



Personality Traits and Perceived Seductive Dressing as Predictors of Sexual Abuse Disposition among Married Men in Ibadan Metropolis

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ABSTRACT

Studies on sexual abuse have placed more emphasis on the commercial sexual disposition among children and women. However, there is paucity of studies on sexual abuse disposition among married men. Therefore, this study examined personality traits and perceived seductive dressing as predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. A cross-sectional survey design was adopted while Personality trait scale, Perceived Seductive Dressing Scale and Sexual Abuse Scale were used to gather data from 233 married men with age ranging between 28 and 64 ($M = 37.5$, $SD = 15.43$). Data were analyzed using t-test of independent samples and multiple regression while hypotheses were tested at a $p < .05$ level of significance. The results revealed significant difference between perceived seductive dressing and sexual abuse disposition [$t(231) = 1.97$, $p < .05$]. Also, personality traits jointly predicted sexual abuse among married men ($R^2 = .08$), $F(5, 227) = 3.82$, $p < .05$). Finally, personality traits and perceived seductive dressing jointly predicted sexual abuse disposition among the study population ($R^2 = .10$, $F(6, 226) = 4.17$, $p < .05$). The study concluded that personality traits and perceived seductive dressing are good predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. The study recommends churches and mosques which are the dominant religions in Nigeria should continue to preach on decent dressing among their congregations to reduce perceived seductive dressing and sexual abusive disposition among married men and women.

Introduction

Sexual abuse is a national public health problem affecting millions of women and girls around the world each year (DeGue et al., 2012). The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2018) defines sexual abuse as 'any attempted or completed sexual act, sexual contact, or noncontact sexual behaviour in which the victim does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse'. Also, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) report that nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men experience completed or attempted sexual assault in their lives, uncovering the high prevalence of sexual abuse in the United States (Smith et al., 2018). According to Statista.com (2022), the average prevalence of sexual abuse in Nigeria in 2018 was 9% with Gombe State having the highest prevalence of 45% followed by Bauchi (21.1%) and Ebonyi (20.8%). This explained the gravity of sexual abuse in the United States of America, Nigeria and in some states in Nigeria.

Sexual abuse could be against children, women or men with physical, psychological, and financial costs implications on the victims. The physical effects of sexual abuse includes gynecological effects and unintended pregnancy for women, increased risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV/AIDS, and physical injuries from the assault (Ahinkorah et al., 2020) to the victim. The psychological effects of sexual abuse include high risk of manifesting post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, insomnia, and substance abuse (Campbell, 2002). Finally, the financial costs of sexual abuse are huge in term of money spent on medications and rehabilitation of the victims. In US, it is estimated at \$3.1trillion, New Zealand at \$6.9 billion, U.K at £66 billion and Nigeria at N234 million (Miller et al., 2018).

Several psychological and situational factors have been implicated as likely predictors of sexual abuse disposition. However, this study investigated personality traits and perceived seductive dressing as likely predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. Personality traits are broad dimensions in which an individual could fit into, or which could describe the behaviour of an individual (McCrae & Costa, 1997). The Big Five Personality dimensions of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience have been the most consistently used structure over the years and across cultures (Goldberg, 1990; McAdams, 1992; McCrae & Costa, 1997) to

analyse and explain enduring and stable human behaviour.

