

**PEER INFLUENCE, PARENTAL NEGLECT AND SELF-CONCEPT  
AS PREDICTORS OF RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS AMONG IN-  
SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN ANAMBRA STATE**

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**Abstract**

*The study examined peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept as predictors of risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents in Anambra State. The study adopted a correlational research design. The target population was made up of 2,008 SSII adolescents while proportionate sampling was used in choosing 200 SSII students from six schools in the six zones that make up the six education zones. Four instruments used were: Adolescence Risky Sexual Behaviour Questionnaire (ARSBQ), Peer Influence Inventory ( $\alpha = 0.83$ ), Perceived Parental Behaviour Scale ( $\alpha = 0.73$ ), and Multidimensional Sexual Self-concept Scale ( $\alpha = 0.77$ ). Three research questions were answered and three hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Data were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Multiple Regression. There was significant relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. Also, the independent variables contributed relatively in order of magnitude: parental neglect ( $\beta = 0.973$ ,  $t = 51.524$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ); peer influence ( $\beta = 0.528$ ,  $t = 20.710$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and self-concept ( $\beta = 0.301$ ,  $t = 12.010$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) to the prediction of risky sexual behaviours among adolescents. Similarly, the independent variables made a joint contributive effect of 97.3% on the dependent variable. Likewise, peer-influence ( $r(198) = 0.986$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ); parental neglect ( $r(198) = 0.643$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and self-concept ( $r(198) = 0.627$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) significantly had predictive impact on the risky sexual behaviour of adolescents. Based on this, sexuality education, should be given prior attention to expose adolescents on the dangers and ill effect associated with risky sexual behaviour.*

**Keywords:** Peer Influence, Parental-neglect, self-concept; Risky-sexual behaviour, In-school adolescents.

## **Introduction**

Incidence of anti-social behaviours among adolescents who are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow has reached an alarming rate that it becomes pertinent to take a close look at the kind of relationships that exist between adolescents, their parents and their self-concept. World Health Organization views adolescents as youths from the age of ten to nineteen years. The period of adolescence has been identified to consist of dramatic transformations accompanied by several physiological, sexual, behavioral, emotional and psychological changes; depression, anxiety, restlessness and several obsessions are reasonably observable during adolescence (Nwolisa, 2011). Adolescents' period marks the emergence of sex drive. Sexual behaviour among adolescents has over the years become an issue of great concern particularly as adolescents engage in a number of risky sexual behaviours.

Risky sexual behaviours is defined as the number of partners with whom adolescents had intercourse without a condom, since having multiple sex partners without using condom puts adolescents at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (Akanle, 2006). Kenny (2010) asserted that risky sexual behaviour include sexual intercourse that takes place without the use of a condom or contraceptives. It also includes having sexual intercourse indiscriminately with different partners within a specific time-frame with someone they have just met.

Many factors which may predispose adolescents and young adults to risky sexual behaviours have been studied. For instance Kenny (2010) identified some environmental and family risk factors leading to risky sexual behaviours: social deprivation, community influences, norms and values, media messages, young people's identification with sexualized characters portrayed in the media, and peer group influence. Also, young people's sexual behavior have been noted to be influenced by a number of factors such as, sexuality education, sexual knowledge, type of family, neighborhood (Adegoke, 2004), peers, exposure to information, gender (Okpani, 2001), education and social-economic status of parents (Isiugo-Abanihe & Oyediran, 2004). Little seems to be found on the combination of peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept as combined independent variables that could predict adolescents risky sexual behaviour, hence this study.

## **Peer-influence and adolescents risky sexual behaviours**

Peer group influence undoubtedly play significant role in the lives of the adolescents. At this phase of their lives, peers' advice tend to replace that of their parents and this is why some of them have serious disagreement with

their parents or guardians. According to Okafor and Nnoli (2010), adolescent's create separate world for themselves using slangs, coded language, facial expression and body language which can only be understood by their peers. The authors further noted that these adolescents rely completely on peers counsel and regard their parents as "old school" or "old fashion".

