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Students' sexual exposure in tertiary institutions: A case study of some universities in the Abia state of Nigeria

Introduction: Studies have shown that new entrants in institutions of higher learning are at risk of sexual exploits by the older students. The drama has been found to be an intervention strategy capable of internalizing both the emotional and cognitive dimensions of problems to produce positive changes. This study used drama to create awareness on likely common sexual exploits in institutions of higher learning. The study examined the extent to which students in tertiary institutions are at risk of multiple and same-sex sexual relationships.

Materials and method: The study used first-year students in three universities, Federal, State and Private. It was assumed that first year students in institutions of higher learning are likely to be exposed to sexual overtures by older students. As such, intervention to highlight this problem is needed. It was considered that using drama as an intervention will create awareness among the students on the types of sexual overtures they would possibly experience in tertiary institutions. A random sample of ninety ((90) students was used for the study. Thirty ((30) randomly selected students were used in each of the universities studied. Pre- and post-self-administered questionnaire were given to the selected students to complete. On completion, the copies of the questionnaire (pre- and post) were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively.

Results: The study showed that students in these three universities studied were approached for sex by fellow students, but this was more at Rhema University 8 (28.8%) than in other universities. The students were, however, approached by both male and female sexes. The finding showed that some of the students in the three universities practiced anal, oral, and multiple sexes, but this was more in MOUA 10(33.3%) than in ABSU and Rhema with 9(30%) respectively. For knowledge on how HIV is transmitted, a good proportion of the students had the knowledge that HIV transmission occurs by sharing sharp objects. This knowledge was more among students in MOUA 29 (97%) than among those in ABSU 28 (93%) and Rhema 27 (90%). On the method of HIV prevention, students in the three institutions studied claimed not aware of any method of HIV prevention, this claim was more among students in ABSU and Rhema with 19 (63%) respectively than in MOUA with 14 (47%).

Conclusion: Based on the result of the study, drama helped sexual risk behaviors that could predispose individuals to sexually transmitted infections including HIV. Drama, therefore, is a valuable and timely intervention strategy

Biography

She is a professor at College of Medicine, Abia State University Uturu, Nigeria. She teach medical, nursing and public health students and has attended several HIV and AIDS conferences both in the US and other places.

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