Extraversion implies an energetic approach to the social and material world and includes traits such as sociability, activity, assertiveness, and positive emotionality (McCrae & Costa, 1997). Individuals high in extraversion tend to be more sexually abusive compared to those low in extraversion (Bartlett & Anderson, 2012). Agreeableness contrasts a pro-social and communal orientation toward others with antagonism and this includes traits such as altruism, tender-mindedness, trust, and modesty (McCrae & Costa, 1997). People high in agreeableness would display more tolerance toward women compared to individuals low in agreeableness (Bartlett & Anderson, 2012). Conscientiousness describes socially prescribed impulse control that facilitates task-and goal-directed behaviour such as thinking before acting, delaying gratification, following norms and rules, and planning, organizing, and prioritizing tasks (McCrae & Costa, 1997). Married men who score high in conscientiousness show a high level of consideration to women devoid of sexual abuse compared to men who scored low in conscientiousness (Bartlett & Anderson, 2012). Emotional stability describes even-temperedness and contrasts with negative emotionality, such as feeling anxious, nervous, sad, and tense (McCrae & Costa, 1997). Studies have demonstrated individuals high in emotionality will treat women with respect compared to those who scored low in emotional stability (Bartlett & Anderson, 2012). Finally, openness to experience (versus closed-mindedness) describes the breadth, depth, originality and complexity of an individual's mental and experiential life (McCrae & Costa, 1997). Studies have proved that individual with high score in openness to experience will be less sexually abusive than those with low score (e.g., Bartlett & Anderson, 2012). These five factors have stood up so well to research that most psychologists today accept them as a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influence his or her cognition, motivation, and behaviour in many situations (McCrae & Costa, 1997).

The second factor considered in this study as likely predictor of sexual abuse disposition among married men is perceived seductive dressing which is described as the improper way of dressing or the generally unaccepted way of dressing which exposes

sensitive parts of the human body to reminiscent a thought already planned (Anku et al., 2018). In order words, it is an inappropriate and provocative ways of dressing relative to specific societies or cultures. According to Oyeleye (2013), seductive dressing means the deliberate exposure of one's body to the public to attract attention. Studies have confirmed that improper dressing causes men to misinterpret the intention of women calling them names such as prostitutes, which can lead to sexual abuse disposition by men (Oguntayo et al., 2020; Selase & Mawuli, 2013). Seductive dressing could lead to sexual harassment, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, ritual killing, poor academic performance, unwanted pregnancy (Oli, 2017; Lennon et al., 2017). Abbey et al (1987) found that female targets who wore revealing clothing were rated by men as more sexy and seductive than women wearing non-revealing clothing. Also, Koukounas and Letch (2001) found that an actress who wore more revealing clothing was perceived by male observers as having more sexual intent than did the female observers. These studies showed that men misinterpret women's sexual intent according to their clothing appearance.

The increased understanding of the widespread gravity of sexual abuse warranted the need to carry out more studies to come up with solutions and programmes that would help to reduce and prevent sexual abuse among children, women and also men folk. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine whether personality traits and perceived seductive dressing will predicts sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. The following specific objectives were stated: (i) to determine whether personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) will jointly predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis; (ii) to examine whether perceived seductive dressing will have significant influence on sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis; and (iii) to investigate whether personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) and perceived seductive dressing will jointly and independently predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis.

The findings of this study would help both the government and non-governmental agencies in working out modality to fight against sexual abuse by

men in Nigeria. Also, the results of this study would help to explain how personality traits and perceived seductive dressing predict sexual abuse disposition among married men. Finally, the findings of the study will inform policy makers in the area of preventing sexual abuse among children, women and men.

Theoretical Concepts

The Social Learning Theory This theory was developed and refined by Bandura (1997). The theory posits that people acquired new behaviour by observing what other people do. For example, by observing how individual behave aggressively, another individual can behave aggressively which can be transfer to romantic relationship. By demonstrating violence, one can unknowingly encourage aggression in romantic relationship. Aggressive behaviour can be maintained by tangible and intangible rewards. Whether a person receives money or a medal for injuring or harming another, that person is more likely to commit aggressive acts in the future due to the reinforcement received. Studies have shown that many aspects of the social learning theory of aggression are highly demonstrable in and out of the laboratory and by both humans and animals.

When apply to this study, the theory holds that aggressive behaviour is learned which means that sexual abuse can be learned as well. The act is repeated if the outcome was positive. If an individual perceives seductive dressing as positive, the reaction of the individual towards seductive dressing would inform whether the sexual abuse will happen and be repeated or not.

