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# The Influence of Parental Socio-Economic Status on The Sexual Behaviour of Adolescent Girls in The Fiapre Community in The Sunyani West District, Ghana.

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## ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to investigate the effects of family socio-economic status on sexual behaviour among adolescent girls in Fiapre Community in the Sunyani West District. The study focused on the influence of parental education on female adolescent sexual behaviour. The study employed a survey design. Stratified and simple random were used with a sample size of 100. Structured questionnaire comprising of open and close-ended questions was designed for the study. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and Microsoft Excel (2010) were used to process the data. The study found that mothers' employment status has strong association with adolescents who have engaged in sex before ($p = 0.001$). Fathers' employment status was also significantly associated with engagement of sexual intercourse by female adolescents ($p<0.018$) in Fiapre. The study's results also revealed that the educational level of the father had a weak ($p = 0.042$) association with female adolescent engagement in sexual intercourse whereas the association between

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maternal education and female adolescent engagement in sexual intercourse was insignificant (p = 0.186). The study recommends that educated parents should educate their children and also encourage them to attend adolescent corners in the various health centres within the community for counselling regarding their sex life.

**Keywords**: socio-economic status, sexual behaviour, adolescents

## INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period which is marked by physical, psychosocial and emotional changes as people transition from childhood into adulthood. This transition is associated with sexual maturity (1, 2). The family is mandated with the responsibility of grooming children into responsible adults until they finally make the decision to enter into responsible sexual behaviour and marriage. This role is however hampered by conditions such as socio-economic status (employment, education, income etc.), urbanization and modernization, making some families unable to perform this role of socialization (2).

Parental socio-economic status has been identified as a major contributing factor of female adolescent sexual behaviour. A study carried out in Ibadan reported that poverty, lack of parental monitoring and parents working long hours push the adolescents, especially the out-of-school girls, into unnecessary sexual relationships (3).

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The association between socioeconomic deprivation and early sex and childbearing is well established in Great Britain (4). A longitudinal study carried out by (4) in Great Britain revealed that the risk of becoming a teenage mother is almost 10 times higher among women with lower class families as compared to those with higher class families

Also, it is established that adolescents who live in public housing are more likely to become sexually active than their peers in owner-occupied housing. Throughout Scotland, from the early 1980s to the early 1990s, adolescent pregnancy rates increased in the most deprived areas and, on average, either remained the same or decreased in the most affluent areas. But

the relationship between socio-economic status and risky sexual behaviours among female adolescents can also vary over time. Socioeconomic deprivation is seen to determine a larger proportion of local variation in teenage pregnancy rates in the 1990s than it did in the 1980s in Scotland (5).

Some people support the proposition that female adolescents are less likely to engage in sexual risk-taking behaviour when they reside with a parent, especially two parents, or when they identify with the views of their parents. A study (6) carried out in Lagos among out-of-school female adolescents reported that more than 60% of those who reside with relatives or friends were sexually active compared to their counterparts who lived with either one or both parents (38%). There is growing evidence that various parenting dimension-connectedness or love, material support, behavioural control or monitoring and parent-child communication are positively associated with reduced levels of sexual behaviour among adolescents. A survey-based study (7) in a slum in Kenya found that when a father lived in the same household with his female adolescent daughters, there is a low probability of them having sex than when neither parents or only the mother lives with them.

Studies in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire (8,9) reported that adolescent females who lived with both parents were less likely than females who had other living arrangements to have ever had sex. Two parents are more likely to provide a best emotional support and life lessons necessary for a child's development and psychosocial adjustment. Adolescents in two-parent families benefit from their parents' presence, gaining internalization about heterosexual love and commitment from both fathers and mothers (10). Research indicates that adolescents with unmarried parents tend to view premarital sexual intercourse as socially acceptable and initiate it prematurely. (11). Other causes of family instability such as divorce, remarriage, parental death and mother-only families have been reported to increase the likelihood of sexual initiation among adolescents. These conditions are reportedly more prevalent among the out-of-school females compared to their in-school counterparts (9)

