for boys and girls, but this phrase should be reformulated to avoid repetition throughout the text</p> <p>“The males should be taught that a high sense of responsibility in this regard is demanded from them. They should be taught to respect women and always control their emotions. It should be emphasized that they must always obtain appropriate consent before sexual intercourse; and always withdraw when consent is withheld at any point. Comment: Both, males and females, must be taught to respect each other. Adolescence is a critical opportunity to learn how to deal with feelings, emotions or desires; corresponded or not.</p> <p>“There should also be specific programmes put in place for sexual offenders to enable them take responsibility for the actions as well as desist from such behaviours thereafter.” Comment: The authors could give the example of two validated programs regarding prevention: “Safe Dates program and the building-level intervention of Shifting Boundaries” (see Care of the Adolescent After an Acute Sexual Assault for more details – American Academy of Pediatrics) Suggestion: In a paper regarding adolescent health, H.E.A.D.S.S. assessment should be referred.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>.</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p>
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	<p>“Presently, a lot of people tend to find reasons to blame the victims for making themselves targets probably by mode of dressing, place and time of the day it occurred amongst other factors. This public enlightenment should be driven by government and other organizations through the mass media and even organized meetings. This would help to shift the blame of sexual assault to the perpetrators and make it unattractive to would-be perpetrators to commit the crime [22,23].”</p> <p>Suggestion: Currently, it is still seen that some people tend to criticize the victims for making themselves targets (e. g. mode of dressing, place and time of the day that the sexual assault occurred).</p> <p>would help “to shift the blame”</p> <p># 14 (DISCUSSION) “This review has highlighted a lot of important issues about adolescent sexual assault in Nigeria. Adolescent sexual assault, an adolescent gynaecologic problem, has grown to become a huge public health problem and human right issue in Nigeria; and the whole world. This is because of the magnitude of the problem and its far-reaching consequences, both in the short and long term.</p> <p>Comment: it can not be defined as a “gynaecologic problem”!</p> <p>Suggestion: This review has highlighted a lot of important issues about adolescent sexual assault in Nigeria. Adolescent sexual assault has grown to become a huge public health problem and human right issue, both in Nigeria and worldwide. Gynecologists-gynecologists and other women's health professionals sometimes have the unique opportunity to screen and identify female victims of sexual assault. However, sexual violence demands from the whole society a denunciation of the aggressors and the full support of the victim. This is because of the magnitude of the problem and its far-reaching consequences, both in the short and long-term.</p> <p># 15 (DISCUSSION) “The natural prevalence has been noticed to vary widely in different studies; but still highly underestimated because of the strong factors that have been outlined which lead to gross under-reporting has contributed immensely.” Comment: This sentence must be rephrase!</p> <p>“It is commoner in Christian dominated southern Nigeria than in Muslim dominated northern Nigeria and this may be due to rate of reporting or cultural factors.” Suggestion: this may be due to cultural factors and/or to rate of reporting. Comment: Or even due to another factors?</p> <p># 16 (DISCUSSION) “All these tend to embolden the perpetrators to repeatedly sexual assault their victims when prevailing conditions permit this. The risk factors for sexual assault include the very fact that they have peculiar behaviour pattern of experimentation and risk-taking which makes them particularly vulnerable. Other non-modifiable risk factors include those that have disabilities [28].”</p>	Corrected
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	<p>Comment: They? The adolescents. The idea it is not clear.</p> <p># 17</p> <p>Conclusion: This review has highlighted the estimated wide prevalence rates, forms, risk factors, effects and effective prevention modalities. It revealed that adolescent sexual abuse is a huge public health problem and human right issue in Nigeria. It is strongly advisable that everyone should work together to reverse the trend and eventually eradicate this crime against humanity in our communities and the nation at large."</p> <p>Comment: The authors repeat the same ideas/words written throughout the article. The conclusion should be one or two main conclusions and should be a succinct answer to the purpose of the article.</p>	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	<p>SEXUAL ASSAULT OF NIGERIAN FEMALE ADOLESCENTS: A REVIEW OF THE TREND AND EFFECTS</p> <p>I think the subtle change in the title is more accurate: throughout the text, the revised "effects" are not "specific to the Nigerian woman."</p>	Corrected
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	<p>A very important subject, worldwide. This mini-review shows an important educational information. However, if the "target-audience" is the "scientific community" the text should be improved (i. e. "scientific writing")</p>	Thank you

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	