Theory of Planned Behavior The theory was proposed by Ajzen (1991). The theory suggests that the immediate predictor of behaviour is the intention to engage in that behaviour. It assumes that attitude (positive or negative evaluation of attitude object), subjective norms (the influence of significant others in performing that behaviour) and perceived behavioural control (the ability or the ease of performing that behavior) determine performing a behavior (Ajzen, 1991). The more favourable the attitude and subjective norm with respect to a behaviour, the greater the perceived behaviour control, the stronger would be the individual's intention to perform the behaviour under consideration (Azjen, 1991). When apply to the present study, an individual who has negative attitude

towards women wearing seductive dress, and they feel that they have the support of the significant others, and with the ease or skill of punishing the women who wore seductive dressing will go out of the way to abuse the women. Alhamad and Donyal (2021) concluded that the TPB significantly support many populations and for a range of health behaviours including sexual abuse behaviour. This theory has remained the most popular theories used to explain health promoting behaviour and a wider range of other behaviours,

Hypotheses

H1 Personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness) will jointly and independently predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis.

H2 Participants with high perception of seductive dressing will significantly report higher on sexual abuse disposition than those with low perception of seductive dressing.

H3 Personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) and perceived seductive dressing will jointly and independently predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis.

Method

Design/Setting

This study adopted cross-sectional survey research design. The rationale behind the choice of this design was premised on the fact that the study focused on a particular population having different socio-demographic characteristics within a particular period in time. The independent variables were personality traits and seductive dressing while dependent variable is sexual abusive disposition.

The study was conducted among civil servants in Oyo State Secretariat and the Federal Secretariat both in Ibadan metropolis.

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique was used to select Oyo State Secretariat and the Federal Secretariat both in Ibadan metropolis, while accidental sampling technique was used to select participants for the study.

Participants

Descriptive statistic revealed the age distribution of the participants to be between 28 and 64 years old ($M = 37.54$, $SD = 15.43$). The family types of the participants showed that 187 (80.3%) were from monogamous family, while 46 (19.7%) participants were from polygamous family. In term of the marital status, 221 (94.9%) were married, while 12 (5.1%) were either divorced or separated. The ethnic groups of the participants showed that 165 (70.8%) were Yorubas, 47 (20.2%) were Igbos, 3 (1.3%) were Hausas, while 19 (8.2%) were from other minority ethnic groups.

Instruments

Sexual Abuse Disposition This was measured using a 31-item scale developed by Lock et al. (2015). The scale measures the extent to which an individual engages in sexual abuse behaviour. It is a 5-point Likert's response format ranging from disagree strongly (1) to agree strongly (5). Sample items include: 'I feel uncomfortable when I am dressed attractively' and 'I have never been depressed for a long time'. Lock et al. (2015) reported the scale's Cronbach alpha of 0.78 while in the present study, the scale's Cronbach alpha was 0.89.

Personality Traits This was measured using a 10-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) developed by Gosling et al. (2003) for measuring Big-Five personality dimensions. The Ten-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) includes two items for each of the Big-Five personality dimensions.

It is a 5-point Likert's response format ranging from disagree strongly (1) to agree strongly (5). As a measure of the Big-Five dimensions of personality, been validated against standard Big-Five instruments. The Test-retest reliability is therefore a more appropriate reliability measure for such brief scales. Sample items include: 'I see myself as someone who is generally trusting' and 'I see myself as someone who has few artistic interests. The TIPI has the following internal reliability: Extraversion (0.77), Agreeableness (0.71), Conscientiousness (0.76), Emotional Stability (0.70) and Openness (0.62), In this study, the following internal reliability were reported: Extraversion (0.52), Agreeableness (0.56), Conscientiousness (0.54), Neuroticism (0.53), and Openness (0.58).