Low socio-economic status results in object poverty. Poverty is defined as income per capital less than or equal to one dollar per day in dollar adjusted for purchasing power (12). (5)

indicated that a relatively strong association has been made in the South African literature between poverty and female sexual behaviour. The study concluded that poverty plays a role in unmarried sexual behaviour among adolescent girls. (13) found that in their sample of 145 black teen mothers' homes, the average number of rooms per dwelling was 3.15, with the mean number of people inside being 6.8 forms the basis of association between promiscuous sexual behaviour and poverty. (14) went on to take a slightly different tact on the issue by assuming that there is an association between poverty and sexual behaviour, by explaining some of the contributory factors is the large number of teenagers selling sex to older men, especially migrant workers living in hostels in the cities. He went on to explain that the adolescent establishes a bargaining role with the men but is in a poor bargaining position, and may thus accept risks such as falling pregnant. Similarly, (15) indicated that 16% of a sample of 2000 female adolescents confessed to having sex for money and 20% of adolescent boys from the same sample indicated that they had given their girlfriends money in exchange for sex. (16) identified poverty as a predictor of early sexual intercourse, while increased family income was a factor associated with delay in sexual activity.

Parental education is linked with many outcomes of children including sexual behaviour. Parents are the primary socializers of their children. They are in a unique position to help adolescents have responsible attitudes and behaviour towards sex, and to educate adolescents into healthy sexual habits (11). A study (17) of the sexual behaviour of female adolescents in Nigeria reported that low educational level of parents were associated with increased risky sexual behaviour among them. A study also carried out among adolescent girls in Ibadan, agreed that parental educational level significantly affect the sexual behaviour of their children. The study (17) reported that children from highly educated home and conducive environment are prone to good behaviour and acceptable norms and values of the society than children from illiterate homes and poverty ridden homes. This finding is consistent with studies carried out among American adolescents where it was reported that higher levels of parental education have been associated with lower adolescent sexual activity, delay of intercourse initiation, greater use of contraception and lower risk of pregnancy. It is expected

that parents with sound education exposure will direct their children towards positive sexual behaviour (18).

(19) found that low educational level is linked to promiscuous sexual behaviours in girls. They identified a significant level of learning problems in the sample of American young mothers and suggested that motherhood may offer these women a sense of success in contrast to their low educational level. Furthermore, (20) confirmed the links between low educational level and teenage pregnancy. (21) also established that lower educational level is linked to sexual activity. They stated that the majority of female adolescents who become pregnant in Africa leave school before becoming pregnant. They mentioned that truancy and learning problems among female students is an early warning sign of sexual activity. According to (22), there is a link between sexual behaviour and lower educational level. They suggested that academic achievement by girls predicted postponed sexual activity. It has been suggested that young women who failed at school may seek sexual relationships as a confirmation of their individual worth. In the same light, (23) explained that education, or more specifically, educational achievement and clear educational goals, have been identified as impacting on sexual activity with high achievers having lower rate of pre-marital sex amongst both males and females. Finally, according to (24), educational level is associated with promiscuous sexual life among adolescent girls. He found that there were 155 girls aged less than 20 years at the time of their first recorded pregnancy. He reiterated that teenage pregnancy was significantly associated highest school year completed by girls. He used an age-interaction analysis on the association with educational level and found that while girls with less than secondary education at the time of the survey were at highest risk of teenage pregnancy.

## METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a quantitative approach and a cross-sectional descriptive survey design. The population of the study was defined as female adolescents aged 13-19 years in the Fiapre Community. The girls were either in school or out of school and are either pregnant or not pregnant and also residing in Fiapre for the past six months with their parents.

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## SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The sample size of the study was 100. The sample size was calculated using the proportion rate formula by Rexroat et al. (1992). For the selection of respondents for this study, stratified sampling was used to divide the community into four (4) strata, North (Zongo), East (Cocoa Ano), South (Ohemaa Nkwanta) and West (Notre Dame). Simple random sampling was then used to select households within each zone from which the study participants were selected.

## RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

This research employed a self-created questionnaire as the data collection instrument. The questionnaire consisted of both close-ended and open-ended questions that allowed respondents to express their views on some of the issues.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Fiapre is one of the five (5) sub-districts in the Sunyani West district of the Bono Region of Ghana with a population of 17,700 according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census. Odumasi is the administrative capital of the Sunyani West District Assembly. The district lies between latitude 7º 19′N and 7º 35′N and longitudes 2º 08′ W and 2º 31′ W. It shares boundaries with Wenchi Municipality to the Northeast, Tain District to the North, Berekum and Dormaa East to the West, and Sunyani Municipal to the South East.

## DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Ethical Clearance was sought from the District Assembly of the Sunyani West District. Informed consent form was attached to each questionnaire. Respondents were required to sign the informed consent form before responding to the questionnaire. For respondents who were below 18, parental consent form was attached to the questionnaire. Parents signed these forms before their children participated in the study. Four research assistants assisted in the data collection over a period of one week. The instrument was distributed within the community and in schools within the community.

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## DATA ANALYSIS

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and Microsoft Excel (2010) were used. The Microsoft Excel (2010) was used to plot the charts. Data was presented in tables and charts for interpretation and analysis, based on frequency distributions, percentages, and descriptive analysis on the variables under study. Comparison of continuous data was done using the Ch-square test to determine the level of association between sexual behaviour and the variables understudy and p-values less than 0.05 is considered as significant.

## PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

**Table 1: Responses from Adolescent girls**

| Attributes | Frequency (N=120) | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| **Age** | | |
| 13-16 years | 56 | 46.7 |
| 17-19 years | 64 | 53.3 |
| **Educational level** | | |
| None | 7 | 5.8 |
| Basic | 45 | 37.5 |
| Secondary | 65 | 54.2 |
| Tertiary | 3 | 2.5 |
| **Religious affiliation** | | |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Christian | 96 | 80.0 |
| Muslim | 19 | 15.8 |
| Traditionalist | 2 | 1.7 |
| Other Religions | 3 | 2.5 |
| **Relationship status** | | |
| None | 48 | 40.0 |
| Single partner | 63 | 52.5 |
| Multiple partners | 9 | 7.5 |
| **Parental status** | | |
| Single parent | 43 | 35.8 |
| Both parent | 77 | 64.2 |
| **Persons adolescents girls live with** | | |
| Mother | 24 | 20.0 |
| Father | 56 | 46.7 |
| Both | 37 | 30.8 |
| Other family relatives | 3 | 2.5 |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

From the table, a little above half (53%) of the girls were between the ages of 17-19 years while 47% were between 13-16 years. On education, 54% were in secondary school at the period of the data collection, 36% were in basic school, 6% had no form of education and the least at 3% were in tertiary school. Majority of the adolescent's girls (80%) were Christians,

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15% were Muslims, 2% were traditionalist and 3% belonged to other religion. With respect to relationship status, a little above half (53%) had single partners, 7% had multiple partners and 40% had no partners. Most of the respondents (64%) had both parents and 36% had single parents. Less than half of the respondents (47%) lived with their fathers, 20% lived with their mother's, 31% lived with both parents and 2% lived with other family relatives.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS

**Table 2: Background attributes of respondents**

| Attributes | Frequency (N=120) | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| **Religious affiliation** | | |
| Christian | 103 | 85.8 |
| Muslim | 13 | 10.8 |
| Traditionalist | 2 | 1.7 |
| Other Religions | 2 | 1.7 |
| **Marital status** | | |
| Single | 10 | 8.3 |
| Married | 89 | 74.2 |
| Divorced | 10 | 8.3 |
| Widowed | 11 | 9.2 |
| **Type of house parents live in** | | |
| Rented housing | 64 | 53.3 |
| Owner-occupied housing | 19 | 15.8 |

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|---|---|---|
| Family House | 37 | 30.8 |
| **Household size** | | |
| 2 | 16 | 13.3 |
| 3 | 17 | 14.2 |
| 4 | 46 | 38.3 |
| >4 | 41 | 34.2 |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

The above table represents the background attributes of parents of the respondents. Most of the parents (86%) were Christians, 10% were Muslims, 2% were traditionalist and another 2% were from other religions. On marital status, 74% were married, 9% were widowed, 8% were divorced and another 8% were single. A little above half of the parents of the respondents (53%) lived in rented houses, 16% lived in their own houses and 31% lived in family houses. Household size of the parents was also assessed, 38% had a household size of 4, 14% had a size of3, 13% had a household size of 2 and 34% had a household size greater than

**Table 3: Parental Educational, Employment and Income Level**

| Attributes | Frequency (N=120) | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| **Mother's highest educational level** | | |
| None | 23 | 19.2 |
| Basic | 35 | 29.2 |
| Secondary | 20 | 16.7 |
| Tertiary | 38 | 31.7 |