The effects of negative peer influence as noted by Onohwosafe (2013) on adolescents may be numerous and these could include alienation from the family, disobedience and total disregard for the opinions and values of their parents. According to Okafor (2008), adolescents receive most of their information to engage in sexuality from peers which often leads to misinformation, the author stressed that peers force their friends to engage in indiscriminate sex without precaution and as well misinform them on sexuality and their reproductive organs. Girls see themselves as "sexualized objects" that is, uses their sexual organs as weapon to conquer while boys exhibit their manhood through "sexual conquest", that is, using their sex libido for sexual satisfaction. With misinformation those who choose to use condom during sex sometimes use them wrongly. Oladokun, Morhasan-Bello, Enekpene, Owonikoko, Akinyemi and Obisesan (2007) carried out a study about sexual behaviour of adolescents. The study was to determine the prevalence and contraceptive practices amongst secondary school adolescents. According to the study, only 10% of the respondents get information about sex education from parents and teachers while the remaining students get information about sexual education from school mates or friends of which they do not get proper information.

#### **Parental neglect and adolescent's risky sexual behaviour**

Uninvolved parenting sometimes referred to as neglectful parenting is a style of parenting characterized by lack of responsiveness to a child's needs. Uninvolved parents make few or no demands of their children and they are often indifferent, dismissive, or even completely neglectful. Parental warmth and support according to Rollins and Thomas, (2005) are associated with a range of positive adolescents outcome, whereas a lack of support which is parental neglect is often linked to a range of problem behaviours, including sexual risk behaviour.

According to Longmore, Nanning and Glordano (2001), when parents provide warmth and support, appropriately monitor behaviour and practice discipline in non-coercive ways, adolescents are more likely to develop interpersonal security and observe boundaries that shape involvement in sexual activities. This implies that when parents are neglectful in their parenting style, adolescents would therefore not develop interpersonal security

that would shape their involvement in sexual activities and thereby would be involved in a number of risky sexual behaviours.

In a cross-sectional study of an ethnically diverse sample of adolescents (51% European America, 36% African America and 21% Hispanic) Borawski, Ramey Bristol-power(2003) found that higher levels of parental monitoring were associated with safer sex practices (e.g consistent condom use) for males, but not for girls. They reported that the males and females were similar with regards to demographic characteristics, with the exception of age. Findings suggest that parental monitoring may be an important predictor for male verses female adolescents sexual behaviour. Yielding another support, however, longitudinal study of African American and Latino youths from urban neighborhood also found that lower levels of parental monitoring (that is, parental neglectful) were associated with early sexual activities for boys only, even after accounting for age (Smith, 1997). Again in another cross-sectional study of mostly youths, less parental monitoring or neglect was associated with higher chances of adolescent boys engaging in precoital (kissing, touching) and coital (oral, anal and vaginal) sexual behaviours. (Sneed et al., 2009).

In another study carried out by Huebner and Howel (2003). The study examined the relationship between parental monitoring and communication and adolescents sexual risk behaviour among a group of 2,701 students enrolled in six rural high schools in the Southeastern United States. Logistic regression analysis revealed a direct relationship between sexual risk taking and parental monitoring and communication. Those adolescents who were closely supervised by their parents had a lower amount of sexual risk taking than those who had low amounts of parental monitoring and supervision.

From the foregoing, it implies that children with high level of monitoring eventually turn out to be matured and less likely to engage in risk taking behaviour, whereas children with uninvolved or neglectful parenting often get involve in a number of risky sexual behaviour.

### **Self-concept and adolescents risky sexual behaviours**

Self-concept according to Yahaya (2010), refers to the totality of a complex, organized and dynamic system of learned beliefs, attitudes and opinions that each person holds to be true about his or her personal existence. At first one's self-concept is very general and changeable, but as one grow older, these self-perceptions become much more organized, detailed, and specific, (Pastorino & Doyle-Portillo, 2013). Carl Rogers believed that there are three different parts of self-concept: the self-image, self-esteem and the ideal-self.

