PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs) IN ORLU L.G.A, IMO STATE.

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ABSTRACT
This project work investigated perception and attitude of senior secondary school students towards sexually transmitted disease (STDs) in Orlu L. GA., Imo State. The study was carried out to determine what senior secondary school students in Orlu L. GA., understand by STDs, to ascertain students perception on the cause and models of transmission of STDs to assess students’ knowledge about the resultant effects of STDs on the health future of these students and to ascertain students’ attitudes towards STDs and their willingness to adopt various preventative measures of STDs. The researcher picked up this research topic so as to get abreast with common STDs, causes, effect, modes of transmission and the various ways of preventing STD occurrence. Survey design method was used for the study and questionnaire with open and close-ended questions served as instruments for data collection from the study. Simple sizes of 269 senior secondary school students were used to represent the entire population. Results obtained show that majority of this students are only aware of HIV/AIDS as an STDs with little or no knowledge of other STDs, few agreed that they know some negative impact of STDs it was also found that most of this students have experienced sex without protection like condom. However, the students know abstinence is the best preventive measures for STDs and infected persons should go and see a quality doctor.

KEYWORDS: perception, attitude, senior secondary school students, sexually transmitted diseases.

INTRODUCTION
Sexuality is a natural gift from God to every individual regardless of gender but some of the students/adolescents of our dear country, especially this generation, tend to engage in illicit sexual practice and prostitution citing the harsh economic condition as their reason for such an act.

The International HIV/AIDS Charity (2012) defined sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) as diseases that are mainly passed from one person to another during sex. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is another name for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), but the name STI is often preferred because there are a few STDs, such as Chlamydia that can affect a person without causing actual diseases (i.e. unpleasant symptoms).

It is disheartening to note that most of our adolescents today and even the general public at large know the various causes and consequences of STDs but they still engage in activities that expose them to these diseases. Available data show that STDs constitute great medical, social and economic problems in Nigeria. Apart from the heavy affliction of the urban areas, there is rapid excursion of these diseases to the rural area as well; this situation is serious to attract government attention so that necessary control measures may be initiated in good time in order to avert the serious consequence of STDs among Senior Secondary School Students.

Teen Survival Guide (2008) exposited on this issue saying that STDs are on the increase among young people. Even if one is not sexually active now, it is vital that one should know how to protect him/her self later. Teenagers and young adults get STDs more often than any other age group, this means that one is four sexually active teenager gets an STD. one can get an STD by having any kind of sexual activity viz; vaginal , oral and anal. It further said that STDs can cause no symptom at first, however, even if one has no symptoms he/she can still pass the infection oh to another person. If one gets symptoms, they may resemble other problems that are not STDs such as yeast infection. American Sexual Health Association (2013) made us understand that sexually transmitted diseases or STDs (sometime called sexually transmitted infection, or STIs) affect people of all ages, backgrounds, and from all walks of life. The
Association also stated that in the U.S alone there are approximately 19 million new cases each year, about half of which occur among youth aged 15-24 years.

Stoppler (2012) confirmed the above issue by saying that STDs are infrequently transmitted by any other type of contact (blood, body fluids or tissue is removed from an STD infected person and placed in contact with an uninfected person). However, people who share unsterilized needles markedly increase the chances of passing many diseases including STDs (especially Hepatitis), to others. He also sai some diseases are not considered to be officially an STD (e.g. hepatitis A, C, E) but are infrequently noted to be transmitted during sexual activity. MedlinePlus Trusted Health (2012) stated that there are more than 20 types of STDs and many affect both men and women, but in most cases, the health problems they cause can be more severe for women.

Sarah (2011) named the following as the various types of STDs. Hepatitis B,D,A,C,E Chlamydia Trachomatis, Sarcoptes scabei, Chancroid, Candida Albicans, HIV/AIDS, Genital Warts, Neisseria gonorhhoaea, Herps virus 2 and Herpes simplex (Genital Herpes), Ureaplasma urealyticum, Trichomoniasis, Syphilis, Granuloma ignuinale, phthiris, Molluscum Contagiosum, Lymphogranuloma Venerum, Scabies, Jock itch, Pubic lice, Yeast infections, Human Papiloma Virus.

