



Foundation on Framework for Male and Female Rape Legislations in Nigeria: Delta State as a Case Study

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Abstract. Virtually every day, there is an incidence of reported cases of rape, either in teenage girls or children. It is as a result of this that the issue of rape is seen and considered a global issue, given the rising cases in virtually most of the global environment. In Nigeria, the fight against rape has been mainly geared towards the protection of women & girls against violence (sexual violence). This is concerning the fact that in 2020 Nigeria alone, about 20 states governments, through the initiatives of the office of the first lady, had one or more events to commemorate the 16days activism on Gender-Based Violence against women and girls, so many CSOs, NGOs Faith Based Organizations were all, in one way or the other given their voice to the issue of sexual violence against women & girls. The effort of the Nigerian government has received laudable applause from various quarters. However, it has been noticed that the issues of rape have been gender-based, that it mainly focuses on the female alone, virtually little or nothing has been said about sexual violence against Men & Boys, yet it is of growing concern with its prevalence in our society. It is in this regard that this study tends to adopt a hybrid method of study to examine issues as they relate to male rape. The study, therefore, found that the issues of male rape have gradually crept into society, and it has become very prevalent within society as little or nothing is done about it. The study further concludes and recommends that the issues of rape should not focus on females alone as a result of the fact that it is gradually becoming an act been perpetrated, and most males are suffering in silence. The law, government, and NGO that protect the female against any form of sexual violence should also seek to protect the male.

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that the norms that are operational at any point in history tend to reflect the views of those who are at the moment holding the prevailing

mantle of power (Lalor, 2004). The need to ensure effective protection of every individual, whether male or female, is often regarded as universal (Aidonjio and Egielewa, 2020) in the sense that most societies and cultures have practiced and have seen the fact that society needs to be cleansed from any form of abuse (Adeowale, 2017; Egielewa and Aidonjio, 2021; Aidonjio et al., 2021). However, the need to ensure effective protection of an individual in every given society is expressed, exercised, and realized in distinct ways. In this regard, it can be said that there is no society that does not have a widely endorsed practice, or even vision, of equal and inalienable individual protection within the society (Duffield, 2006).

However, it must be noted that the issue of rape is really a cankerworm that is eaten deep into the fabric of society (Omorodion and Olusanya, 1998). This is concerning the fact that the issue of rape has become very rampant that it calls for concern (Clarissa et al., 1993). The word rape can be defined as forcefully and abusively having violent sexual intercourse without the consent of the victim. Rape could be committed in various forms, such as; group rape, which includes a rape perpetrated by 'gangs of ruffians or cliques and armed robbers. There is also a public gang rape, this kind of rape is often committed to the victims who may have been behaving immorally or dressing in an improper manner (Olusanya et al., 1986). According to the public, gang rape is said to have been practiced by some communities and sanctioned by community leaders as a punitive measure to correct the societal abnormality (Jenkins, 1998; Ikubanni and Aidonjio, 2021). Also, another form of rape includes marital rape, which is often committed by incompatible couples or couples cohabiting as partners (Esere and Idowu, 2005). Furthermore, there is also another form of rape known as statutory rape, which is sexual intercourse with minors and physically or mentally impaired or incapacitated persons (Ullman, 1997).

However, the issue of rape has always been gender-based issues (Akinade, 2001). This is concerning the fact that the culprit is always seen as a male, while the victim is usually a female (Abrams et al., 2003). This belief or ideology is occasioned by the fact that rape includes or is defined to mean any form of sexual connection by objects such as penis, finger, sticks, or vibrators that could penetrate through the victim forcefully or without the victim's consent (Achunike and Kitause, 2014). In this regard, given this definition, it is the belief of most persons or most government and relevant institutions that rape could only be perpetrated against females given their vulnerability and given their genetic make-up as a woman (Devries et al., 2004).