According to Mcleod (2008), high self-concept leads to optimism while low self-concept indicates a negative view of oneself. This tends to lead to lack of confidence, wanting to be or look like someone else and always worrying about what others might think about ourselves. The researcher maintain that low self-concept causes pessimism. Researchers have reported several connections between self-concept and risky sexual behaviours. For instance, research has it that low self-esteem seemed to explain the link between peer rejection and early sex. Girls with poor self-images may see having sexual relations with mates as a way to becoming popular (Hubner & Howel, 2003). They also report that boys are less willing to state that they have negative feelings about sex than girls when they describe their sexual self-schemas.

A group of Canadian researchers found a relationship between self-esteem and sexual activity. They found that students especially girls, who were verbally abused by teachers or rejected by peers were more likely to engage in sexual affairs by the end of Grade 7 than other students who engage in sex by the end of Grade 7. The researchers speculate that low self-esteem increases the likelihood of sexual activities (Norton, 2007).

Girls with a positive self-schema are more likely to be liberal in their attitudes to sexual relations with mates. They are more likely to view themselves as passionate and open to sexual experience and are more likely to rate sexual experiences as positive. Their views towards sexual relationships with mates show that they place high importance on romance, love and intimacy. Girls who have a more negative view often say they feel self-conscious about sexuality and view sexual encounters more negative (Norton, 2007). Further, correlational analyses revealed that adolescents with a more positive sense of self were more likely to perceive sexual involvement as a relatively high-risk behaviour. Specifically, results show that male adolescents were less likely than females to perceive sexual affairs to be risky (Reynolds, 2003).

### **Statement of the Problem**

The most turbulent state of human development is agreeably the adolescent stage. Among their numerous delinquent behaviours are their involvements in all forms of indiscriminate sexual escapades leading to their exposure to infectious diseases such as sexual transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS and all forms of negative consequences emanating from risky sexual behaviours. Unfortunately these adolescents do not know or appreciate some possible factors or variables that could predispose or influence the high rate of risky sexual behaviours they indulge in. This study therefore intends to find out the predictive impact of peer-pressure, parental neglect and self-

concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents in Anambra state.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept as predictors of risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents in Anambra State.

Specifically, the study tends to find out:

1. The relationship between peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.
2. The joint effect of peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept on the risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.
3. The relative contribution of peer influence, parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were answered in the study:

1. What are the relationships between peer-influence, parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents?
2. What is the joint effect of peer-influence parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents?
3. What is the relative contribution of peer-influence, parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 margin of error.

- H<sub>01</sub> There is no significant relationship between peer-pressure, and risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.
- H<sub>02</sub> There is no significant relationship between parental neglect and risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.
- H<sub>03</sub> There is no significant relationship between self-concept and risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.

### **Research Design**

The study adopted a correlational research design which seeks to establish the relationship that exists between two or more variables. This design was appropriate for this study because the researchers made use of data collected from the sample to examine the relationship between the independent and the dependent variables.

### **Population and Sample**

The target population for the study comprised of 2,008 SSII adolescents in secondary schools in Anambra State. The sample consists of 200 SSII adolescents. These are adolescents identified by their counselors and whose names appeared more than twice in their school guidance counselors disciplinary log book as a result of their involvement in one risky sexual behavior or another during a preliminary investigation with the school counselor. These adolescents were selected from the schools in the six education zones that have cases of sexual assaults. The 200 adolescents were randomly sampled from the schools as proportionate to the students' population size.

### **Instrument:**

Four instruments were used for data collection. The first was an instrument developed by the researchers which was used to measure adolescents' risky sexual behaviours. The others were three standardized instrument adopted to measure peer-pressure, parental neglect and self-concept. These are: Adolescents Sexual Risk Behaviour Questionnaire (ASRBQ), a self-developed instrument by the researchers was used to measure adolescents sexual risk behaviour. This consists of 12 item used to assess adolescent's involvement in sexual risk-taking. It is a Likert format with a five-point response option ranging from never (1) once (2) sometimes (3) often (4) very often (5). The instrument was validated by 3 experts from University of Nigeria Nsukka, while split half measure was used to measure its reliability using 20 adolescents from a neighboring secondary school in Enugu State and a reliability coefficient of 0.79 was obtained.