It is pertinent to state that STDs have serious medical consequences which include death. This coupled with other alarming consequences like Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), infertility, ectopic pregnancy, maternal death, cancer, among others, have engineered the researcher into studying perception and attitudes of Senior Secondary School Students towards Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in Orlu L.G.A, Imo State.

**The purpose of the study**
The main purpose of this study is to determine the perception and attitudes of students towards sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Orlu L.G.A, Imo State.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**SETTING OF THE STUDY**
The setting of this study in Orlu L.G.A in Imo State of Nigeria.

**TARGET POPULATION**
The target population of the study is restricted to all senior secondary school student in Orlu local government Area, Imo State, Nigeria, whose total population (from the estimation of the researched is about fourteen thousand, one hundred and thirty eight (14,138) students.

**SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**
In other to have a concise study, the researcher used stratified sampling technique in which all the schools in Orlu L.G.A are arranged in three states Viz; - Only boy’s schools - Only girl’s school - Mixed (both boys and girls) schools.

The writer randomly selects one school from each of the groups above. These three schools make up the population from which a sample will be gotten for study. After the random selection, the following schools were selected.

| Table 1: Showing the population distribution of senior secondary school students in the three (3) schools selected for study. |
|---|---|
| Schools | Population of students |
| Bishop Shanaham college, Orlu (Boy’s school) | 70 |
| Girls Secondary School, Orlu (Girl’s School) | 270 |
| Community Secondary School Owerre-Ebeire (Mixed School) | 470 |
| Total | 818 |

**SAMPLE SIZE**
According to Israel (2013), calculating the sample size of this study can be done with the use of Yamane’s formula for calculating sample size. The researcher used this formula because the total population under study is too large and there is limited resources and time for the researcher. The sample size for this study is 269 which consist about 33% of the population of students in the three (3) schools selected for study. The formula and method used to derive the value for the sample size.

| Table 2: Showing the population of each school that make up the sample size of 269. See appendix ii for the calculation. |
|---|---|
| Schools | Population of students |
| Bishop Shanaham College, Orlu | 23 |
| Girls Secondary School, Orlu | 89 |
| Community Secondary School Owerre-Ebeire | 157 |
| Total | 269 |
PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION
The researcher himself administered a total of 269 questionnaires to the selected senior secondary school students in Orlu L.G.A. The administration, filling and collection of these questionnaires took a week to be completed. The researcher collected back the entire questionnaire, giving 100% return rate. A total of 112 questionnaires were shared to S.S1 students, 83 to S.S 2 students, and 74 to S.S. 3 students, giving a sum total of 269, which is the sample size for this study.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION
In the course of this study, the researcher took into consideration all the ethics of research. The following are the ethical consideration taken care of by the researcher.
- The anonymity of the students was ensured and none of their names was ever mentioned during the course of this work.
- An informed consent was obtained from the students before the questionnaire was given to them to fill.
- The researcher addressed and explained reasons for the conduct of the study and assured them of anonymity and confidentiality of their responses.
- The researcher also ensured that the students were not coerced to participate rather they opted to participate voluntarily.

RESULTS
Bio-data Analysis
Table 3: Showing the age brackets of senior secondary school students in the selected schools in Orlu L.G.A, Imo State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-14 years</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20 years</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 3 shows that 13(5%) respondents are between ages 12-13; 112(42%) respondents are between 15-17 years and 133(49%) respondents are between 21-23 years, which has the highest frequency and percentages.

Table 4: Showing the gender of the respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>66.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 4 shows that 91(33.8%) respondents are males, while 178 (66.2%) respondents are females.

Table 5: Showing the frequency and percentages of students in each, of the classes under study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.S 1</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.S 2</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.S 3</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Showing how many of these students have heard about STDs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 6 show that 220(81.8%) respondents agreed to have heard about STDs while 49(18.2%) said they have not.