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|---|---|---|
| Others | 4 | 3.3 |
| **Father's highest education level** | | |
| None | 16 | 13.3 |
| Basic | 41 | 34.2 |
| Secondary | 13 | 10.8 |
| Tertiary | 50 | 41.7 |
| **Father gainfully employed** | | |
| Yes | 66 | 55.0 |
| No | 54 | 45.0 |
| **Mother gainfully employed** | | |
| Yes | 58 | 48.3 |
| No | 62 | 51.7 |
| **Occupation of mother** | | |
| Farming | 28 | 23.3 |
| Artisan | 6 | 5.0 |
| Employed by private sector | 16 | 13.3 |
| Civil Servant | 40 | 33.3 |
| Unemployed | 20 | 16.7 |
| Self-employed | 10 | 8.3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Occupation of father** | | |
| Farming | 34 | 28.3 |
| Artisan | 9 | 7.5 |
| Employed by private sector | 10 | 8.3 |
| Civil Servant | 36 | 30.0 |
| Unemployed | 14 | 11.7 |
| Self-employed | 17 | 14.2 |
| **Average household income level** | | |
| Less than GHC 100 | 33 | 27.5 |
| GHC 100-1,000 | 59 | 49.2 |
| GHC 1,500 and above | 28 | 23.3 |
| **Monthly income of father** | | |
| Less than GHC 100 | 34 | 28.3 |
| GHC 100-1,000 | 55 | 45.8 |
| GHC 1,500 and above | 31 | 25.8 |
| **Monthly income of mother** | | |
| Less than GHC 100 | 34 | 28.3 |
| GHC 100-1,000 | 79 | 65.8 |
| GHC 1,500 and above | 7 | 5.8 |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

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The study further assessed parental educational, employment and income level. It was found that, 32% of mothers were tertiary school leavers, 29% were basic school leavers, 17% were secondary school leavers and 19% had no form of formal education. On the other hand, 34% of father's were basic school leavers, 42% were tertiary school leavers and 10% had no formal education. A little above half of father's (55%) were gainfully employed while 48% of mother's were also gainfully employed. On the type of occupation engaged in by mothers, 23% were into farming, 13% were employed by private sector, 33% were civil servant, 16% were unemployed and 8% were self-employed. Out of 100%, 30% of fathers were civil servants, 28% were into farming, 12% were unemployed and 14% were self-employed. With respect to the average household income level, 49% earned GHC 100-1000, 26% earned less than GHC 100 and 23% earned GHC 1,500 and more. 46% of fathers earned GHC 100-1000, 28% earn less than GHC 100 and 26% earn GHC 1500 and above at the end of the month. With respect to mothers, 66% earn GHC 100-1000, 28% earn less than GHC 100 and 6% earn GHC 1500 and above at the end of the month.

### 4.1.3 Sexual behaviour and parental educational level

**Table 4: Relationship between parental educational level and engagement in sexual intercourse**

| Attributes | Engaged in sexual intercourse | | P-value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes; n (%) | No; n (%) | |
| **Mother's highest educational level** | | | |
| None | 15 (65.2) | 8 (34.8) | 0.186 |
| Basic | 25 (65.8) | 10 (28.6) | |
| Secondary | 9 (45) | 11 (55) | |
| Tertiary | 25 (65.8) | 13 (34.2) | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Others | 3 (75) | 1(25) | |
| **Father's highest education level** | | | |
| None | 14 (87.5) | 2 (12.5) | 0.042 |
| Basic | 22 (53.7) | 19 (46.3) | |
| Secondary | 7 (53.8) | 6 (46.2) | |
| Tertiary | 34 (68) | 16 (32) | |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

A bivariate analysis was conducted to ascertain the association between the outcome variable (Sexual behaviour of adolescents) and various independent variables (socio-economic factors). The results indicates that, fathers' highest educational level ($p<0.042$) has a statistical relationship as to whether their adolescent girls had engaged in sexual intercourse. On the other hand, mothers' highest educational level has no statistical relationship ($p>0.186$) as to whether adolescents have engaged in sexual intercourse.

**Table 5: Relationship between parental educational level and type of sex partners**

| **Attributes** | **Type of sex partners** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Single; n (%)** | **Multiple; n (%)** | **P-value** |
| **Mother's highest educational level** | | | |
| None | 10 (66.7) | 5 (33.3) | 0.149 |
| Basic | 14 (56) | 11 (44) | |
| Secondary | 4 (44.4) | 5 (55.6) | |
| Tertiary | 11 (44) | 14 (56) | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Others | 3 (100) | 0 (0) | |
| **Father's highest education level** | | | |
| None | 7 (50) | 7 (50) | 0.044 |
| Basic | 17 (77.3) | 5 (22.7) | |
| Secondary | 3 (42.9) | 4(57.1) | |
| Tertiary | 15 (44.1) | 19 (55.9) | |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

From the table, father's highest educational level has a statistical relationship ($p<0.044$) with the type of sex partners adolescents have while mother's highest educational has no statistical relationship to the type of sex partners of adolescents girls ($p>0.149$).

