

**SEX SELLERS AND BUYERS INTERACTION:
A FOCUS ON FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF LAFIA
STUDENTS, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

BENUE JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY
Volume 11 Issue 1
ISSN: ISSN: 0386
Department of Sociology
Benue State University, Makurdi
Pg: 177 - 199

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Abstract

Trading in sex remains a growing social phenomenon across the world due to the perpetuation of the act by people of diverse social groups and classes. Among undergraduate students in tertiary institutions across Nigeria, sex selling and buying is fast becoming a fundamental social problem as a result of the rising number of students who engage in the act. The study adopted the social exchange theory. It x-rayed the connection between sex sellers and buyers, paying close attention to undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia (FULAFIA), Nasarawa State, Nigeria. 400 respondents were selected from 4 faculties in the University via the fish bowl and random sampling techniques. Data collection was done using structured questionnaire and in-depth interview. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science while qualitative data was analyzed via manual content analysis. The chi-square and Regression analysis was employed to test hypotheses. Findings revealed a very significant relationship between sex selling and FULAFIA student's school activities as it increases their levels of alcohol and drug intake, encourages lateness to class, causes low academic grades and engagement in examination misconduct. The study recommends among others,

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thorough monitoring of student's activities on the campus in order to detect and address the issue of sex trading on the campus and penalization of students involved in examination misconduct.

Key words: Sex trading, sex selling, sex buying, FULAFIA students, academic performance.

Introduction

Throughout man's recorded history, the problem of sex for money or material gains has been in existence. The issue remains a growing social phenomenon with numerous studies suggesting that the phenomenon has assumed alarming proportions in society (Sinacore & Lech, 2018; Aloba & Ndifon, 2014). Sex for money is practiced by people of different classes, ranging from the poor street workers with well-known drug habits to the high class brothel and escort workers with designer's apparel and stylish apartment to behold (Smith & Smith, 2015). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (2000) estimated that over 92000 men, women, and juveniles are arrested yearly for sex trade. Astonishingly, the number of juveniles engaging in sex for money is estimated at between 100,000 and 300,000 every year (Inienger, Gberindyer & Bassey, 2023).

In African nations with high levels of poverty and income-deficient economies, sex selling and sex buying has continued to be of immense increase, particularly among undergraduate students across tertiary educational institutions. According to Iwarimie-jaja (2015), the unfriendly socio-economic conditions witnessed in some African societies including Nigeria remain a major motivation for sex trading and sex buying in our societies. Relatedly, Aloba and Ndifon (2014) assert that poverty constitutes a compelling factor in the analysis of sex trade among students as it may propel students to sell sex to enable them meet their needs. Sex could thus be traded for socio-economic reasons, helping students alleviate the financial burden caused by rising tuition and changing grant structures (Chapman, Dolman & Roberts, 2018).

The commercialization of sex would not be possible without clients willing to pay for it. Despite this essential fact about sex trade, there are very few studies on why men choose to become customers. The limited research in the area could imply that it is acceptable for men to have sex with women, but abnormal for women to demand money in exchange for sex. Weitzer (2012) examined diverse reasons men choose to buy sex to include psychological and technological reasons. All available evidence points to males as the major

buyers of sex (Monto, 2004). In rare instances, women have been known to buy sex (Weitzer, 2015). Farley, et al (2017) in comparing buyers of sex and non-buyers of sex opined that men who have paid for sex have psychological impairments. It is further argued that men buy sex because of their sexual experiences (Martin, Melander, Karnik & Nakamura, 2017). The above studies did not specifically identify the psychological, socio-economic and technological factors responsible for buying sex.

The background of children could play essential roles in shaping their future behaviour. Odek (2011) revealed that most sex sellers are from broken homes or have a history of unstable homes. Scholarly works by Toh (2014), Price, Scalon and Janus (2014) and Musa (2015) similarly revealed that sex for money could be common among children from broken homes, noting that an adolescent who indulge in sex trade have similar characteristics of family history. The studies established that youths from broken and unstable homes are prone to involvement in sex trade without mentioning the specific experiences and forms of family instability.

In a study conducted by Wills and Levy (2011), many of the young sex workers reported cases of depression, homelessness, inability to sleep, nightmares, poor appetite and a sense of resignation. Absenteeism and disinterest in school is closely associated with students who trade and buy sex (Nkala, 2013). In this sub-cultural practice, high levels of secrecy, stigmatization, violence, drug abuse and difficulty in abandoning such profession is evident and dominant among sex traders and buyers. They are likely to encounter persecution, and molestation, not only from law enforcement agencies but from fellow students and other members of the society. Adeleye (2016) asserted that some sex sellers are known to have been involved in other deviant behaviours like illicit drug deals and robbery.