The fact that the issue of rape is centrally focused on the female as the main victim is evidence. Male are sexually abused now and then by either their fellow men or women. Male victims find it most difficult to speak about sexual violence against them or report the same, and when they speak out, they are often ignored. The danger in this is that because they are ignored when they muster the courage to speak up or report sexual abuse against them, it leads to underreporting that makes statistic unavailable, lack of available statistics make the true seriousness of the problem unknown, and when a problem is unknown, a policy cannot be adequately put in place to address it. It is a vicious cycle kind of situation. This is a call to all stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice and the society at large that Gender-based violence is inclusive of men and women, boys and girls, that the word gender is not just about women and girls, but Gender includes men and women. The word gender is not about working on women issues only, but gender is a characteristic of people, communities, sectors, society. In this regard, there is a need to pay attention to the violence and abuse against males because several cases of abuse against men form the root cause of abuse against women. This can be seen in the social sense of seeing men's masculinity and protector of women, especially in African society. Therefore, where the protector is emasculated of his masculinity and strength, what happens to those who are they deemed to protect? In this regard, it suffices to state that the government and all concerned institutions as regards sexual violence must give voice to the voices of fewer male victims of sexual violence, speak out, and make reports to the appropriate authorities. Protecting males against any form of sexual violence is not a call to abandon the progress made so far on the fight against abuse of women and girls, but it's a call to fight it side by side.

It is in regard to the above that this study x-ray and examine the concept of sexual violence such as rape perpetrated against males. The study will also embark on a review on the various legal framework as they concern rape, most especially male rape, most especially the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act and the Nigeria Criminal Code. The study will also proffer possible solutions for the need of curbing the current trend and prevalence of male sexual violence.

1.1 Nature and Scope of Rape

The word rape is said to have the same meaning and definition in several dictionaries and explanations of various scholars across the global environment. This is concerning the fact that it is a criminal phenomenon being experienced worldwide. Rape involves the act of having a violent and abusive carnal knowledge of someone or an individual without the person's approval or consent. However, rape has also been defined as any form of sexual intercourse or connection that has a penetration of an object such as penis, stick, finger, and vibrator.

Furthermore, it has always been the ideology and belief that the victim of rape is usually female, and it is often perpetrated by males such as ruffians, boyfriends, husbands, fathers, stepbrothers, uncles, or other close friends or relatives. In this regard, given the fact that sexual assault such as rape has a devastating effect on victims' physical health and social wellbeing, that females are often the victims has led to more concentration and protection to be accorded to females. Interestingly this ideology seems to be adopted in most countries, including Nigeria, where the fight against rape has been mainly geared towards the protection of women and girls against sexual violence.

It is in regard to the above that there is a need to ascertain the fact if there are no instances or incidence of male rape within the society? However, it suffices to state that given the fact that the issues of rape and the quest to curtail it have always been gender-based, it mainly focuses on the female alone. Also, given the fact that virtually little or nothing has been said concerning sexual violence against males, it is now gradually and ferociously creeping into society. Furthermore, given the incidence of male rape, it is now becoming a growing concern with its prevalence in society.

Although, this view of limiting the idea of rape to affect female alone was argued by Nwankwo (2021) to be a myth, this is concerning the fact that there have been several unreported incidences of male

rape. According to him, in narrowing the definition of rape as a crime committed by the male alone against female will definitely affect or lead to male rape being perpetrated in silence. In this regard, the biased view concerning the issue of rape held by a majority of the public should be laid to rest in order to ensure the effective protection of males being sexually abused.

It is concerning the above that this study tends to focused on the current prevalence of male rape or sexual violence against males, which is often under-reported. Further, the study also tends to also focus on the relevant framework as it concerns male rape or sexual violence. To what extent has the available legal framework addressed issues of male rape or sexual violence against male.

2. Legal framework on rape

The issues of sexual violence or rape have always been the subject of discussion and there are several legal frameworks (both local and international) that condemn and criminalise sexual violence or rape. However, in most legal jurisdictions, the issue of male rape is slowly gaining recognition, most especially Nigeria. Although, in Nigeria there several literature and legal framework concerning incidence of rape, however, it suffices to state that there is little scholarship and legal framework concerning male rape. In this regard, it is relevant to considered some of these legal frameworks as follows within the Nigeria legal system.

2.1 Nigeria Legal Framework concerning Rape and Male Rape

It is noteworthy that the Nigerian constitution is regarded as the supreme law that binds the government and the governed. Although, the Nigeria constitution does not expressly provide for incidence of rape, however, section 34(1) of the Nigeria Constitution provides that every individual residing in Nigeria is entitled and required to be treated with respect for the dignity of his person. Furthermore, the section also provides that no person or individual shall be subject to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment, which in essence include rape.