Clasen and Brown (1985) Peer Pressure Inventory (PPI) was used to assess the perception of peer pressure in domains such as peer social activities, conformity to peer norms and misconduct. It has 11 items on a five point scale which include: "my friends could push me to do something; it would be hard to say no. "The item scoring ranges from strongly agree to strongly disagree with a minimum score of 10 and maximum of 48. The questionnaire was pilot tested and it has split-half reliability of 0.83 and 0.86 using the Guttman analytical method.

Parental neglect was measured with Perceived Parental Behaviour Scale by (Zhang, Wan, Luk, & Tam 2016). It is a 13-item scale based on parent behaviour measure. It is rated on a 4-point response pattern from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (4). The scale originally measures parental support, parental behavioural control/monitoring and psychological

control as factor components of parental behaviour. The instrument has a reliability coefficient of  $\alpha = .73$  using the Spearman-brown analytical method.

Self-concept was measured using the Multidimensional Sexual Self-Concept Questionnaire (MSSCQ) by Snell, (1995). The scale has 20 psychological aspects of human sexuality like: (1) sexual anxiety, (2) sexual depression. Items were measured using a four-point modified likert scale with scores ranging from (1=strongly disagree to 4: strongly agree). The validity coefficient correlation and its total was  $r=0.31$  to  $0.54$ , with Cronbach alpha  $\alpha = 0.77$ .

### Procedure

The researchers administered the questionnaire to the participants (adolescent students) with the help of the school counselors. A total of two hundred (200) questionnaires were administered and the researchers were able to retrieve the entire questionnaires administered successfully.

### Method of Data Analysis

Data were analyzed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Multiple regression statistical tools at 0.05 level of significance.

### Results

What are the relationship between peer-influence, parental neglect and self-concept on the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents?

**Table 1:** Descriptive statistics and inter-correlations among the variables.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4
Risky sexual behaviour among adolescents.	200	51.82	9.310	1.000			
Peer-pressure	200	51.85	9.12	.986***	1.000		
Parental neglect	200	51.64	9.46	.643**	.636**	1.000	
Self-concept	200	52.74	10.61	.627*	.613*	.633*	1.000

\*\*Correlation significant at 0.01 levels

**Table 1** shows there was significant relationship between each of the independent variables: peer-influence ( $r=0.986$ ,  $p<0.05$ ); parental neglect ( $r=.643$ ,  $p<0.05$ ); self-concept ( $r=0.627$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and the dependent variable risky sexual behavior among in-school adolescents).

**Research Question Two**

What is the joint influence effect of peer-influence; parental neglect and self-concept have on the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents?

**Table 2:** Multiple Regression Analysis showing joint influence of the independent variables on the risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents.

Multiple R	=	0.987
Multiple R <sup>2</sup>	=	0.971
Multiple R <sup>2</sup> (Adjusted)	=	0.973
Standard Error of estimate	=	1.534

Source of variation	Sum of square	Df	Mean	F-Ratio	F
Regression	22948.899	5	4589.780	1416.16	<.05
Residual	628.661	194	3.241		
<b>Total</b>	<b>23577.560</b>	<b>199</b>			

Table 2 shows that the independent variables has significant joint influence on the dependent variable risky sexual behaviours among adolescents (R=0.987, P<.05). The combination of the independent variables accounted for 97.3% of the total variance on risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents (adjusted R<sup>2</sup>= 0.973). The analysis of variance of the multiple regression data yielded an F-ratio value which was found to be significant at 0.05 Alpha level, F(5,194) = 1416.16, P<0.05).

**Research Question Three**

What is the relative contribution of each of the independent variables: peer-pressure, parental neglect and self-concept on risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents?