In presenting the characteristics of sex traders, Farley, et al (2017) argued that men who paid for sex are not significantly different from men who never paid for sex. Demand Abolition (2018) reported that sex buyers are high income earners of about \$100,000 annually or more. Usually, more men than women buy sex, they are employed full-time or self-employed (Atchison 2010). Martin, et al (2017) further maintained that sex buyers are usually middle aged and married men with jobs. On the issue of characteristics of sex buyers, the study focused on the socio-economic characteristics of sex buyers with neglects to their psychological and physical characteristics. It also neglected the characteristics of women who are likely to have engaged in sex buying with more attention to their male counterparts.

Fawole, Ogunkan and Adegoke (2011) in their study of the effect of sex selling among students of University of Ilorin identified HIV/AIDS as an effect of sex selling on academic performance of the student of University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Okafor and Duru (2010) identified unwanted pregnancy, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and social stigma as an effect of sex selling on academic performance in a study conducted in tertiary institutions in Imo state. Accordingly, Ori, et al (2020) conducted a study among female undergraduates of tertiary institutions in Owerri municipal, Imo state, where they maintained that sex selling has health implications on academic performance such as gonorrhea, syphilis, Candida, herpes virginals and HIV/AIDs.

The above literature focused on the health implications only. However, these effects could be different from the impact that sex selling may have on the academic performance of students in Federal University of Lafia. Besides, the prevalence and sophistication in sex selling and buying among undergraduate students is enough to trigger a discourse. The researchers wonder if the students are ignorant or lack awareness of the numerous effects of this act. Therefore, the focus of this study is on the numerous implications of sex trading, ranging from health, moral, psychological and academic implications. To achieve this goal, the study seeks to find out the causes of sex selling and sex buying among students of Federal University of Lafia, identify the characteristics of students who sell sex in and buy sex from Federal University of Lafia, and examine the effect of sex selling on school activities of sex sellers in Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa state.

Theoretical Adequacy: Social Exchange Theory

Social exchange theory is traced to George Homans (1958). The theory focuses on the combination of behaviorism and basic economics. It is based on the notion that a relationship between two people is created through a process of cost-benefit analysis. Social exchange theory rests on several core assumptions. The first assumption is that humans tend to seek out rewards and avoid punishments. Another tenet is the assumption that a person begins an interaction to gain maximum profit with minimal cost – the individual is driven by “what's in it for me?” A third assumption is that individuals tend to calculate the profit and cost before engaging. Finally, the theory assumes that people know that this “payoff” will vary from person to person, as well as with the same person over time (Cherry, 2023).

Sex trading is underlined by rational calculations. Undergraduate students who engaging in sex work or purchase sex consider the potential rewards, such as financial gain or sexual gratification, against the associated costs, including

social stigma and emotional repercussions. Motivated by a desire to maximize benefits and minimize costs, the students may consciously or subconsciously assess the profitability of these interactions, considering factors like financial need, peer influences, and societal norms. Moreover, the perceived payoff of these exchanges may vary between individuals and over time, indicating changing priorities and circumstances. The Social Exchange Theory therefore provides a lens through which to understand the motivations, decision-making processes, and outcomes of sex transactions among Federal university of Lafia students in Nasarawa State.

Methods

The study was conducted in Federal University of Lafia, also called FULAFIA. The University is located in Lafia, Nasarawa state, North Central Nigeria. The study adopted survey design, and data was collected through the use of structured questionnaire and in-depth interview. A sample of 400 respondents was used for the study. The questionnaire was administered to 300 and 400 level undergraduates while the interview was conducted on 26 students of the Federal university of Lafia.

Result and discussion of findings

The section presents results and discusses major findings of the study. The results are presented based on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, causes of sex selling and sex buying among students, characteristics of students who sell and buy sex, and the effects of sex selling on school activities.

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents**Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Characteristics	Frequency (400)	Percent
Sex		
Male	184	46.0
Female	216	54.0
Age		
18-25	200	50.0
26-30	124	31.0
31-35	36	9.0
36-40	25	6.25
41-45	15	3.75
Marital Status		
Single	253	63.25
Married	121	30.25
Divorce	16	4.0
Widowed	10	2.5
Faculty		
Arts and Humanities	66	16.5
Social Science	123	30.75
Science	175	43.75
Education	36	9.0
Department		
Philosophy	34	8.5
English	32	8.0
Political Science	64	16.0
Sociology	59	14.75
Computer Science	59	14.75
Biochemistry	58	14.5
Microbiology	58	14.5
Library and Information Science	19	4.75
Business Education	17	4.25
Level		
300 level	138	34.5
400 level	262	65.5
Religion		
Christianity	213	53.25
Islam	180	45.0
African Traditional Religion	7	1.75

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Table 1 presents the summary of the result. More females (54.0%, n=216) participated in the study compared to males (46.0%, n=184). This distribution shows that there are more females than male students in the institution. It establishes a relationship between availability of sexual partners as a reason for sex trading. The availability of more female students to male students motivates the buying and selling of sex. The age distribution of participants in the study revealed that majority of the participants (95.8%, n=383) are within the age bracket of 18-30 years, this age cohort is inevitably within the most active, and agile youths of any given country who are usually engaged in different sexual activities that requires the services of sex sellers and buyers. On marital status, the majority (63.25%, n=253) are single while (30.25%, n=121) of the respondents are married. Participants in this study are non-negligible. This explains that single ladies are easily persuaded, motivated and influenced into giving sex for money than those who are married.