Table 7: Showing the medium through which this must have heard about STDs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medium</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Showing what these senior secondary school students think STDs is. (N.B) Respondents were asked to tick all that they know to be true about STD i.e. more than one option.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transmitted disease</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot be transmitted disease</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease contacted by sexual activity with infected person</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information obtained from table 8 shows that 82(30.5%) claimed that it is a disease that can be transmitted, 223 (82.9%) respondents agreed with the idea that it is a disease that can be contacted by engaging in sexual activities with an infected person, and 44(16.4%) students disagreed by saying that it cannot be transmitted, however, no respondent chose the “none” option.
Table 9: Showing which STD do these students know (instruction say tick more than one option).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STDs</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidiasis</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genital warts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9 shows that 198(73.6%) which is a majority, are aware of HIV/AIDS as a sexually transmitted disease, while 81(30.2%) picked gonorrhea, 51(19%) ticked for syphilis, 7(2.6%) candidiasis, 3(1.1%) Chiamydia and 1(0.4%) genital warts. However none ticked option for other sexually transmitted diseases that were not mentioned in the questionnaire.

Table 10: Showing the knowledge of these students towards the causes and modes of transmission of STDs (women were asked to tick more than one option).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STDs</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia trachomatics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neisseria gonorrhea</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treponema pallidum</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human papilloma virus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis S, B C D</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human immune deficiency virus</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>78.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10 shows that 2 11(78.4%) out of 269 senior secondary school students in Or1ü L know that human immunodeficiency virus is a cause of STD, 9 1(33.8%) students know of hepatitis A, B C D B, 4406.5%) of these students are aware of Neisseria gonorrhea, while Chiamydia trachomatis, Treponema pallidum and human papilloma virus are known by 1(12.4%) students only respectively.

Table 11: Showing the ways through which STDs can be transmitted (here respondents were asked to tick more than one option).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kissing an infected person</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugging an infected person</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating with an effected person</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having unprotected sex with an infected person</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11 shows that 155(57.6%) out of 269 senior secondary school students are aware of the fact that having unprotected sex with an infected partner/person is a mode of transmission of STDs, 99(36.8%) say it can be transmitted through eating with S infected person, 4(1.5%) said it can be gotten by hugging an infected per while 23(8.6%) accepts that STDs can be transmitted through kissing an infected person.

Table 12: Shows that the percentages of respondents that think STDs have impact on students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 12 show that only 72(26.8%) out of these students agreed that there are negative impacts of STDs on childbearing women, 197(73.2%) believe that STDs have no negative impact on students.

Table 13: Showing the possible complications of STD these childbearing students know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blindness</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscarriages</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infertility/Sterility</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>37.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart, kidney and brain damage</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre of the cervix</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13 shows that the percentages of respondents that think STDs have impact on students.

Table 14: Showing the number of senior secondary school students that have experience sex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results presented in table 14 shows that 120(44.6%) of senior secondary school students in Orlu have experienced sex, while 149(55.4%) respondents claimed that they have not experienced sex before.

Table 15: Showing the number of students who engaged in sexual act with the use of protection like condoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15 shows that 46(38.3%) out of 120 students who have experienced sex used protective device like, condoms during sex while 74(61.7%) of students did not use any protective device during sexual acts.
Table 16: Showing how important these students think protection during sex is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 16, 187(69.5%) respondents think it is necessary to protect them from contacting STDs while 82(30.6%) students do not think so.

Table 17: Shows the reasons why these students think protection is necessary during sex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To prevent the complication of STDs and enable you maintain optimal health</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reduce the incidence of STDs in our present day society</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reduce death rate</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>71.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from table 17 shows that 88(47.1%) students think it is necessary so as to prevent complications of STDs and enable him/her maintain optimal health, 112(59.9%) students agreed to the idea that it is necessary to prevent the complications of STDs because it helps in reducing the incidence of STDs. In our present day society and 133(71.1%) of students said their reason is to reduced death rate.

Table 18: Showing the method of preventing STD known to these students. (Respondents were permitted to tick more than one option).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstinence</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay with only one partner</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use condom</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18 shows that 81(30.1%) students believe that abstinence is the best method of preventing STDs, 112(41.6%) believe that staying with one sexual partner is the best method of preventing STDs, 173(64.3%) respondents choose the use of condom as the most effective way to avoid STD and none of the students choose a method which is not stated in the questionnaire.