Furthermore, by section 4 and 5 of the Nigerian Constitution, the Nigerian government is mandated to make laws with respect to matters contain in the exclusive and concurrent legislative for the peace and good governance of Nigeria. It is in furtherance of this, that some relevant legislature has been enacted curtailing incidence of rape and male rape. In this regard, some of this provision of the legislation

concerning rape and male rape will be considered as follows;

The criminal code provided in section 357 as follows; “Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or, in the case of a married woman by personating her husband is guilty of an offence called rape.’ From the definition of rape in the criminal code it is clear that the offence is against women/girl only and cannot be committed against a male and the law meant to protect women alone.

Given the above, it can be said that in Nigeria, there is hardly any legislation addressing male rape as a sexual violence, except for the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act which came into operation in 2015. The Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act was a law passed as an improvement on existing law on rape and other forms of sexual abuses. However, the enactment of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act operated to widen the scope of the meaning of rape. Some of the relevant provision as it relates to rape.

By section 1 of the Violence Against Person (Prohibition) Act specifically provide that defined rape in it broad context to include as a violent act where he or she without the consent of another penetrates the vagina, mouth or anus with any other part of his or her body or with the use of anything that could penetrate the victim of rape. It went further to stipulate that the victim in question must not have consented or the consent was forcefully obtained by means of intimidation, threat of any kind, fear of being harmed. Furthermore, the provision further stated that forceful obtaining consent could also entails fraudulent and false representation in obtaining sex or the use of any substances that could make the victim to act without his or her will or consent.

Given the above section 1 of the Violence against Person (Prohibition) Act it suffices to state that both female and males are well protected against any form of rape.

However, section 1(2) of the Violence against Person (Prohibition) Act further provide for strict punishment of anyone convicted for the offense of rape. It provides that anyone who have been convicted under subsection of section 1 of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act will be

sentence to life imprisonment. Where such an offender is within 14 years of age, such individual will be liable to imprisonment for 14 years. Although, the provision of the Violence against Persons seems to be weak concerning gangs' rape which is even worse than a rape committed by just an individual. This is concerning the fact that, the Act limited sentence of those convicted for indulging in group or gang rape to just 20 years imprisonment.

However, irrespective of the weakness inherent in section 1(2)(c) of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act, it suffices to state that the Act having recognize the issues of male rape has to a large extent resolve and lay to rest the controversy and bias view concerning male rape. Furthermore, it also ensures strict deterrent against any form of rape include male rape.

3. Jurisprudence of Male rape

The rising incidence of rape is said to become very worrisome to all and sundry across the global environment (Adams, 1999). This is concerning the fact that there have been several reported cases of rape. However, the issues of rape have been said to traumatize the victim with severe psychological pains and other likely venereal sexual transmitted diseases (STD) (Bames, 2001). Furthermore, sexual assault such as rape has a devastating effect on victims' physical health and social wellbeing; this is concerning the fact that survivors often experience stigmatization, rejection, and even suicidal thoughts, however, given the fact that the issue of rape is said to be prevailing in society and the very fact that it is considered as a criminal act against the state and the said victim, that need to be curtailed (Frazier, 2000). Most government and the international community have seen the need to curtail this evil act been perpetrated by enacting stringent laws that criminalise and punish cases of rape. Some of these laws are;

- The Universal Declaration of Human Right
- Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination,
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEWA)

Given the above international legal framework, it suffices to state that rape is seen or conceived as a common phenomenon that is mainly against the female gender, given the idea of their vulnerability (Abbey and McAuslan, 2014; Abbey et al., 2007). Interestingly this ideology seems to be adopted in most countries, including Nigeria, where the fight against rape has been mainly geared towards the protection of women and girls against sexual violence. Accordingly, in 2020, about 20 states government in Nigeria alone, through the initiatives of the office of the first lady, had one or more events to commemorate the celebration of activism on gender-based violence against females, so many chief security officers, Non-Governmental Organisations, and faith-based organisations were all, in one way or the other given their voice to the issue of sexual violence against female. In this regard, it suffices to further opine that the issues of rape and quest to curtail it has been gender-based, that it was mainly focusing on the female alone, virtually little or nothing is being said about sexual violence against males, yet it is of growing concern with its prevalence in our society.