In terms of distribution by faculties; the table indicates that respondents from the faculty of Arts and Humanities were represented by (16.5%, n=66), faculty of social sciences (30.75%, n=123), faculty of science (43.75%, n=175) and faculty of Education (9.0%, n=36). The distribution of respondents according to academic year shows that the 400 level students were represented by (65.5%, n=262) while the 300 level students were represented by (34.5%, n=138). Four hundred level students participated more in the study, having spent more time in the institution are in a better position to provide reliable data the buying and selling of sex for money and other valuables.

The religious affiliation of respondents revealed that the difference between Christians (53.25%, n=213) and Muslims (45.0%, n=180) the difference between the Christian participants and Muslim participants in this study is negligible. This explains that both Christian and Muslim students are involved in the buying and selling of sex.

Table 2: Ratings of the Causes of Sex Selling among Students of FULAFIA

Causes of Sex Selling	%Rating				\bar{x}	STD
	S. A.	A	D	S. D.		
Sex trade is common among students	152(38.0)	197(49.3)	28(7.0)	23(5.8)	3.20	.802
Quest for improved standard of living	165(41.3)	176(44.0)	43(10.8)	16(4.0)	3.23	.794
Having poor parents	73(18.3)	154(38.5)	137(34.3)	36(9.0)	2.66	.878
Having high sex drive	99(24.8)	167(41.8)	113(28.3)	21(5.3)	2.86	.850
Desire for material acquisition	208(52.0)	128(32.0)	51(12.8)	13(3.3)	3.33	.820
Being poorly supervised by parents	79(19.8)	153(38.3)	130(32.5)	38(9.5)	2.68	.896
Absence of financial aid from the university	57(14.3)	125(31.3)	146(36.5)	72(18.0)	2.42	.944
Source of income	160(40.0)	177(44.3)	40(10.0)	23(5.8)	3.19	.835
Quest to experiment different sexual skills	70(17.5)	169(42.3)	120(30.0)	41(10.3)	2.67	.882
influence of peers	150(37.5)	199(49.8)	29(7.3)	22(5.5)	3.19	.795
The absence of stable sexual partner	45(11.3)	107(26.8)	168(42.0)	80(20.0)	2.29	.913

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The above table shows that respondents affirmed strongly that sex trade is a common practice among students ($\bar{x}=3.20$, $STD=0.802$) within the University. The rating shows that ($\bar{x}=3.33$, $STD= 0.820$) more students are motivated to sell sex for money because of the desire for material acquisition. Similarly, the mean ranking further uncovered the quest to improve standard of living ($\bar{x}=3.23$, $STD= 0.794$) as a key factor affecting the selling of sex among students. Sex selling as a source of income ($\bar{x}=3.19$, $STD= 0.835$) and engaging in the act due to peer influence ($\bar{x}=3.19$, $STD= 0.795$) were also ranked as factors contributing to the selling of sex. The ranking further disagreed with the opinion that the absence of stable sexual partner ($\bar{x}=2.29$, $STD =0.913$) was capable of motivating sex selling among students.

Some respondents who were interviewed said that students trade sex because of the desire for material acquisition. During an interview session, a student in the department of Sociology stated that:

I know that many girls in this school give sex for money. They all want to slay and live a flashy life with television and refrigerator in their rooms. This iPhone trend has also pushed many others to join. In this school not using an Apple phone feels like poverty (Female, 400L, Sociology, FULAFIA).

Other respondents noted that poverty among parents could be responsible for the practice of sex trade among undergraduate students. The respondents argued that sex for money among students could be done to improve their living standard as sellers of sex may have poor parents who may be unable to meet their needs. One of the interviewees said that:

*I believe that the need for money which family and relatives are unable to provide has turned some girls into sex workers. Some parents send their children to school with little or nothing to sustain them. It does not always require much sleep with such students; buying them food is enough to have sex with them (**Male, 300, Microbiology, FULAFIA**).*

However, some respondents attributed sex trading among undergraduates to the quality and company they keep. They noted that engaging in sex selling is not necessarily because the student needs money but because of the kind of friends they keep. One of the respondents said:

*A former friend of mine who used to be decent in our 100 level now takes pictures in different hotels, going to town for weeks with men ever since she started mingling with some set of girls. It is not just her, due to peer influence I can hardly recognize some girls in this school that I used to know in year one (**Female, 300L, Computer Science, FULAFIA**).*

Some respondents expressed bewilderment at the thought that students from wealthy homes indulge in sex trading. An interviewee said:

*I know a couple of girls in my faculty who are from very rich homes. At times, I wonder what they lack that would make them sleep with men old enough to give birth for the sake of money which I believe their parents have, unlike some of us (**Female, 400L, English Language, FULAFIA**).*

A spectacular factor was given by some respondents who argued that given the perception of women as sexual objects, a blind eye is often turned towards their male counterparts who are equally in the practice of selling sex for almost the same reasons as girls. A respondent affirmed that:

*Sex selling in this school is not limited to only girls. Some guys go out with women from town and even female lecturers usually for grades. But this act is usually not noticeable (**Male, 300L, Political Science, FULAFIA**).*

Table 3: Rating of the Causes of Sex Buying among Students of FULAFIA

Causes of Sex Buying	%Rating				\bar{x}	STD
	S. A.	A	D	S. D.		
Sex buying is common among residents	68(17.0)	196(49.0)	101(25.3)	35(8.8)	2.74	.841
Lack of stable sexual partner	44(11.0)	190(47.5)	126(31.5)	40(10.0)	2.60	.814
Inadequate sexual satisfaction from partners	76(19.0)	201(50.3)	98(24.5)	25(6.3)	2.82	.809
Sex with people of certain physical appearance	108(27.0)	223(55.8)	55(13.8)	14(3.5)	3.06	.738
The thrill to have sex with younger ones	77(19.3)	192(48.0)	108(27.0)	23(5.8)	2.81	.811
Sex without emotional commitment	112(28.0)	171(42.8)	98(24.5)	19(4.8)	2.94	.845
Availability of sexual partners	91(22.8)	179(44.8)	115(28.8)	15(3.8)	2.87	.805
The influence of alcohol	108(27.0)	153(38.3)	113(28.3)	26(6.5)	2.86	.891
Having the capacity to pay for sex	104(26.0)	200(50.0)	71(17.8)	25(6.3)	2.96	.829
The Influence of friends	139(34.8)	200(50.0)	48(12.0)	42(3.3)	3.16	.757
Quest to satisfy ritual demand	84(21.0)	168(42.0)	106(26.5)	42(10.5)	2.74	.909
Inability to get sexual satisfaction from partner	81(20.3)	175(43.8)	114(28.5)	30(7.5)	2.77	.857
To reduce sexual pressure on partner	54(13.5)	121(30.3)	148(37.0)	77(19.3)	2.38	.945

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

It was agreed by ($\bar{x} = 2.74$, $STD = 0.841$) of the respondents that sex buying is a common practice among Lafia residents. The mean ranking shows that ($\bar{x} = 3.16$, $STD = 0.757$) of the study participants agreed that the influence of friends to sex patronage while, ($\bar{x}=3.06$, $STD= 0.738$) also agreed that Desire to have sex with someone with a certain physical appearance leads to sex buying and a good number of the respondents ($\bar{x}=2.96$, $STD= 0.829$) agreed to the view that the capacity to pay for sex has motivated the patronage of sex sellers. $\bar{x}=2.94$, $STD= 0.845$ affirmed that sex buying result from desire to have sex without emotional commitment. However, respondents of the study disagreed ($\bar{x}= 2.38$, $STD = 0.945$) that people patronize sex to reduce sexual pressure on their partner.

Interviews conducted on some respondents showed that sex buying is common among both students and non-students alike. One of the interviewees asserted that:

To me, both students and people who are not students of this university engage in paying money for sex. Usually, the night is when the non-students sex buyers show up in flashy cars within student areas. Others come to pick and some come to drop off students. Usually girls prefer these men because they pay better than the student buyers (Female, 400L, Philosophy, FULAFIA).

Another interviewee observed that sex buyers engage in the act due to advice and information given to them by their friends. In his words:

The rate of men from town who come around here are men who have been told by friends that there are so many girls within the school areas who are willingly to give sex for money. You can tell by how they drive slowly checking out who's willing to stop and listen (**Female, 300L, Library & Information Science, FULAFIA**).

Another respondent shared a different opinion, noting that sex buying is motivated by the physical appearance of the seller. According to the interviewee:

Men are moved by what they see. The physical and natural endowment in a woman compels them to give money in exchange for sex. Girls with good shape, and sexy bodies of different sizes are found within the student environment making men flocking around student areas especially at night to pay for sex (Male, 400L, Biochemistry, FULAFIA).

Sex buying, according to one of the respondents, is caused by the presence of young and naturally endowed students of the university attracting students and non-student for patronage. In his view

Men like fresh and sexy girls which are very much available within the University environment. Sex buying has thus increased in this axis because of the presence of so many young girls with appealing physical appearances (Female, 300L, Business Education, FULAFIA).

Furthermore, a respondent shared a different view saying that:

To avoid being emotionally attached, most men prefer not to have defined relationships. Instead, they prefer to pay for sexual services to avoid emotional commitment usually so they can explore other

options. Men and even women pay money to certain students to have sex with them (Male, 400L, Sociology, FULAFIA).

