



- TRACK:2

## Multi-level predictors of young people's attitude towards gender biases concerning rape, sexual and domestic violence in an intimate relationship among young people, Ebonyi State, Nigeria



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# Background

- ❖ Young people encounter several problems as regards their SRHR.
- ❖ In Nigeria, 23.4% of young women aged 15-19 years and 37.2% of those aged 20-24 years have experienced either physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by their most recent husbands/ sexual partners<sup>1</sup>.
- ❖ Specifically, Ebonyi state records the highest rate of (53.9%) violence experienced by ever-married women aged 15-49 years when compared to other south-eastern states in Nigeria<sup>1</sup>.
- ❖ Attitudes and beliefs that justify unequal gender roles and relations in an intimate relationship could shape both an individual's response to violence and the perpetration of violence.
- ❖ Challenging and changing individuals' attitudes and beliefs towards gender roles is a vital step in any violence-prevention intervention in an intimate relationship- it will enable young people to cultivate healthy relationships



# Study objective

This study examined young people's attitudes toward gender biases about rape, sexual violence, and domestic violence in intimate relationships.

This study also determined individual, interpersonal, and social-level factors that could shape the attitude of young people towards these gender norms in intimate relationships.

The results presented in this study will be used to inform interventions to address the underlying gender norms and power perspectives in intimate relationships.



## Data collection methods

A cross-sectional quantitative study undertaken in three rural and three urban local government areas (LGAs) – two LGAs representing each (three) senatorial zones

\*\*A community was selected from each LGA based on the presence of a functional facility that provides youth-friendly SRH services.

- The study population consisted of young boys and girls aged 15-24 years living in selected households regardless of marital or schooling status.
- Household survey – young people and heads of household
- Data was collected from 1025 young people in 606 selected households

## Data analysis

- Descriptive statistics -utilizes means, and proportions
- Multivariate

- Open Data Kit (ODK) Toolbox & Paper questionnaire
- The data collection instrument was adapted from an annual publication on gender and evaluation by UN women<sup>2</sup> and was pre-tested in Enugu state



## Results

Variables	Agree F(%)	Partially agree F(%)	Do not agree F(%)
<b>Violence in an intimate relationship</b>			
Sometimes a woman deserves to be beaten	142(13.85)	90(8.78)	793(77.37)
A girl/young woman should tolerate violence to keep her relationship or family together	323(31.51)	124(12.10)	578(56.39)
It is alright for a man to beat his wife if she is unfaithful	195(19.02)	99(9.66)	731(71.32)
It is justifiable for a boy to hit his girlfriend if she is unfaithful	111(10.83)	86(8.39)	828(80.78)
It is alright for a woman to beat her husband if he is unfaithful	41(4.00)	59(5.76)	925(90.24)
It is justifiable for a girl to hit her boyfriend if he is unfaithful	32(3.12)	58(5.66)	935(91.22)
A man or a boy should defend his reputation with force when insulted	401(39.12)	208(20.29)	416(40.59)
Violence against a wife or girlfriend is a private matter	360(35.12)	201(19.61)	464(45.27)
It is alright for a girl to insult a boy who asked her to be his girlfriend	77(7.51)	129(12.59)	819(79.90)
If a boyfriend doesn't beat his girlfriend, he is not a man	156(15.22)	144(14.05)	725(70.73)



Variables	Agree F(%)	Partially agree F(%)	Do not agree F(%)
<b>Sexual violence</b>			
A woman can hit her husband if he won't have sex with her	23(2.24)	50(4.88)	952(92.88)
A girl can hit her boyfriend if he won't have sex with her	22(2.15)	45(4.39)	958(93.46)
A man can hit his wife if she won't have sex with him	79(7.71)	70(6.83)	876(85.46)
A boy can hit his girlfriend if she won't have sex with him	48(4.68)	64(6.24)	913(89.07)
Speaking about 'forced' sex in loving relationships is impossible	353(34.44)	220(21.46)	452(44.10)
Sometimes a boy has to force a girl to have sex if he loves her.	120(11.71)	116(11.32)	789(76.98)
<b>Rape</b>			
In any rape case, one would have to question whether the girl is promiscuous or has a bad reputation	511(49.85)	161(15.71)	353(34.44)
If a girl doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape	659(64.29)	142(13.85)	224(21.85)
A girl who is raped usually did something careless to put herself in that situation	464(45.27)	226(22.05)	335(32.68)
In some rape cases, girls actually want it to happen	290(28.29)	206(20.10)	529(51.61)
Boys also get raped by girls	492(48.00)	155(15.12)	378(36.88)
Girls should be taught how to fight back and how to avoid being raped	927(90.44)	39(3.80)	59(5.76)



Variables	Sexual violence Coefficient (p- value)	Domestic violence Coefficient (p- value)	Rape Coefficient (p- value)
<b>Individual determinants</b>			
Gender (Female)	<b>0.101 (0.00)***</b>	<b>0.087(0.01)***</b>	<b>0.126(0.00)***</b>
Currently schooling (Yes)	0.010(0.78)	-0.045(0.24)	0.045(0.21)
Age category			
• 17-18years	-0.062(0.13)	-0.040(0.31)	-0.023(0.56)
• 19-20years	-0.062(0.21)	-0.088(0.07)	0.012(0.79)
• 21 and above	-0.044(0.42)	-0.055(0.30)	-0.055(0.23)
Is/ has been in an intimate sexual relationship(yes)	<b>-0.089(0.03)**</b>	<b>-0.135(0.01)***</b>	-0.003(0.94)
<b>Interpersonal determinants</b>			
Living with parents/guardian(Yes)	<b>0.202(0.02)**</b>	<b>0.245(0.01)***</b>	0.034(0.69)
Head of household (father)			
• Mother	-0.002(0.96)	0.005(0.88)	0.048(0.18)
• Self	0.158(0.30)	<b>0.353(0.02)**</b>	-0.211(0.15)
• Others (Uncle/aunty, grandma/pa, sis/ bro)	<b>0.249(0.00)***</b>	<b>0.199(0.00)***</b>	0.042(0.52)
<b>Social determinants</b>			
Location of resident (rural)	-0.000(0.10)	<b>-0.142(0.00)***</b>	<b>0.089(0.00)***</b>
Employment status (Yes)	-0.077 (0.05)	-0.026(0.458)	-0.013(0.73)



# Conclusion

- ❑ There is a need to design and prioritize interventions that address harmful gender norms and attitudes that justify rape, sexual violence, and violence in relationships (considering the predictors)
- ❑ Addressing the inequalities and unequal power relations in intimate relationships will help to promote and raise critical consciousness about the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people.





# References

1. National Population Commission. Nigeria demographic and health survey 2018. Abuja: National Population Commission and ICF Macro 2019.
2. Singh KA, Verma R, Barker G. Making women count: an annual publication on gender and evaluation by UN Women Multi Country Office for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. 2013 New Delhi, India: UN Women.