Given the above, it can be said that because little or no attention is given to issues of male rape, most males have had to suffer silence, most especially in a scenario where they have no to speak for themselves. For example, male rape is often perpetrated in correctional centres (Oyekachi, 2010). This is concerning the fact that there have been several complain that most male inmate has been severely abused and sexually assaulted by the most correctional center personnel (Obioha, 2011). In this regard, it can be said that the state of correctional centres and treatment of male inmates in Nigeria is one critical aspect that has been left unattended to by the most governments (Ayo, 2008; Aboki, 2004). As a matter of fact, most male inmates are often subdued to succumb to submit to staff of correctional center less they may be starving and treated with disdain. According to Yejide Gbenga-ogundare (2013) summarized the state of Nigeria prison service in the following words

“Sexual assaults.... are parts of the decay which has turned Nigeria prison to a breeding ground for criminals..... underfeeding, slashing of feeding fee of individual inmates from #150 to #70 daily which led to reduction in food rations, low quality of food, over crowing and poor medical service have made prisoners both male and female ones becomes very vulnerable and open to sexual assaults, because of promise of favor and special treatmentprisons inmate are terribly treated and because of the terrible treatment meted out to a prisoner, attempt of

jail breaks are rampant in Nigeria, it happen on September 11 2007 at the agodi prison in Ibadan, September 2008 at the old prison in Benin city during which 23 hardened criminal escaped...

The above characterized the sexual assault often encountered by a male inmate in Nigeria correctional center. In this regard, it can be said that this is an abuse and a violation of the rights of most male inmates in Nigeria correctional center. It is in this regard that this study tends to examine issues as they relate to male rape, the legal framework as it concerns sexual violence against males, and the need for prompt response in curtailing this evil act that is gradually creeping into society.

However, it suffices to state that several scholars and academia had also elicited on the issues or incidence of rape in Nigeria and across the global environment. For Akinade et al. (2010), in their study, examines the socio-legal causes that tend to influence the incidence of rape in Nigeria. They found that the incidence of sexual abuse or rape within Nigeria are majorly caused by the following factors:

- Poor policing and ineffective intervention of police in cases of rape or sexual violence
- Judiciary reliance on strict proof of cases of sexual violence
- Excessive drinking by most culprits involves rape or sexual violence
- Frustration on the part of the culprit melted on the victims
- Indecent dressing on the part of the victim could be sexually harassing

Furthermore, they also identify the fact that persons of low or poor socio-economic status or class and legislators also contribute to the widespread of sexual violence. In this regard, they suggested that in order to combat this incidence of sexual violence, members of the society such as the government, community, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions should ensure that there is an effective preventive and combative measure or efforts being put in place to curtail the incidence of sexual violence. Also, Akintayo et al (2019) in reviewed the conceptual issues as rape, its prevention, and controlling method in Nigeria. They identify the fact that the issue of rape has become endemic in Nigeria that calls for concern. Given the fact that sexual violence or rape does not only compromise the dignity of the victims but goes to the extent of affecting their wellbeing, health, and physical status within their society. Although they agreed that young females are often the victims of sexual violence, however, it the act of sexual violence is often

experienced by males, though not as widespread as is the case of female rape. They further stated that causes of rape or sexual violence often stem from the adverse effect of poor economic, social, and cultural conditions of most societies. They further identify the fact that various stakeholders such as the government, government ministries, its agency, religious institution, and Non-governmental Organisations are giving a short of curtailing incidence of rape. However, there seem to be several challenges militating against the curtailment, and these challenges include:

- Inappropriate perception concerning issues of rape
- Social stigmatization emanating from the society
- Under-reporting incidence of rape
- Cumbersome legal requirements are needed to establish or prove incidence or cases of rape

Given the above, they further suggested that in order to find a lasting solution in curtailing the incidence of rape or sexual abuse of both males and females, the following solution were proffered as follows:

- There should be public enlightenment
- There should be multi-sectoral action geared towards combating the incidence of sexual abuse
- More advocacies are required concerning issues of rape
- Amendment of rape-related laws
- The training of targeted personnel in health care concerning caring and handling issues of rape
- Criminal justice systems and formulation of evidence-based policies

This view of Akintayo et al. was also emphasized by Adogu (2015), who stated that although the issues of rape are perpetrated in both developed and developing societies across the global environment. However, in Nigeria, the issue of rape is considered endemic; this is concerning the fact that it has become rampant, that it led to public outcry of the evil being perpetrated. He further stated that despite the agitation of most female activists and concern group, there is still no viable preventive mechanism put in place in curtailing this evil act of sexual violence or rape. This is concerning the fact that his study, which entails reliance on various literature, reveals that there was 717 incidence and reported cases of sexual violence or rape cases between January to March 2020. He further stated given the dangers caused by rape on the victims, and there is a need for various stakeholders such as the

government, law enforcement agents, human right organization, society, and Non-governmental organizations to collaborate in ensuring the curtailment of sexual violence.