Table 19: Shows what these students thinks is the best option for someone with STD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hide it</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go to dispensary unit (chemist shop) and get an appropriate drug</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report to the nearest hospital/doctor</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 19: Shows that 62(23.1%) respondents belief that hiding their condition is the best option for someone with STDs, 133(49.4%) students believe that going to a dispensary unit (chemist shop) and purchasing an appropriate drug is the best option while 74(27.5%) respondents chose reporting to the nearest hospital/doctor as the best option. None went for “others” option.

DISCUSSION

The above results show that the senior secondary school students in Orlu L.G.A have good knowledge of what sexually transmitted disease (STD) is. These results concurred with the definition of Oluwale (2011) which says that STDs are infective diseases that are transmitted through sexual contact.

Furthermore, Mayo clinic (2012) supported this idea by saying that STDs are infectious diseases that can be acquired by sexual contact. In the researcher’s perspective, sexually transmitted diseases can be seen as a group of disease which is contacted through activities with an infected individual (either male or female).

It can be asserted from table 4.8 that a good number, about 2 11(78.4%) of the senior secondary school students in Orlu L.G.A know that human immunodeficiency virus is a cause of STD, this is followed by Hepatitis A, B, C, D, B with 91(33.8%) students, 44(16.5%) of these students are aware of Neisseria gonorrhoea, while Chlamydia trachomatis, Treponema pallidum and human papilloma virus are known to 1(0.4%) students each. This result shows that human immunodeficiency virus is the commonest cause of STD known to senior secondary school students in Orlu L.G.A and that these students are knowledgeable about other causative organisms of STDs which were not included in the questionnaire.

This result therefore does not agree with the study by Stoppler and Davies (2012), which enumerated about sixteen different causative organisms for STDs and that of Sarah (2011) and Medline Plus (2012) who stated that there are also about 20 or more causative organisms for these STDs. However, the results agree with the fii of Sam Kange-Zeeb, Spallek and Hajo-Zeeb (2011) that awareness was nerally high for HIV/AIDS (above 90%) and also supports the above authors by adding that there are numerous causative organisms for STDs in our present society and these students should be exposed to this information by including STDs in their school syllables.

The results show that a little below 50% of these students are not informed of the modes of transmission of STDs and this agrees with the ascertain by Chard (2012) that sexual intercourse with an infected person is one of the modes of transmission of STDs but disagrees with the same author that kissing is also a route for the transmission of STD. However, the researcher asserts
that students should be informed on the fact that STDs can also be contact from kissing an infected person with an open wound in the mouth.

The results show that these students have poor knowledge of resultant effects of STDs and this contradicted the postulation of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (2011) that STDs can cause long-term health problems, particularly in women and infants. In the same vein, the above results do not also agree with Da Ross et al. (2008) who asserted that sexually transmitted diseases are among the first ten (10) causes of unpleasant diseases in young adults in developing counties and the second major cause of unpleasant diseases in adult young women. The researchers’ opinion in this issue is that STDs have negative impacts on the students. These students should have in-depth knowledge on these negative effects of STDs and therefore avoid those activities that will expose them to these STDs.

This result showed that most senior secondary school students in Orlu L G A are just aware of death as a possible complication of STD, thereby contradicting kitchen (2012) who outlined infertility, risk of spreadh WV to others for life, ectopic pregnancy, cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory diseases, heart and brain disorders, and death as the possible complication of STDs. However, the researcher advice that these students should avoid negative outcomes by not getting involved in any sexual activity that will lead to these complications.

This result showed that majority of these students believes the use of condom is the best prevention of STDs. This result disagreed with the statement by Mayo clinic (2012) that abstinence is the most effective way to avoid STIs.

In the writer’s opinion, sex is an act that should be left for the married and not the unmarried. However, if an individual (student) must engage in any sexual activity, he/she should endeavor to use a condom or any other scientifically approved protective device.

CONCLUSION
In conclusion, deductions from theses study showed that the secondary school students (especially the senior students) are seen to be more prone to contacting STDs and as such, they should be sensitized on the issues of sex and the dire consequences of STDs. Further, the need of total abstinence from sex is of great importance bearing in mind the age of these students, the resultant effects of STDs if they engaged in sex (without the use of protective measures like condoms).

REFERENCES