**Table 6: Relationship between parental educational level and Readiness during first sexual intercourse**

| **Attributes** | **Readiness during first sexual intercourse** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Yes; n (%)** | **No; n (%)** | **P-value** |
| **Mother's highest educational level** | | | |
| None | 4 (26.7) | 11 (73.3) | 0.300 |
| Basic | 6 (24) | 19 (76) | |
| Secondary | 4 (44.4) | 5 (55.6) | |
| Tertiary | 6 (24) | 19 (76) | |
| Others | 0 (0) | 3 (100) | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Father's highest education level** | | | |
| None | 4 (28.6) | 10 (71.4) | 0.452 |
| Basic | 6 (27.3) | 16 (72.7) | |
| Secondary | 1 (14.3) | 6(85.7) | |
| Tertiary | 9 (26.5) | 25 (73.5) | |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

From the above, mothers highest educational level (p>0.300) and fathers highest education level (p>0.452) was statistically insignificant to adolescents readiness during first sexual intercourse.

### 4.1.4 Sexual behaviour among adolescents and parental employment status

**Table 7: Relationship between parental employment status and engagement in sexual intercourse**

| | **Engaged in sexual intercourse** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Attributes** | **Yes; n (%)** | **No; n (%)** | **P-value** |
| **Occupation of mother** | | | |
| Farming | 16 (57.1) | 12 (42.9) | 0.001 |
| Artisan | 5 (83.3) | 1 (16.7) | |
| Employed by private sector | 12 (75) | 4 (25) | |
| Civil Servant | 25 (62.5) | 15 (37.5) | |
| Unemployed | 18 (90) | 2 (10) | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Self-employed | 1 (10) | 9 (90) | |
| **Occupation of father** | | | |
| Farming | 24 (70.6) | 10 (29.4) | 0.018 |
| Artisan | 6 (66.7) | 3 (33.3) | |
| Employed by private sector | 8 (80) | 2 (20) | |
| Civil Servant | 23 (63.9) | 13 (36.1) | |
| Unemployed | 11 (78.6) | 3 (21.4) | |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

In determining the relationship between parental employment and sexual behaviour of adolescents, a chi-square test was conducted. The results indicates that, mothers' occupation has an association with adolescents who have engaged in sex before ($p<0.001$). Fathers occupation also had a significant relationship with engagement of sexual intercourse by adolescents ($p<0.018$).

**Table 8: Relationship between Parental Employment Status and Type of Sex Partners**

| Attributes | Type of sex partners | | P-value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Single; n (%) | Multiple; n (%) | |
| **Occupation of mother** | | | |
| Farming | 10 (62.5) | 6 (37.5) | 0.028 |
| Artisan | 1 (20) | 4 (80) | |
| Employed by private sector | 3 (25) | 9 (75) | |
| Civil Servant | 15 (60) | 10 (40) | |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Unemployed | 13 (72.2) | 5 (27.8) | |
| Self-employed | 0 (0) | 1 (100) | |
| **Occupation of father** | | | |
| Farming | 14 (58.3) | 10 (41.7) | 0.079 |
| Artisan | 3 (50) | 3 (50) | |
| Employed by private sector | 2 (25) | 6 (75) | |
| Civil Servant | 11 (47.8) | 12 (52.2) | |
| Unemployed | 7 (63.6) | 4 (36.4) | |
| Self-employed | 5 (100) | 0 (0) | |

***Source: Field work, 2017***

From the table, occupation of mother is statistically associated with the type of sex partners adolescents have ($p<0.028$). However, father's occupation had no statistical significance with the type of sex partners taken by adolescents ($p>0.079$).