However, it suffices to state that the above authors address issues as they relate to the prevalence and incidence of rape being perpetrated in Nigeria. It could also be gleaned from their study that they emphasized more sexual violence against females. Although, it was just only the study of Akintayo et al. that made reference that males also experience incidence of rape or sexual violence, though it is more common with the female counterpart. However, the myth that female is majorly the victim of sexual violence or rape cases were most pronounced in the study embarked on by Adogu *et al.* (2015), According to them; rape is often involved forceful sexual penetration and lack of consent of the female. They stated that from the review of their study, females are often the predators, most especially females that are single. This view was further emphasized by Bukar et al. (2021) in their study, which entails an examination of the causes of rape among teenage girls in Nigeria. According to them, virtually every day, there are reported cases or incidence of rape in Nigeria, and the victims are always teenage females, and the perpetrator are often the male counterpart.

However, as has been said before, it is a myth to conceive the idea that female is only the victims of issue of rape or sexual violence. According to Nwankwo (2021), in his study, he focused on two aspects concerning rape; the first view was to establish the view or the conceptual theories concerning the incidence of sexual violence. He emphasizes the fact that it is a myth and a misconceived view that rape is mainly committed by a male against a female alone. That was narrowing the definition of rape as a crime committed by the male alone will definitely affect or lead to male rape being perpetrated in silence. In this regard, the biased view concerning the issue of rape held by a majority of the public should be laid to rest in order to ensure the effective protection of males being sexually abused. However, his second view was aimed to examine the outburst of incidence of rape being perpetrated in Nigeria, and most victims often experience traumatic stress and post-traumatic stress. This is concerning the fact that they often had stigmatization and inadequate means to prosecute those culprits involved in the evil act of sexual abuse. Also, according to Oladipupo and Ademola (2019) in their study, they embark on an empirical analysis concerning the incidence of rape among Nigeria

tertiary institution students in Nigeria. Their study reviewed that both males and females that responded to their questionnaire agreed that they were victims and survivors of rape and attempted rape. However, the context of their experience concerning the incidence of rape and attempted rape were different. Their study further reviews that most of the perpetrators of rape against the respondents to their questionnaire are majorly their acquaintances. According to their study, it further reported that both the male and female victims of rape often experience the following consequences as a result of the incidence of the sexual abuse:

- Physical injuries
- Pregnancy among females
- Psychological disturbances among males
- Stigmatization

Given the above, most victims of sexual abuse are ashamed of seeking help, and a complaint is given the fact that the sexual abuse is often perpetrated by their acquaintances.

Given the above, it has been noted that various scholars above have been able to jurisprudentially identify and discuss issues as they relate to the incidence of rape or sexual violence in Nigeria and across the global environment. However, from the examination of their study, there seems to be a central focus of the issues of rape as it relates to female. Their focus is mainly on rape cases or sexual violence against the female counterpart, though just a few authors adumbrated on the fact that there are incidences of male rape which is often not reported or under-reported. However, it suffices to state that the basis Nigeria is gradually moving away of the myopic view which is of the view that rape cannot be committed against male. This is concerning the fact that in 2015, the Nigerian Government saw the need of enacting a law known as the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015. This law widely defined rape from the general perspective by includes male rape as a form of rape perpetrated against male.

4. Presentation and Analysis of Data

With regard to result obtain from the data presentation as obtained from the questionnaire in this study, is therefore analyse as follows:

4.1 Sample Size and Techniques

Concerning the sample size adopted in this study, 204 respondents were selected or chosen to respond to the questionnaire. In this regard, in selecting the respondents to respondents to the questionnaire, the

study adopts simple random sampling techniques. The essence of adopting the simple random techniques is concerning the fact that in several study it has been adjudge to possess some potential relevance and advantage in identifying respondents from a heterogeneous population like Nigeria (Idahosa et al. 2023; Aidonojie et al. 2022; Majekudumi et al, 2022; Aidonojie, 2022; Aidonojie and Francis, 2022; Aidonojie et al. 2022; Aidonojie et al. 2021). Furthermore, a simple random sampling techniques or method of identifying the respondents is also said to possess the following benefit or

advantages (Aidonojie et al. 2022; Aidonojie et al. 2021; Aidonojie et al. 2020; Oladele et al. 2022; Aidonojie et al. 2022; Aidonojie and Odojor, 2020; Aidonojie et al. 2022) as follows:

- A simple random sampling method or techniques is said to be free from any form of bias result
- It is said to be hassle free or a simple method identifying respondent
- Furthermore, it is more relevant to legal research than other techniques

5. Data Analysis

The data derived or generated through the use of an online survey questionnaire is hereby analysed below:

Research Question One

Which of the senatorial district do you reside in Delta State?