Men always seek outlets of the biological tension created of which sexual urge is part of and sometimes want to always do this without emotional commitment as they sometimes find it demanding and limiting. Similarly, another interviewee identified the complex nature of today's relationships as a reason people prefer to buy sex. Relationships today have become far more demanding and dramatic than before, requiring a partner to remember and celebrate special events, call and text frequently in order to prove love.

Table 4: Rating of the Characteristics of Students Who Sell Sex in FULAFIA

Characteristics	%Rating					
	S.A.	A	D	S. D.	\bar{x}	STD
Capability to abuse substance	166(41.5)	176(44.0)	48(12.0)	10(2.5)	3.25	.759
Prone to clubbing	161(40.3)	187(46.8)	46(11.5)	6(1.5)	3.26	.716
Paying less attention to studies	164(41.0)	163(40.8)	50(12.5)	23(5.8)	3.17	.859
Fashion inclined	152(38.0)	179(44.8)	60(15.0)	9(2.3)	3.19	.766
Still young in age	123(30.8)	161(40.3)	94(23.5)	22(5.5)	2.96	.873
Frequent use of social media	163(40.8)	171(42.8)	55(13.8)	11(2.8)	3.22	.781
Lacking in integrity	149(37.3)	160(40.0)	68(17.0)	23(5.8)	3.09	.876
Appetite for trending things	191(47.8)	152(38.0)	46(11.5)	11(2.8)	3.31	.781
Keeping late nights	182(45.5)	171(42.8)	39(9.8)	8(2.0)	3.32	.730
Been often aggressive	92(23.0)	142(35.5)	140(35.0)	26(6.5)	2.75	.883
Do not relate frequently	20.5(82)	30.3(121)	36.5(146)	12.8(51)	2.59	.954
Residing in expensive apartments	161(40.3)	155(38.8)	58(14.5)	26(6.5)	3.13	.891
Often residing off camp	156(39.0)	141(35.3)	79(19.8)	24(6.0)	3.07	.908

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

As seen in the table 4 rating ($\bar{x} = 3.32$, $STD=0.730$) of the respondents described those who sell sex as always keeping late nights, Prone to clubbing was also another characteristics of sex seller as agreed by ($\bar{x} = 3.31$, $STD= 0.781$) respondents of the study. A good number of the respondents, ($\bar{x} = 3.26$ $STD= 0.716$) also agreed that sex sellers are prone to clubbing, they have the capability to abuse substance ($\bar{x} = 3.25$, $STD=0.759$) and make frequent use of social media ($\bar{x}= 3.22$, $STD=0.781$).

One of the interviewees described sex sellers as people who have an appetite for trendy things are always trying to measure up to social standards. He stated that:

Girls who give their body for money are usually extravagant in spending. They are always buying and using trending things usually because of the money they could easily get or make by having sex (Female, 300L, Political Science, FULAFIA).

Similarly, an interviewee was of the opinion that girls who carry expensive handsets and luxurious bags are sex traders:

Girls who use iPhone, expensive bags and clothes clearly without rich parents are sex workers. How can they afford such expensive things? Even with a rich parent the lifestyle is just too much for a student (Female, 400L, Biochemistry, FULAFIA).

Another respondent shared a different view stating that sex traders are also night workers who sacrifice their study time for their business. The interviewee opined that:

I would say that girls who give sex for money are found during late hours of the night and pay less attention to studies. The nature of sex selling is usually odd hours and moving from place to place, house to house (Female, 300L, English Language, FULAFIA).

Another respondent added that:

You will know them by the time they come back home. In this school they are known as "night walkers", always knocking at odd hours on the gate like my neighbor. She's never home on time. Everyone is tired of waking up to open the gate for her (Male, 400L, Philosophy, FULAFIA).

Focusing on how sex trading impacts the behaviour of a sex trader, a respondent said that:

I know some girls who never planned to be sex workers but engage in it for survival. They sometimes battle with depression and are constantly drowning in regrets and addiction that the only thing that keeps them afloat is the abuse of substances (Male, Federal University of Lafia).

Another interviewee shared a different view stating that:

I have noticed that girls who I believe are engaged in sex for money are always on social media; posting videos of themselves in hotels and joints, dressing halfnaked in these pictures and videos, making seductive and sexual contents and constantly uploading their travel experience in their social media platforms. Personally, I think it's a way to attract and connect with men (Male, 300L, Library and Information Sciences, FULAFIA).