Seductive Dressing This was measured using a 5-item scale of perception of females seductive dressing developed by Anku et al. (2018). The scale measures perceived in-descent dressing by females. It is a 5-point Likert's rating scale with response format ranging from Strongly Disagree(1) to Strongly Agree (5). Sample items include: 'The dressing of female students are always sexually tempting' and 'I have perceived their dressings to be too old fashioned'. In this study, the scale was found to have an internal reliability of 0.63.

Procedure

A letter of introduction was collected from the Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan as a mean to identify the researchers to the potential participants in the study. The researchers introduced

themselves to the potential participants and gave a brief purpose of the study. They were asked for their informed consent to participate in the study. They were strongly informed that participation in the study was voluntary. Questionnaires were only given to those who accepted to participate in the study. A total of 240 questionnaires were distributed, 237 were retrieved (i.e., 98% response rate), four questionnaires were incompletely filled and were discarded left with 233 questionnaires used for the final analysis.

Statistical Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 23. Hypotheses one and three were tested using multiple regression analysis, while hypothesis two was tested using t-test for independent samples. All hypotheses were accepted at a $p = .05$ level of significance.

Results

H1: Personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness) will jointly and independently predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. This was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Multiple Regression Analysis Showing Personality Traits as Joint and Independent Predictors of Sexual Abuse Disposition among Married Men in Ibadan Metropolis

Criterion	Predictors	β	t	p	R	R^2	F	p
SAD	Extraversion	.18	2.55	<.05	.28	.08	3.82	<.05
	Agreeableness	-.11	-1.30	>.05				
	Conscientiousness	.10	1.27	>.05				
	Neuroticism	.05	.65	>.05				
	Openness	-.20	-2.93	<.05				

SAD = Sexual Abuse Disposition

Table 1 shows results of personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, conscientiousness and openness to experience) as joint and independent predictor of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. It was revealed that personality traits jointly predicted sexual abuse disposition [$R^2 = .08$, $F(5, 227) = 3.82$, $p < .05$]. Collectively, personality traits accounted for about 8% variance in sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. However, only extraversion ($\beta = .18$, $p < .05$) and openness to experience ($\beta = -.20$, $p < .05$) independently predicted sexual abuse disposition among married men. Direction of the beta value showed that the higher the extraversion ($\beta = .18$, $p < .05$), the higher the sexual abuse disposition. However, the higher the openness to experience trait ($\beta = -.20$, $p < .05$), the lower the sexual abuse disposition. This partially confirmed hypothesis.

H2 Participants with high perception of seductive dressing will significantly report higher on sexual abuse disposition than those with low perception of seductive dressing. This was tested using t-test for independent samples and the result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2

T-test for Independent Samples showing Influence of Seductive Dressing on Sexual Abuse Disposition

DV	IV SD	N	M	SD	t	df	p
SAD	High	116	67.79	9.34	1.97	231	<.05
	Low	117	65.57	7.85			

DV = Dependent variable, IV = Independent Variable, SD = Seductive Dressing, SAD = Sexual Abuse Dispositional

Table 2 presents results on the influence of seductive dressing on sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. It is shown that seductive dressing had significant influence on sexual abuse disposition among married men [$t(231) = 1.97, p < .05$] such that participants with high perceived seductive dressing reported higher on sexual abuse disposition ($M = 67.79, SD = 9.34$) compared to those with low perception of seductive dressing ($M = 65.57, SD = 7.85$). This confirmed the stated hypothesis.

