



Erotica scenes in Nollywood home videos: Unsafe sexual behaviours and HIV risk amongst viewers in Tiv land, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract

The impact of pornographic films and websites on sexual behaviours and HIV risk has been acknowledged globally. However, the influence of erotica scenes especially the ones from seemingly ‘entertainment’ home videos, produced by Nollywood on unsafe sexual behaviours and HIV risk is yet to receive the desired attention. This paper examines the influence of these erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos on unsafe sexual behaviours amongst viewers and HIV risk in Tiv land, Nigeria. A sample of 1,621 respondents was collected using multi-stage and purposive sampling methods. Structured and in-depth interviews were used for data collection, while SPSS (version 21) was used for quantitative data analysis. Nollywood home videos with erotic scenes are common both in the rural and urban areas. They have influenced unsafe sexual intercourse with multiple partners which might have contributed to the high incidence rates of HIV in Tiv land. Programmes intervention with component addressing the effect of these erotica scenes would assist in reducing unsafe sexual intercourse and HIV risk. The overall benefit would be the sexual wellbeing of the individuals and the public.

Keywords: Erotica Scenes; Unsafe Sexual Behaviours; Multiple Partners; Nollywood Films; HIV; Nigeria

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1. Introduction

The impact of pornographic films and websites on unsafe sexual behaviours and HIV risk has been acknowledged globally (Cunningham and Kendall, 2010). However, the influence of erotica scenes especially the ones from seemingly 'entertainment' home videos, produced by Nollywood (Nigeria movie industry) on unsafe sexual behaviours and HIV risk is yet to receive the desired attention. This paper examines the influence of these erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos on unsafe sexual behaviours and HIV risk amongst the Tiv people of Nigeria.

The burden of HIV in Nigeria was estimated to be about 220,394 new cases of HIV infection, 210,031 HIV related deaths, 1,476,741 requiring drugs, and 3,229,757 individuals living with HIV. While over 85% new cases of HIV infection are through heterosexual source (NACA, 2014). Factors such as male coercion (Mberu, 2008), lack of anticipation for sex (Adebiyi and Asuzu, 2009; Mberu, 2008), procreation (Smith, 2004), age (Akinyemi, et al., 2010; Adebiyi and Asuzu, 2009; Amoran and Ladi-Akinyemi, 2012; Danjin and Onajole, 2010; Mberu, 2008; Oyediran, et al., 2011), and sexual pleasure (Oyediran et al., 2011) have accounted for some observed risky sexual behaviours. However, the contribution of erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos to unsafe sexual intercourse with multiple partners amongst its viewers and HIV risk is yet to be given the desired attention.

Generally, it has been identified that the transmission of pornographic images through the internet and other means of communication, from sexually liberal societies to different parts of the world has seriously influenced change in social norms of many communities, thus exposing several individuals to sexual risks (Cunningham and Kendall, 2010; Baumgartner et al., 2010; Cameron et al. 2005; Simon and Paxton, 2004). Elsewhere in Jamaica, the youths were engaged in risky sex while on transit through the influence of dancehall genre music played by public transport drivers, while conveying them (Crawford, 2010). The evidence available suggest that both pornographic films and dancehall genre music could prompt risky sexual behaviours.

2. Methods

2.1. Theory

It is assumed that sexual behaviours especially unsafe sexual intercourse may results to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. Although there are contending opinions of what sexual act constitutes safe or unsafe sexual behaviours, the belief that once the sexual outcomes of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS are against the initial motives of the participants, it could be considered unsafe sexual behaviour. Unwanted pregnancies, STDs and HIV/AIDS may be linked to unsafe sexual behaviours (Timiun, 2012).

There are factors that may enhance the capacity of an individual to negotiate for sex, these are sexual capacity variables. Pornographic images which sometimes are beamed to individuals via the internet may

reinforce the desire for sex. Contact with potential sexual partners may sometimes be done using electronic means. Sexual relations may extend beyond the individuals immediate environment to other regions of the same country or other countries. These variables may influence the individual's sexual behaviour and empower him or her. Their influence on contraceptive method choice and use is also important in understanding the dynamics of sexual behaviours and contraception.