Table 5: Rating of the Characteristics of those who Buy Sex from Students of FULAFIA

Characteristics	%Rating				\bar{x}	STD
	S. A.	A	D	S. D.		
usually high income earners	97(24.3)	155(38.8)	123(30.8)	25(6.3)	2.81	.875
lack sexual satisfaction	95(23.8)	202(50.5)	87(21.8)	16(4.0)	2.94	.783
do not reside with their partners	71(17.8)	179(44.8)	130(32.5)	20(5.0)	2.75	.802
common among the married	84(21.0)	164(41.0)	127(31.8)	25(6.3)	2.77	.852
often single parents	46(11.5)	127(31.8)	186(46.5)	41(10.3)	2.45	.827
are well educated	40(10.0)	168(42.0)	160(40.0)	32(8.0)	2.54	.781
engaged in different socio-economic activities	68(17.0)	246(61.5)	73(18.3)	13(3.3)	2.91	.691
reside in any location of their choice	104(26.0)	237(59.5)	46(11.5)	13(3.3)	3.08	.707
capability to frequently use alcohol	104(26.0)	226(56.5)	63(15.8)	7(1.8)	3.07	.696
frequently consume drugs	100(25.0)	155(38.8)	122(30.5)	23(5.8)	2.83	.871
frequent use of sex enhancing substance	133(28.3)	220(55.0)	53(13.3)	14(3.5)	3.08	.742
Willingness to pay high in exchange for sex	169(42.3)	185(46.3)	34(8.5)	12(3.0)	3.28	.743
Often secretive in their dealings	121(30.3)	203(50.8)	63(15.8)	13(3.3)	3.08	.765
often make use of mediators	67(16.8)	211(52.8)	102(25.5)	20(5.0)	2.81	.767

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The table above gives a summary rating of respondents on the characteristics of sex buyers. The mean rating by ($\bar{x} = 3.08$, STD= 0.707) shows that sex buyers have the capability to reside in any location of their choice, Frequent use of sex enhancing substance ($\bar{x} = 3.08$, STD=0.742), they are often secretive in their dealings ($\bar{x} = 3.08$, STD=0.765). A good number of the respondents ($\bar{x} = 2.94$, STD = 0.783) agreed that sex buyers can be described as those who lack sexual satisfaction. They are also engaged in different socio-economic activities ($\bar{x} = 2.91$, STD =0.691) and are usually high income earners ($\bar{x} = 2.81$, STD = 0.875).

Responses from an interviewee suggested that sex is bought by people who have insatiable desire for sex:

Sex buying is common among men who lack sexual satisfaction. They always want to have sex even after just having sex with a lady in a few hours, they want to be with another or the same lady (Male, 400L, Microbiology, FULAFIA).

However, one of the interviewees had a different opinion, stating that sex buying is usually done by people who are financially stable and can afford to part away with huge sums of money for sex. To this respondent, sex buyers are usually high income earners with different socio-economic activities. According to the interviewee:

Sex buying is common among men who can afford it. It is not such a small task to feed your family and numerous girls. It requires a lot of money and it is those who have the money in large quantities that are able to pay for sex (Female, 400L, Sociology, FULAFIA).

Another respondent shared different view, stressing that sex buyer are usually secretive in their dealings:

You would know them by the numerous locks on their phones. Each application has a lock including a picture gallery. My ex-boyfriend said he locks his application because of the kind of job he does, only for me to find out that he has been paying for sexual services from numerous girls (Female, 300L, Computer Science, FULAFIA).

Similarly, an interviewee argued that:

I know that this might sound funny but my guy used to have a woman far older than him who paid for sexual services. The guy is tall and well-built and this attracted a lot of girls and women to him. But he stopped seeing her because he knew nothing about her. She was extremely secretive and it scared him. Most of these "Sugar

mummies” are secretive probably because they are women (Male, 400L, Political Science, FULAFIA).

Another respondent stated that:

I used to meet this woman, she was in her late 40's but she was really good in bed. Her energy didn't match the younger girls I met in school. Sometimes I get tired and she's difficult to satisfy. I just couldn't, so I had to stop even though she pays well, basically because I chose a new path (Male, 400L, Microbiology, FULAFIA).

Other interviewees echoed descriptions of sex buyers as those who can afford to reside in any location of their choice, often secretive in their dealings, frequent use of sex enhancing substances, lack sexual satisfaction, engage in different socio-economic activities and are high income earners.

Table 6: Rating of the Effect of Sex Selling on School Activities of Sex Sellers

Effects	%Rating				\bar{x}	STD
	S. A.	A	D	S. D.		
It have the capability to prevent socialization	62(15.5)	158(39.5)	142(35.5)	38(9.5)	2.61	.860
It results to low academic grades	177(44.3)	164(41.0)	47(10.8)	12(3.0)	3.26	.804
The increase in alcohol and drug intake	148(37.0)	198(49.5)	47(11.8)	7(1.8)	3.22	.715
It brings about lateness to class	154(38.5)	187(46.8)	51(12.8)	8(2.0)	3.22	.739
Lack of participation in class activities	162(40.5)	163(40.8)	62(15.5)	13(3.3)	3.19	.811
Engaging in examination misconduct	177(44.3)	172(43.0)	39(9.8)	12(3.0)	3.29	.762
Generally, sex selling affects school activities	301(75.3)	63(15.8)	17(4.3)	4.8(19)	3.62	.780