204 responses



Figure 1: Identification of the senatorial district reside in by the respondents

S/N	Senatorial District in Delta States	Responses of Respondents	Percent
1	Delta Central Senatorial District	58	28.4%
2	Delta North Senatorial District	79	38.7%
3	Delta South Senatorial District	67	32.8%
	Total	204	100%

Table 1: Valid identification of the senatorial district reside in by the respondents

Figure 1 and Table 1 are respondents' identification of the various senatorial district they reside in Delta state.

Research Question Two

Are there incidences of male rape in Delta State?

204 responses

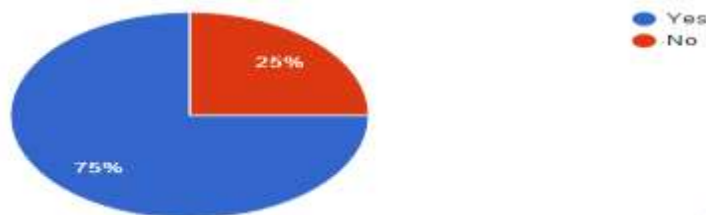


Figure 2: Identifying if there are incidences of male rape in Delta State

	Response	Percent
Valid Yes	153	75%
Valid No	51	25%
Total	204	100%

Table 2: Valid identification of if there are incidences of male rape in Delta State

Figure 2 and Table 2 above represent the identification by the respondents if there are incidence of male rape in Delta state.

Research Question Three

Which of the following constitutes incidences of rape that could also include male rape in Nigeria? You can tick more than one of the option

154 responses

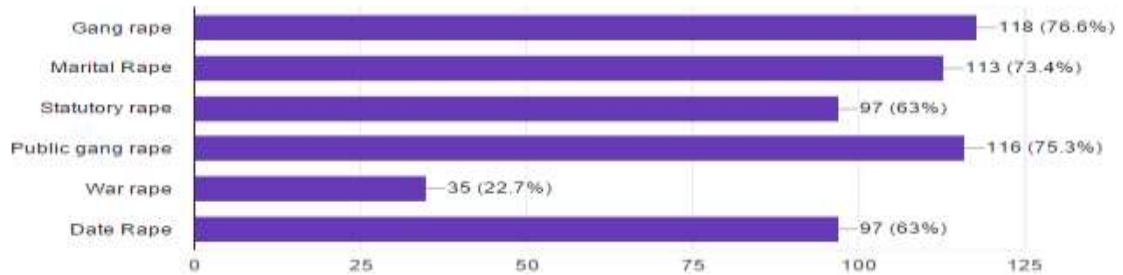


Figure 3: identifying acts or ways rape or male rape can be committed

Ways Male Rape can be Committed	Cluster of Response	Percentage
Gang rape	118	76.6%
Marital Rape	113	73.4%
Statutory rape	97	63%
Public gang rape	116	75.3%
War rape	35	22.7%
Date Rape	97	63%

Table 3: Valid Cluster respondents' of identifying acts or ways rape or male rape can be committed

Figure 3 and Table 3 are respondents' clusters of valid identification of the various ways rape or male rape can be committed.

Research Question Four

Are there legal frameworks concerning male rape in Nigeria?

204 responses

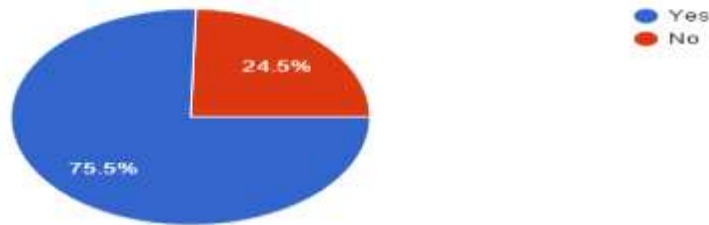


Figure 4: Respondents identifying if there are legal framework concerning male rape in Delta state

	Response	Percent
Valid Yes	154	75.5%
Valid No	50	24.5%
Total	204	100%

Table 4: Valid Respondents' identification of if there are legal framework concerning male rape in Delta state

Figure 4 and Table 4 are valid identification of if there are legal framework concerning male rape in Delta State.