Sexual performance refers to the things the individual actually does to initiate a sexual encounter, enhance sex or during sexual encounter (Timiun, 2012). Performance variables include all the things that people actually do to enhance sexual encounters. This can be before or during the sexual encounter. Taking of alcohol or drugs to perform sex constitutes part of performance. The achievements through performing sexual acts may reinforce the desire for future performance to attain yet unachieved targets. "The actual things the individuals do that constitute 'good' sexual performance and better results are difficult to discard if the individuals still desire similar positive results. If unprotected sex or prolong drugs induced sex constitute good performance and better results, it will be difficult to discard except if the specific needs for such performance are addressed" (Timiun, 2012, p.124). Thus the health risk from sexual performance can be high, moderate, low or very low based on different performances such as 'no protection', 'sometimes with protection or protection with known incidences of failure'; often 'use protection', and sex with 'exclusive partners' only.

The young adults are not expected to have sex until they are married, thus, sex amongst them may mostly be secretive and without the usage of condoms. Condoms abhorrence may include those living with HIV.

2.2. Quantitative Methods

A sample of 1,621 (864 women; 757 men) respondents was collected from 2 clinics (Mkar; Aliade) and other 2 locations (Jyovkundan; Udei) using multi-stage and purposive sampling methods. A probability sampling without replacement (raffle draws) was used in selecting Gwer West (urban area) and Guma (rural area) from the homogeneous settlements of Ichongu block; while Gboko (urban area) and Konshisha (rural area) were selected from the Ipusu using the same method. General Hospital, Aliade was then selected from Gwer West, while NKST Hospital, Mkar was selected from Gboko to obtain samples of those living with HIV. The table of random numbers was used in selecting Udei from Guma out of several other rural settlements such as Kaseyor, Yerwata, Ukohor, Umenga, Agasha, Daudu, Uluva, Yogbo etc. Similarly, Jovkyundan was selected from Konshisha out of other rural settlements such as Tse-Agberagba, Gungul, Korinya, Agbeede, Awajir, Tsuwe, Mbaakpur, Achoho, Iber, Akputu

An eight page questionnaire with closed and open ended questions was used for quantitative data collection amongst 805 HIV seropositive clinic attendees and 796 HIV seronegative individuals on background characteristics, sexual performance, risky sexual behaviours, erotica scenes from Nollywood home video, and HIV in the first stage. In the second stage, face to face interviews were conducted with the respondents by the researcher (author), with the aid of some research assistants. The questionnaires were pretested by conducting a mock data collection with 50 respondents before the actual data collection exercise. The internal consistency and reliability of the data collection instrument was very high. The

quantitative data collection lasted for five months between April and August, 2014. Completed questionnaires were scrutinised in the field to ensure exactness of the recorded information. Thereafter, they were retrieved and stored in a well secured office, accessed by the researcher alone.

At the completion of data collection, the responses were coded and entered into Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) version 21 software, which has provision for the Generalised Linear Regression with Cumulative Link, was used for the analysis of quantitative data. The response variable, unsafe sexual behaviours which has four categories is an ordinal variable, however, the data fit better in multinomial rather than ordinal distribution.

2.3. Qualitative Methods

In this segment of data collection, purposive sampling was used in selecting 20 respondents who participated in in-depth interviews. Five individuals were selected in each location. The interviews were conducted in Tiv language using a guide with questions on factors (erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos, sexual performance, risky sexual behaviours and HIV, poverty, and cultural factors) influencing sexual behaviours. An audio recorder was used for recording the discussions during the in-depth interviews for the purpose of transcription after the data collection sessions. The data were transcribed and analysed by the researcher. The findings from qualitative data provided further insight into the intricacies of illicit sexual behaviours.

3. Findings

3.1. Quantitative findings

Approximately 53% of the respondents are females and almost all the respondents have watched Nollywood home videos either in their house or neighbourhood at the time of the study. Twenty one percent (21%) either attended primary education only or did not attend formal schooling. The younger age groups between the ages of 18 and 39 years constitute 78.4% of the respondents, while 28.2% are farmers, 10.9% of the respondents are currently unemployed (see Table 1). Approximately 74% of the respondents earn less than N25, 000 per month (\$87.71 USD; 1 USD = N197, see Table 1). After controlling for education, income, religion and relationship status, the factors of sex ($P = 0.04$; OR = 0.825; CI = 0.681-0.999); unemployment ($P = 0.03$; OR = 1.836; CI = 1.034- 3.263); location ($P = 0.000$; OR = 2.217; CI = 1.668-2.947); number of sexual partners ($P = 0.000$; OR = 1.341; CI = 1.150-1.567), HIV positive status ($P = 0.000$; OR = 2.313; 1.751-3.056) are significantly associated with risky sexual behaviours resulting from the influence of erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos (see Table 2).