H3 Personality traits (extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) and perceived seductive dressing will jointly and independently predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. This was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Multiple Regression Analysis Showing Personality Traits and seductive Dressing as Joint and Independent Predictors of Sexual Abuse Disposition among married men

Criterion	Predictors	β	t	p	R	R ²	F	p
SAD	Extraversion	.19	2.80	<.05	.32	.10	4.17	<.05
	Agreeableness	-.12	-1.42	>.05				
	Conscientiousness	.08	1.08	>.05				
	Neuroticism	.01	.15	>.05				
	Openness	-.19	-2.90	<.05				
	PSD	.16	2.35	<.05				

SAD = Sexual Abuse Disposition, SD = Perceived Seductive Dressing,

Table 3 presents results of personality traits and perceived seductive dressing as predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. It was revealed that personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, conscientiousness and openness to experience) and perceived seductive dressing jointly predicted sexual abuse disposition ($R^2 = .10, F(6, 226) = 4.17, p < .05$). Collectively, personality traits and perceived seductive dressing accounted for about 10% variance in sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. However, only extraversion ($\beta = .19, p < .05$), openness to experience ($\beta = -.19, p < .05$) and perceived seductive dressing ($\beta = .16, p < .05$) independently predicted sexual abuse disposition among married men. The direction of the beta value showed that the higher the extraversion ($\beta = .18$) and perceived seductive dressing (3.16), the higher the sexual abuse disposition. However, the higher the

openness to experience trait ($\beta = -.19$), the lower the sexual abuse disposition. This partially confirmed the stated hypothesis.

DISCUSSION

The study investigated personality traits and perceived seductive dressing as predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan. The result shows that personality traits of extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness jointly predicted sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. However, only extraversion and openness to experience were significant independent predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men. This means that married men with certain personality traits are prone to engaging in sexual abuse. For instance, an individual high on openness to experience is considered to always derive pleasure in trying out new things. This could subsequently predispose them to engaging in even socially unacceptable behavior such as sexual abuse. Also, a sociable individual (extrovert) could be prone to engage in sexual abuse due to the nature of that individual who likes meeting people. This study partially supported the findings by Lund et al. (2017) that personality traits are predictors of sexual abuse disposition among their study population.

Also, the results confirmed the hypothesis that married men with high perceived seductive dressing will significantly report higher on sexual abuse disposition than those with low perceived seductive dressing. This means that married men would truly be moved by what they see. When some men look at seductively dressed women, it tends to trigger sexual urge, which subsequently contributes to the possibility of engaging in abusive sexual behaviour. This finding supported previous findings that seductive dressing was a significant predictor of sexual abuse among their study participants (Anku et al., 2018; Choma et al., 2007; Koukoumas & Letch, 2001; Lennon et al., 2017).

Finally, the result confirmed the hypothesis that personality traits and perceived seductive dressing will jointly predict sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. Extraversion, openness to experience and perception of seductive dressing were significant independent predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men. The finding implies that personality traits contributed to sexual abuse among married men. It means married

men who are opened to experience and exposed to seductive dressing would trigger sexual abuse among women. This finding supported previous studies that personality traits and seductive dressing trigger sexual abusive behavior (Choma et al., 2007; Bartlett & Anderson, 2012; Lennon et al., 2017; Maltz, 2002).

Conclusions This study has empirically confirmed that personality traits and seductive dressing are joint predictors of sexual abuse disposition among married men in Ibadan metropolis. Also, personality dimensions of extraversion and openness to experience are independent predictors of sexual abuse behaviour among the study participants.

Recommendations Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proffered: Because personality traits of extraversion and openness to experience were found to contribute to higher sexual abuse disposition among married men, it is recommended that a comprehensive personality profile should be conducted especially during marriage counseling to help potential male couples change their negative orientations toward sexual abuse before and during marriage. Also, since seductive dressing was found to contribute significantly to sexual abuse, it is recommended that females should be encouraged to dress responsibly at all times, especially when they are to attend events or places where married men would be in attendance. Finally, it is recommended that descent dressing should be promoted in the society. This can be first encouraged in the smallest unit of the family and then followed by encouraging the same in the larger community.

Limitations The study was limited by financial and time constraint. The study was unable to get adequate financial backing to cover a wider scope. Also, respondents were, at some point, curious about what their responses will be used for, hence, displayed some level of social desirability. Therefore, further studies should consider these limitations.

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