**Table 3:** The relative contribution of each of the independent variables on risky sexual behaviours among adolescents

Variables	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	P
Peer pressure	.290	.014	.528	20.710	.000	<.05
Parental neglect	.957	.014	.973	51.524	.000	<.05
Self-concept	.210	.042	.301	12.010	.000	<.05

Dependent variable: risky sexual behaviour among adolescents

Table 3 indicates the contributions of each of the independent variables to the prediction of the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents. In terms of magnitude of the contribution: parental neglect contributed most to the prediction of the risky sexual behaviour among adolescents ( $\beta=0.973$ ,  $t = 51.524$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) followed by peer-pressure ( $\beta = 0.528$ ,  $t = 20.710$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) and self-concept ( $\beta = 0.301$ ,  $t = 12.010$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) to the prediction of the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

### Hypothesis One

There will be no significant relationship between peer-pressure and risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

**Table 4:** PPMC summary showing significant relationship between peer-pressure and adolescents risky sexual behaviour.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	Df	P
Risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents	200	51.82	9.310	.986	198	Sig
Peer-pressure	200	51.85	9.12			

Table 4 shows that peer-pressure positively and significantly correlates with the risky sexual behaviour among adolescents  $r(198) = .986$ ,  $P<.05$ . The mean and standard deviation for peer-pressure is 51.85 and 9.12 respectively. With this result the hypothesis is thus rejected.

### Hypothesis Two

There will be no significant relationship between parental neglect and risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

**Table 5:** PPMC summary showing significant relationship between parental neglect and risky sexual behaviours among adolescent.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	Df	P
Risky sexual behaviour among adolescents	200	51.82	9.310	.643	198	Sig
Parental neglect	200	51.64	9.46			

Table 5 shows that parental neglect positively correlates with the risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents,  $r(198) = .643$ ,  $P<.05$ . The mean and standard deviation for parental-neglect is 51.64 and 9.46 respectively. With this result the hypothesis is thus rejected.

**Hypothesis Three**

There will be no significant relationship between self-concept and risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

**Table 6:** PPMC summary showing significant relationship between self-concept and risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>P</b>
Risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents	200	51.82	9.310	.627	198	Sig
Self-concept	200	51.74	10.61			

Table 6 shows that self-concept positively and significantly correlates with the risky sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents,  $r(198) = .627$ ,  $P < .05$ . The mean and standard deviation for self-concept is 52.74 and 10.61 respectively. With this result the hypothesis is thus rejected.

**Discussion of the Findings**

The finding of the study shows that there was significant positive relationship between each of the independent variables: peer-pressure ( $r=0.986$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ); parental neglect ( $r=0.643$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ); self-concept ( $r = 0.627$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) and dependent variable (risky sexual behaviours among in-school adolescents). This implies that the independent variables have predictive impact on the risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The reason for this development could be adduced to the fact that adolescents are predominantly behavioural, characterized by their quest for independence, identity formation, experimentation and self-discovery, which more often than not exposes them to risky sexual behaviours. This result is consistent with Kenny (2010) that identified some environmental and family risk factors leading to risky sexual behaviours such as social deprivation, community influences, norms and values, media messages and young people identification with sexualize characters portrayed in the media, peer-group influence etc.

The findings on the study on research question two seeks to find out the composite effect of peer-pressure, parental neglect and self-concept) have on the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviour among adolescents)? The result of the study indicates that the independent variables has significant joint influence on the dependent variable (risky sexual behaviours among adolescents) ( $R = 0.987$ ,  $P < .05$ ). The combination of the independent variables accounted for 97.3% of the total variance on risky sexual behaviour among adolescents (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.973$ ). The analysis of variance of the multiple regression data yielded on F-ratio value which was found to be

significant at 0.05 Alpha level,  $F(5, 194) = 416.16, P < 0.05$ ). The reason for this could be that adolescent quest for independence, lack of development of interpersonal security and low self-esteem can spur them to indulge in risky sexual behaviours. Okafor (2008) noted that adolescents receive most of their information to engage in sexuality from peers which often lead to misinformation. Smith (1997) carried out a study of longitudinal study of African American and Latino youths from urban neighborhood also found that lower levels of parental monitoring (that is parental uninvolved) were associated with early sexual activities, while Norton (2007) speculated that low self-esteem increases the likelihood of sexual activity.