The men are 17.5 times less likely to engage in unsafe sexual intercourse due to the influence of erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos than the females. With reference to 'others' as a category of occupation, those who are unemployed are 83.6 times more likely to be aroused by the erotica scenes to engage in unsafe sexual behaviours relative to farmers (37.1 times more likely), civil servants (65.4 times more likely, and

students (78.5 times more likely). While in comparison to Urban Ipusu, those in rural-Ichongu are 21.7 times more likely to be prompted to engage in risky sexual behaviours due to the influence of erotica scenes from Nollywood relative to those in rural-Ipusu and urban-Ichongu. Further, those who are prompted to engage in risky sexual intercourse due to erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos are 3.4 times more likely to keep multiple sexual partners. Furthermore, those who are HIV positive are 31.3 times more likely to engage in unsafe sexual behaviours due to the influence of erotica scenes from Nollywood films relative to those who are HIV sero-negative status.

3.2. Qualitative findings

In one of the interviews granted by a popular Nollywood actress, she admitted that pornography had become a component of their videos, thus corroborating the assertion that Nollywood home videos are replete with erotica scenes. The following is an excerpt from her words:

Benson Okonkwo, my actor friend once said that I think he is right. Pornography makes our films more real.....I call it doing your job. If your scripts says you should do something, it is doing your job. Nollywood has no business doing movies if it cannot absorb pornography (Queeneth Hilbert, Nollywood actress).

The influence of these erotica scenes on sexual behaviours is serious especially on young people who pass away time watching Nollywood videos. One of the respondents describes his experience in the following words:

When you are watching films and you see pornographic scene, you will notice something standing up and if there is a women close by you will have sex. It is not good. (Male, student, 23 years; single)

Another young man narrates his experience in the following manner:

I am moved when I see pornographic scenes and I try to sleep with a girlfriend, but it is not good. (Male; single, 19 years, student)

In another vein, a young female respondent narrates the impact of these erotica scenes on her in a similar way to others. To her:

Some firms with pornographic scenes cause sexual urge. When you are watching film and you see such thing, it send message to you and if you don't have strong self-control, you will go and have sex. (Female, Farmer, 23years, single)

These home videos have constituted serious problems in the communities with regard to maintenance of sexual norms and values. Warning inscription restraining children and teenagers blow 18 years from purchasing or watching these videos are conspicuously placed on the covers, nonetheless, children, teenagers, young adults and the old people alike watch them. This issue has been captured in the words below:

Pornographic firms are causing serious problem. One small boy watched such firm, he called his sister into the room and wanted to do what he saw in the firm, so the girl ran and reported to the parents and he was beaten. It creates sexual urge even among adults. (Female, farmer; 22 years, married)

Further, the mounting cases of rape in the communities have been attributed to the influence of these erotic scenes, because pornographic films are prohibited and they are not common as home videos. Again, the evidence in the statement below support this assertion.

You are moved when you watch firm with pornographic scenes. There was a time, we went for a funeral, and there was a video show with such scenes, a boy was moved to a point of trying to rape a girl if not for the intervention of other people. (Female; 32 years, business; married)

4. Conclusion

It can be argued that the influence of pornography from other sources such as websites, films, and phones on sexual behaviours in these communities is not as enormous as the one from Nollywood videos. Low education and income have weakened the capacity of most of the respondents to own phones that could access the internet and also settle related bills. According to UNDP (2013), 61.2% of the population in Nigeria are living on less than 1 USD per day. Similarly, the NDHS (2014) report on income and standard of living indicates that 81.0% of uneducated women, and 71.0% of uneducated men belong to the poorest homes in Nigeria. Poverty has made access to internet expensive and not common. It could be one of the reasons why not much attention has been given to the contribution of internet related pornography on sexual behaviours in Nigeria.