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

It is shown on the table that sex selling by students has an effect on their school activities which in turn affects their academic performance. The mean rating by ($\bar{x} = 3.62$, STD = 0.780) shows that generally sex selling has an effect on school activities. The mean rating shows that by ($\bar{x} = 3.29$, STD = 0.762) the respondents of this study strongly agreed that sex sellers engage in examination misconduct. Also, the rating shows that by ($\bar{x} = 3.26$, STD = 0.804) sex sellers are known to have

low academic grades. Similarly, the respondents agreed that by ($\bar{x} = 3.22$, $STD = 0.715$) student who engage in sex selling has an increased intake of alcohol and drugs, while ($\bar{x} = 3.22$, $STD = 0.739$) of the respondents also agreed that sex selling brings about lateness to class on those who engage in it. However, looking at the ratings by ($\bar{x} = 2.61$, $STD = 0.860$) not many strongly agreed that sex selling have the capability to prevent the sellers from socializing with other students. One of the interviewees observed that the activities of sex selling do not give the student the time to study and they may therefore engage in examination misconduct in order to pass their examinations. The respondent said that:

I know how sex selling can be time taking. You have to meet up with clients mostly at their own timing and not yours and it also occupies the brain with different thoughts, giving little or no room for school work. That is when you will see them talking, copying and cheating in examination halls in order to pass (Male, 300L, Sociology, FULAFIA).

Similarly, other respondents noted that the constant absenteeism to attend to 'work' contributes to examination misconduct among sex sellers. During examinations or class tests, if they are not asking questions, they are copying the work of their classmates or copying from their phones and lecture notes. However, one of the interviewees had a different position:

I know some of these sex sellers who do well academically despite missing some lectures due to hereditary intelligence. However, they cannot do without substance abuse. They smoke all kinds of things like there is no tomorrow. I really can't say why I sometimes feel that sex selling is not that easy. I believe that psychologically, it messes with you (Female, 300L, Business Education, FULAFIA).

In the view of this respondent sex sellers engage in substance abuse due to the nature of sexual activities they engage in, some of which are risky. Another interviewee shared a different view stressing that sex selling has negative effects in the students' academic grades:

Although people can have low grades from being unserious, the unseriousness is usually because these girls and boys use the time for studying by sleeping around for money and sometimes other valuables like iPhones. There are so many of them in this school with low grades and some others on probation yet still in school selling sex (Male, 400L, Philosophy, FULAFIA).

Another interviewee was of the opinion that sex selling could affect the health of the seller. They may contract sexually transmitted diseases or may fall into the

hands of ritualists all of which may adversely impact their academic performance. a different view saying that:

Some of these girls fall sick from sleeping with men who are HIV/AIDS positive, have other sexual infectious diseases or are involved in spiritual activities. They use them for powers or money and may render the girls unhealthy, useless and mere walking corpses. Consequently, they may be unable to achieve anything including good grades (Male, 300L, Sociology, FULAFIA).

One of the interviewees concluded that:

I know a girl in this school that says she feels pregnant but she's not pregnant. She has conducted a series of tests that came out negative. She noticed this since she had an encounter with a client that paid her the highest money she has ever been paid in her sexual services. Being spiritually pregnant has affected her school activities in general (Female, 400L, Microbiology, FULAFIA).

Test of Hypotheses

There is no significant effect of sex selling on school activities of sex sellers in Federal University of Lafia.

Table 7: Model Summary on the Relationship Between Sex Selling and School Activities

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.762 ^a	.581	.580	.529

a. Predictors: (Constant), Sex trade is common among students

Table 8: ANOVA ^a result Showing the Effects of Sex Selling and School Activities

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	154.744	1	154.744	552.031	.000 ^b
	Residual	111.566	398	.280		
	Total	266.310	399			

a. Dependent Variable: Generally, sex selling affects school activities

Table 9: Coefficients table Showing the Effect of Sex Selling on Students School Activities

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.691	.125		5.523	.000
	Sex trade is common among students	.881	.037	.762	23.495	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Generally, sex selling affects school activities

b. Predictors: (Constant), Sex trade is common among students

The null hypothesis stated that there was no significant effect of sex selling on student school activities. The model summary in table 3.2.1 reveals that the relationship between both variables is 76% (as seen in the *R* column) which indicates a strong degree of correlation. the F-test (552.031, $p < .05$) of the relationship in table 3.2.2 indicates that the overall prediction of the independent variable to the dependent variable is statistically significant, therefore the regression model is a good fit for the data and explain that sex selling significantly affects students school activities in FULAFIA. Also, the coefficient table 3.2.3 shows that the independent variable significantly contributes statistically to the model as the P-value (0.000) is less than the .05 and the t-test ($t = 23.495$) further explains that the relationship between both variables is very significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and is concluded that sex selling significantly affects student's school activities in FULAFIA.