The findings on research question three seeks to find out the joint contribution of peer-pressure, parental neglect and self-concept on the risky sexual behaviours among in school adolescents. The result of the study indicates that parental neglect contributed most to the prediction of risky sexual behaviours among adolescents ( $\beta = 0.973, t = 51.524, P < 0.05$ ) followed by peer-pressure ( $\beta = 0.528, t = 20.710, p < 0.05$ ) and self-concept ( $\beta = 0.301, t = 12.010, P < 0.05$ ) to the prediction of the risky sexual behaviours among adolescents. This result shows that high quality parent adolescents relationship has been linked repeatedly to mental, social and emotional wellbeing but low parental monitoring or neglect leads to diverse risky sexual behaviours among adolescent (Nwolisa, 2011). In addition, research shows that quality parent-child relationships are linked to a wide range of positive outcomes for adolescents such as mental and emotional wellbeing, adjustment and social competence, good positive peer influence, higher self-esteem, assertiveness and lower levels of problem behaviours such as substance abuse, delinquency and pre-mature sexual activities (Borkowsky, Ramey & Bristol-Power, 2002). The implication of this finding is that when parents are neglectful.

Hypothesis one states that there is no significant relationship between peer-pressure and risky sexual behaviours among adolescents. The study revealed that peer-pressure positively and significantly correlates with the risky sexual behaviours among adolescents,  $r(198) = .986, P < .05$ . The mean and standard deviation for peer-pressure is 51.85 and 9.12 respectively. With the result, the hypothesis is thus rejected. This means that peer-pressure is a predictor of adolescents risky sexual behaviour. Supporting this finding Okafor (2008) noted that adolescents receive most of their information to engage in sexuality from peers which often lead to misinformation. The author stressed that peers force their friends to engage in indiscriminate sex without precaution and as well misinform them on sexuality and their reproductive organs.

Hypothesis two states that there is no significant relationship between parental neglect and risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The result revealed that parental neglect significantly correlates with risky sexual behaviour among adolescents,  $r(198) = .643$ ,  $P < .05$ . The mean and standard deviation for parental neglect is 51.64 and 9.46 respectively. With this result the hypothesis is thus rejected. This agrees with a cross sectional study of mostly minority youths, less parental monitoring or neglect was associated with higher chances that the adolescent boys would engage in pre-coital (kissing, touching) and coital (oral, anal and vaginal) sexual behaviours (Sneed, et al., 2009).

Hypothesis three states that there is no significant relationship between self-concept and adolescents risky sexual behaviours, the result of the study revealed that self-concept significantly correlates with risky sexual behaviours among adolescents  $r(198) = .643$ ,  $P < .05$ . The mean and standard deviation for self-concept is 51.74 and 10.61 respectively. With this result the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that self-concept is a factor on how adolescents respond to their sexuality. Thus, a correlational analysis revealed that adolescents with a more positive sense of self were more likely to perceive sexual involvement as relatively high-risk behaviour (Raynolds, 2003), while Norton, (2007) speculate that low self-esteem increases the likelihood of sexual activities.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, parental neglect has greater influence on adolescent's sexual attitude and behaviour. Those adolescents who were closely supervised by their parents had a lower amount of sexual risk taking than those adolescents who had low amounts of parental monitoring. Again, negative peer influence has a lot of negative consequences on adolescents as they confined so much on their peers thereby taking and adhering to their instructions. Low self-concept on the other hand also contributes to adolescent's involvement in risky sexual and other aggressive behaviours as the individual feels uncomfortable about himself which could result into behavior problems.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were proffered:

1. Sexuality education should be given prior attention to expose adolescents on the dangers and ill effect associated with risky sexual behaviours.

2. Professional counselors should continuously expose the adolescents during group counseling on the dangers of negative peer influence.
3. Workshops should be organized for parents especially during PTA meetings and Open Days where parents would be taught the importance of positive parent-adolescents relationship and expose the ill effects of neglectful parenting.
4. Professional counselors should teach adolescents during group sessions how to build a high positive self-concept and how to combat debilitating low self-concept that leads to various risky sexual behaviours.

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