## DISCUSSIONS

The socio-demographic characteristics of the adolescents included the study were age, level of education, and religious background. The study found that more than half (53%) of the girls were between the ages of 17-19 years while the remaining were between 13-16 years. On education, the majority (54%) of the adolescents were in Senior High School at the period of the data collection, followed by those who were in basic school (36%) while the remaining few either had not form of formal education or were in tertiary institution. The majority (80%) of the adolescents' girls were Christians. More than half (53%) of the adolescents had single sexual partners, few (7%) had multiple sexual partners while the remaining (40%) had no sexual partners. Most of the adolescents (64%) had both parents while the remaining (36%) had single parents. Less than half (47%) of the adolescents lived with their fathers only

followed by those who lived with both parents (31%). The rest of the adolescents contacted either lived with their mothers only or other family relatives. The above findings mean that the study covered different category of female adolescents with respect of age, level of education, religious background, and income level which contributed in minimising sampling biases.

The economic characteristics of the parents showed that most (86%) of the parents were Christians. The majority (74%) of them were married while the reaming parents were either widowed, divorced or single. More than half (53%) of the parents lived in rented houses with their children, followed by those who lived in family houses (31%) while the rest lived in their own houses and. The majority (72%) of the respondents had household size of four and above. This finding means that the study cut across different kinds of individuals which contributed in minimizing sampling biases.

The study found that a large proportion of the parents had tertiary education however, the number (42%) of the male parents who had tertiary qualification was a bit higher than the female parents (32%). The rest of the parents either had secondary and basic education or no form of formal education at all. This means that the majority of the parents were educated. The study revealed that the educational level of the father had a weak ($p = 0.042$) association with female adolescent engagement in sexual intercourse whereas the association between maternal education and female adolescent engagement in sexual intercourse was insignificant ($p = 0.186$). The above findings indicate that paternal education does not have a significant influence on female adolescent sexual behaviours whereas maternal education has no influence at all. This could be attributed to the fact that the majority of the fathers had higher educational level as compared to the mothers in the study. These findings support the findings of the study carried out by (17) among adolescent girls in Ibadan, where parental educational level significantly affect the sexual behaviour of their children.

Similarly, paternal education was found to also have weak association ($p = 0.044$) with the number of sexual partners of the female adolescent whereas maternal education was found to be insignificantly ($p = 0.149$) associated with the number of sexual partners of the female

adolescent. This means that the father's educational level has a little influence on the number of sexual partners of their girl child whereas the mother's education had no influence on the number of sexual partners of their girl child. This could be attributed to the fact that the mothers in the present study had lower educational levels as compared to the fathers. Similarly, (19) found that low educational level is linked to promiscuous sexual behaviours in girls.

The study found that the majority (55%) of the fathers were gainfully employed as compared to the mothers (48%) in the Fiapre community. The type of occupation engaged in by mothers, include farming, private sector business, civil servant and self-employed. On the part of the fathers, their various occupations include civil servants, farming, and self-employed. The above findings indicated that the majority of the parents were gainfully employed.

In determining the relationship between parental employment and sexual behaviour of adolescents, the study found that mothers' employment status has strong association with adolescents who have engaged in sex before ($p = 0.001$). Fathers' employment status was also significantly associated with engagement of sexual intercourse by female adolescents ($p<0.018$) in Fiapre. The findings revealed that parent's employment status had a significant association with the female adolescent sexual behaviour. Female adolescents of gainfully employed parents were less likely to engage in early sexual intercourse as compared to parents who are not gainfully employed. These findings agree with the study (6) among out-of-school girls in Nigeria which that almost half of the respondents were expected to find the means to supplement the funds they were given to meet their basic needs because their parents were not gainfully employed and most of them were found to be sexually active.

The study further found that occupation of mothers is significantly associated ($p = 0.028$) with the number of sexual partners of the female adolescents have. However, father's occupation was insignificantly ($p = .079$) associated with the number of sex partners by the female adolescents. This means that the number of sexual partners of female adolescent girls is moderately depended on the mother's employment status and as compared to the father.

These findings are contrary to the study by (18) where female adolescents whose fathers were unemployed were more likely to have multiple sexual partners.

## CONCLUSION

The study concluded that parental socio-economic status such as employment and education has influence on the sexual behaviour of their female adolescents. Parents therefore have the responsibility to socialize their children in the appropriate sexual behaviour by way of socialization. They should not ignore this crucial role as a result of the unfortunate socio-economic situation they may find themselves in. The study recommends that parents who are gainfully employed should make time out of their busy work schedule for their children especially by trying to find out who their friends are, the time they leave the house and the time they return home. This will enable then provide the best parental care for their children. The study also recommends parents should provide their female adolescents with their basic needs especially those with higher income. This will prevent them from looking elsewhere for their basic needs which sometimes result in promiscuous sexual behaviours among female adolescents.

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