However, with the increase in population in both rural and urban areas, several individuals have taken delight in passing away time by watching Nollywood videos produced in less sophisticated English (Pidgin) and local dialect. These videos are common and at least within reachable distances. The capacity to engage in unsafe sexual practices is enhanced through what they watch in the videos and the availability of potential partners who may be patrons of the home videos.

Evidence available point to the fact that erotica scenes from Nollywood home videos have influenced unsafe sexual behaviours through multiple relationships and unanticipated unsafe sexual intercourse which are sometimes without the use of condoms in Nigeria. Elsewhere in Jamaica (Crawford, 2010) and other areas (Cunningham and Kendall 2010; Baumgartner, et al., 2010; Cameron et al. 2005; Simon and Paxton, 2004), music and pornographic films have been observed to contribute to risky sexual behaviours.

With Nigeria possessing high incidence rates of HIV infection which are mostly from heterosexual relationships, paying attention to the contribution of erotica scenes from Nollywood videos to risky sexual behaviours would be a rewarding venture. Policies aiming at promoting safer sexual practices to halt the spread of HIV through heterosexual intercourse should address this issue. This would assist in reducing the transmission of HIV through this source and also enhance the sexual wellbeing of the individuals and the public

Table 1. Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
	Sex	
Male	749	46.8
Female	852	53.2
Total	1601	100
	Levels of Education	
No formal schooling	122	7.6
Primary	188	11.7
Secondary	761	47.5
Tertiary	530	33.1
Total	1601	100
	Relationship Status	
Married	820	51.2
Single	527	32.9
Widowed	123	7.7
Divorced	59	3.7
Separated	65	4.1
Cohabiting	7	0.4
Total	1601	100
	Monthly Income in Naira (USD1 = N197)	
Less than 25,000	1186	74.1
25,000-49,000	287	17.9
50,000-90,000	98	6.1
100,000+	30	1.9
Total	1601	100
	Age (Years)	
18-19yrs	163	10.2
20-24yrs	293	18.3
25-29yrs	342	21.4
30-34yrs	336	21.0
35-39yrs	120	7.5
40-44yrs	136	8.5
45-49yrs	98	6.1
50-54yrs	67	4.2
55-59yrs	35	2.2
60+	11	0.7
Total	1601	100
	Occupation	
Farming	451	28.2
Civil service	203	12.7
Business	363	22.7
Student	366	22.9
Unemployed	175	10.9
Others	43	2.7
Total	1601	100

Note: The source of the data is from field survey, 2014

Table 2. Correlates of Erotica Scenes from Nollywood Home Videos and Risky Sexual Behaviours

Influence of Erotica scene on Unsafe sex	Test of Hypothesis			Odd Ratio	95% Confidence Interval for Odd Ratio	
	B	df	Sig.		Lower	Upper
Strongly disagree	-1.549	1	0.000	0.212	0.113	0.399
Disagree	0.090	1	0.784	1.094	0.577	2.073
Agree	2.366	1	0.000	10.654	5.546	20.465
Sex (Male)	-0.192	1	0.049	0.825	0.681	0.999
HIV Status						
Positive	0.839	1	0.000	2.313	1.751	3.056
Occupation						
Farming	0.315	1	0.250	1.371	0.801	2.344
Civil service	0.503	1	0.087	1.654	0.930	2.942
Business	0.397	1	0.146	1.487	0.871	2.538
Students	0.579	1	0.035	1.785	1.041	3.060
Unemployed	0.608	1	0.038	1.836	1.034	3.263
Condoms use last six months preceding study						
Did not use	0.250	1	0.324	1.284	0.781	2.110
Used sometimes	0.011	1	0.931	1.012	0.780	1.312
Used always	-0.249	1	0.138	0.779	0.561	1.083
Location	0 ^a			1		
Rural Ichongu	0.796	1	0.000	2.217	1.668	2.947
Rural Ipusu	-.843	1	.000	.430	.325	.570
Urban Ichongu	-0.236	1	0.090	0.790	0.601	1.038
Number of Partners						
Number of sexual partners	0.293	1	0.000	1.341	1.150	1.563

Note. Source of data is from field survey, 2014

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