4. Discussion of Findings

The study sought to find the causes of sex selling among students of FULAFIA. Results showed that sex trade is a common practice among students within the University and it is influenced by several factors including the need to improve their standard of living, poor parental background, desire for material acquisition, peer influence, and the quest to experiment different sexual skills. However, the absence of financial aid from the university was not rated as one of the reason for the sex selling among students of the University. The findings above are similar with the findings of Sabitu, Iliyasu and Baba (2017) who found in their study on the causes of sex selling that curiosity, economic support and gifts, academic survival and peer pressure were responsible for sex selling. Similarly, the findings also agree with the findings of Okafor and Duru (2020) who also uncovered the causes of sex selling in tertiary institutions in Imo state to include poverty, peer pressure, dereliction of parental roles on their children

and uncontrollable liberty and freedom. The study findings also agree with that of Wroclaw, Warszawa, Kiek (2019) who also found in a study in Poland that students mentioned many reasons for taking up sex trade to include difficult financial situation during studies, above-average sex drive laziness and consumer mentality supported by culture of promiscuity.

On the causes of sex buying among students of FULAFIA, results indicated that sex buying is a common practice among Lafia residents and the major contributory factors are lack of stable sexual partner and inadequate sexual satisfaction from partners. Majority of the respondents who took part in the study also affirmed that desire to have sex with someone with a certain physical appearance resulted in the act and desire to have sex without emotional commitment, availability of sexual partners and the influence of alcohol was also seen as a factor leading to the behavior. Respondents in this study also reported that having the capacity to pay for sex may influence the person to engage in sex patronage while also the Influence of friends was another contributory factor as revealed in the study. Furthermore, it was revealed that the inability to get sexual satisfaction from a partner pushes people to patronize sex while sex patronage to reduce sexual pressure on their partner was not seen as a cause to the behavior.

The study also sought to establish the characteristics of sex sellers. Results revealed that most of the sex sellers have capability to abuse substances and majority of them are prone to clubbing. The findings also revealed that sex sellers are fashion-inclined and they pay less attention to their studies. Additionally, sex sellers often keep late nights while also engaging in frequent use of social media. They also have the capability of residing in expensive apartments to comfortably carry out their acts. The findings support the outcome of a study by Okafor and Uwalaka (2021) who reported in their study that students who dress indecently are mostly sex sellers attempting to lure clients. The current study also demonstrates that sex sellers indulge in indecent dressing, lying, stealing and are poor academic performers.

The study unraveled the common characteristics of sex buyers within the university and found that sex buyers engage in different socio-economic activities, reside in any location of their choice and they frequently engage in the use of alcohol in addition to using sex enhancing substances. More so, the study found that lack of sex satisfaction was also a characteristic of these people and the buyers are often secretive in their dealings and often use mediators to carry out the act. These findings agree with Farley, Golding, Mathew and Schuckman

(2017) who found in their study that sex buyers had less empathy for women in sex trading, hostile and misogynist attitudes towards all women. The findings also are in line with the findings of Demand Abolition (2018) who also found that active high frequency buyers of sex earn high income; earning more than other buyers making \$100,000 or more annually. Sex buyers are also more tolerant of cheating than non-buyers.

The study found a significant negative effect of sex selling activities on school activities which further affect academic performance. The study revealed that the act increases alcohol and drug intake by the sellers which further encourages lateness to class which result in low academic grades by the perpetrators. Similarly, it was found that those who engage in sex selling are likely to be involved in examination misconduct. Lack of participation in class activities is also another effect of the act which also impacts negatively on the grades of the student. The findings are in line with Okafor and Duru (2010) who found that sex selling has an effect on students' academic performance as it makes them involved in sexual promiscuity leading to unwanted pregnancy, intake of drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, depression and social stigma. Similarly, the findings are in line with Ori, Okparaocha, Ede, Nwaokoro and Nzeh (2020) who also found in their study that sex selling results to unwanted pregnancies, abortion and STI's and suggested that female undergraduates should be counseled on the effect of sex selling which could lead to poor academic performance.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Sex trading and sex buying among undergraduate students is a common practice. It is influenced by students' quest to improve their standard of living, poor parental background, poor parental supervision, peer influence, availability of sexual partners, and lack of sexual satisfaction from partners. Sex trading adversely affects the academic performance of students, as it increases their levels of alcohol and drug consumption, drug and substance abuse clubbing, lack of attention to studies, keeping late nights, and taking up residence in expensive apartments and generally promotes examination misconduct among them.

Addressing the issue of sex selling would require the adoption of several measures including the giving scholarship to students from poor homes to create good living conditions and motivates them to shun sex for money. Also, measures could be taken by the University Management towards indecent dressing and keeping of late nights among students within and outside the campus. Students should be encouraged to report any suspicious activities of

students and non-students within and outside the school. Additionally, students who engage in examination misconduct should be seriously penalized. Finally, the presence of an accessible and functional guidance and counseling unit should be established by the University to encourage students to talk about their pain, fears, worries and challenges to professionals.

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