

Perception and Effect of Gender-Based Violence on Sustainable Development and Education of Girl-Child in Southwestern Nigeria

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Abstract : Gender-based violence remains a serious threat to the growth, health, and safety of women and girls globally, including Nigeria. The rising violence of various shades of violence, especially against women and girls in the guise of cultural preservation, raised serious concerns. The challenge of this harmful gender narrative is more critical in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 4 (Quality Education) in Nigeria. The study investigated the perception and effects of gender-based violence on sustainable development and education of the girl-child in Southwestern Nigeria. Primary and Secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were obtained using a structured questionnaire administered to young females in tertiary institutions, secondary schools, non-governmental organizations, and government institutions dealing with gender-based violence in the study area, while the secondary data were sourced from journals, books and dailies. A multistage random sampling technique was employed to select a sample of 360 respondents who completed the questionnaire for the study. Descriptive statistics and regression analysis were applied to the data collected. The result revealed a high prevalence of gender-based violence, and it was perceived to be culturally motivated. Sexual violence, sexual harassment and psychological violence were the significant forms of gender-based violence that adversely affected the Sustainable Development Goal 4. The result further revealed that loss of concentration, shame and depression, school drop-out, poor academic performance and inferiority complex were the major effects of gender-based violence on the education of girl-child in the study area. The study recommended that to avert catastrophic damages and adverse effects of gender-based violence on the girl-child, there is a need for thorough awareness and sensitization programmes to build their resilience. Also, enforcement of established laws against gender-based violence by both government and non-governmental institutions is sacrosanct.

Keywords : perception, effects, gender-based violence, sustainable development, education, girl-child, sensitisation

Conference Title : ICSH 2025 : International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : July 26-27, 2025