Research Question Five

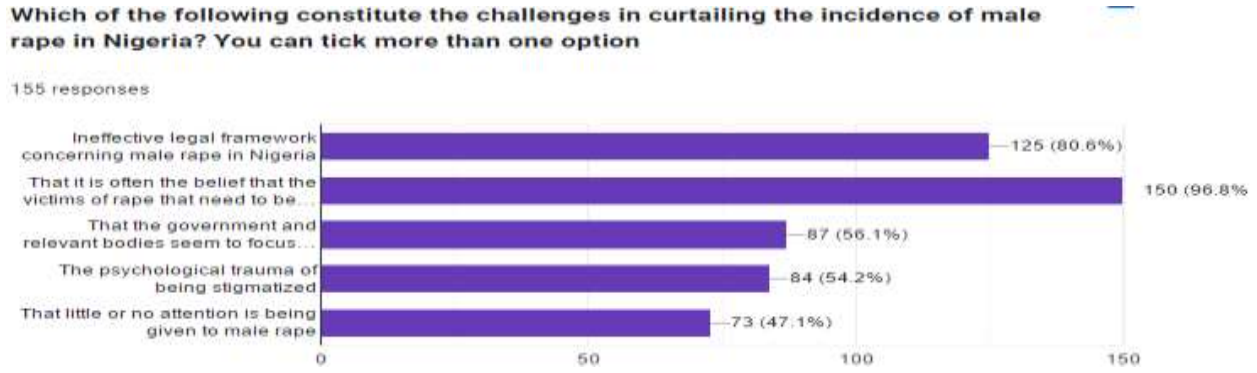


Figure 5: Identification of the challenges in curtailing incidence of male rape in Delta State

Challenges concerning Male Rape in Delta State	Cluster of Responses	Percentage
Ineffective legal framework concerning male rape in Nigeria	125	80.6%
That it is often the belief that the victims of rape that need to be protected are female	150	96.8%
That the government and relevant bodies seem to focus on female rape with little or no attention to male rape	87	56.1%
The psychological trauma of being stigmatized	84	54.2%
That little or no attention is being given to male rape	73	47.1%

Table 5: Valid cluster of Identification of the challenges in curtailing incidence of male rape in Delta State

Figure 5 and Table 5 represent a cluster of respondents' identification of the various challenges in curtailing male rape in Delta State.

Research Question Six

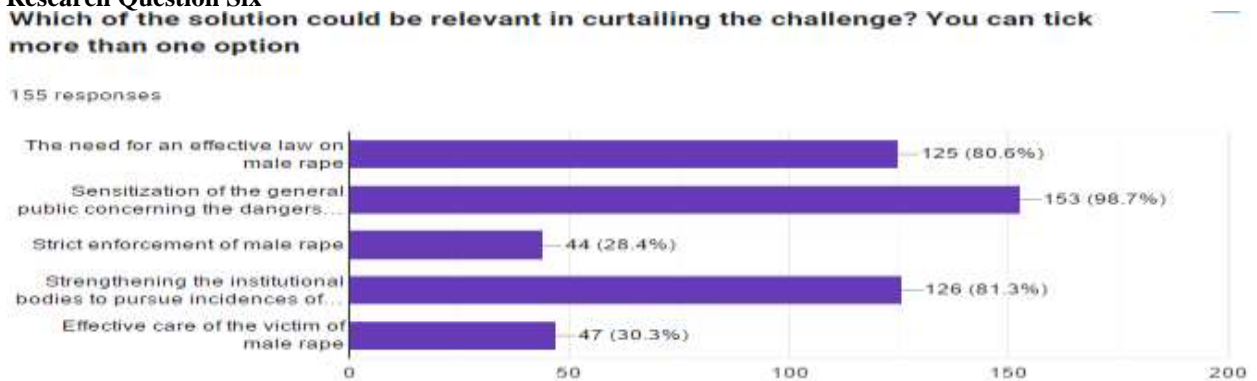


Figure 6: Identification of the challenges in curtailing incidence of male rape in Delta State

Remedies in curtailing Male Rape in Delta State	Cluster of Responses	Percentage
The need for an effective law on male rape	125	80.6%
Sensitization of the general public concerning the dangers of male rape	153	98.7%
Strict enforcement of male rape	44	28.4%
Strengthening the institutional bodies to pursue incidences of male rape	126	81.3%
Effective care of the victim of male rape	47	30.3%

Table 6: Valid cluster of respondents of identification of the challenges in curtailing incidence of male rape in Delta State

Figure 6 and Table 6 represent a cluster of respondents' valid responses in identifying some of the possible remedies in curtailing incidence of male rape in Delta state.

6. Discussion of Findings

Concerning the data obtained through the questionnaire and presented in this study, figure 1 and table 1 clarifies the fact that the 204 respondents who responded to the questionnaire are from or are

resident of Delta state. In this regard, it suffices to state that the respondents are well-informed and possess the knowledge to give an appropriate answer to the question. In essence, in figure 2 and table 2 above, 75% of the respondent were able to identify that there are incidences of male rape in Delta State.

Furthermore, in figure 3 and table 3 the respondents further identify the various ways male rape can be committed as follows:

76.6% of the respondents identify that rape can be committed through gang rape
 73.4% stated through marital rape
 63% and 75.3 % identify that rape can be committed through statutory rape and public gang rape respectively
 22.7% stated war rape
 Furthermore, 63% of the respondents identify that rape can be committed through date rape

The above as identified by the respondents is aptly what is obtainable in most of Nigeria. However, in figure 4 and table 4, 75.5% of the respondent were able to identify that even though the evil of rape is been committed in Nigeria, there is a legal framework that tends to kick against the incidence of male rape in Nigeria. However, there are challenges often mitigating the curtailment of rape in Nigeria. In this regard, in figure 5 and table 5, the respondents were able to identify some of these challenges as follows:

80.6% of the respondents identify that there is an ineffective legal framework concerning male rape in Nigeria
 96.8% identify that it is often the belief that the victims of rape that need to be protected are female
 56.1% stated that the government and relevant bodies seem to focus on female rape with little or no attention to male rape
 54.2% of the respondent identify that there is the psychological trauma of being stigmatized
 Furthermore, 47.1% stated that little or no attention is being given to male rape

Having identified some of the challenges in curtailing the incidence of male rape, in figure 6 and table 6, the respondents were able to identify the possible remedies concerning challenges in curtailing the incidence of male rape in Nigeria as follows:

80.6% of the respondents identify that there is a need for an effective law on male rape
 98.7% stated that there is a need for sensitization of the general public concerning the dangers of male rape
 28.4% identify strict enforcement of male rape
 81.3% stated there is a need to strengthen the institutional bodies to pursue incidences of male rape
 Furthermore, 30.3% of the respondents were of the view that effective care of the victim of male rape could also aid in curtailing the incidence of male rape in Delta State

7. Conclusion

Given the above, it can be said that the issue of sexual violence or rape has always been the subject of discussion. Given the fact, a sexually victimised person is on a daily basis become very prevalent across the global environment. Furthermore, victims that are sexually assaulted are often suffering from trauma, psychological disorder, and having the only option of suicidal thought.

However, in accordance with this study, it was also observed that it could be emphatically said that there are several legal frameworks (both local and international) that condemn and criminalise sexual violence or rape. However, it suffices to emphasize the fact that, as observed in this study that the issue of rape has always been gender-based issues, given the fact that females are always seen as a weaker vessel that could easily be preyed on and the belief that the culprit is always the male. This belief also stems from the fact that the definition of rape or sexual violence is occasion to mean any form of sexual connection by objects such as penis, finger, sticks, or vibrators that could penetrate through the victim forcefully or without the victims' consent. In this regard, a male is not seen as one or an individual that could fit into the definition as one that is capable of being raped.

However, the study also identifies the fact that it is a misconception to hold the opinion that males are not capable of being raped or cannot be a victim of sexual violence. This is concerning the in recent time males are now being sexually abused, either by their fellow men or women. Given the deeper cultural myth that a man cannot be a victim of sexual violence has degenerated to a situation where male victims of sexual violence find it most difficult to speak and complain of rape or sexual violence against them.

It is concerning the above that this study further identifies the fact that there is a need to revamp the laws as they relate to the protection of males against sexual violence or male rape. Furthermore, various stakeholders on crime prevention (such as the government, Non-governmental organization, and society) need to put in place adequate measures in protecting males against sexual violence and also prosecuting culprits of perpetrating sexual violence against males.

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