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Determinants of Sexual Violence in the City of Lubumbashi: Household Survey in Kampemba Health District

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Abstract

Introduction: A major impediment to sustainable development, sexual assault imposes exorbitant costs on families, communities and economies. The objective of the study was to identify the determinants of sexual violence in urban areas. Methodology: This is a cross-sectional descriptive study in the form of a survey of 501 households conducted on 17 and 20 May 2018 at Bongonga District in the Kampemba Health District in Lubumbashi. The sampling was proportionally stratified randomly and the sampling rate was 17. Collected by the structured interview technique after obtaining informed consent, the data were analyzed by the SPSS software version 23. Univariate analyzes, bivariate and multivariate were made. Results: The community prevalence of sexual violence was 31.1%. Almost all of the victims were female (98.0%). The median age at first sexual experience was 17 years and the mean age was 15.8 ± 8 years. Six variables, namely the history of sexual violence during childhood (AOR = 30.2 95% CI [10.4 - 87.4], p = 0.000), the feast (AOR = 4.9 95% CI [1.2 - 19.7], p = 0.027), mental handicap (AOR = 0.079 95% CI [0.02 - 0.34], p = 0.001), sexy clothing (AOR = 0.11 95% CI [0.02 - 0.56], p = 0.008), drunkenness (AOR = 0.081 95% CI [0.02 - 0.36], p = 0.001) and living in a couple (AOR = 0.53295% CI [0.33-0.87], p = 0.011), have been found to be determinants of sexual violence. **Conclusion:** Despite their magnitude, sexual violence, whose main determinants are the antecedent of sexual violence during childhood and living together, remains a neglected health problem in the city of Lubumbashi.

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1. Introduction

At the time of the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations [1], it is still observed on the face of the earth a recrudescent crime on a large scale. Since the second half of the 20th century, this crime is dictated most often by many interests or factors acting in completely different contexts (economic, social, cultural, political or even religious). It is variously called sexual violence, sexual assault or sexual abuse [2]-[9]. This plague can strike any human being, regardless of age, sex or standing [10] [11]. As a major impediment to sustainable development, sexual violence imposes exorbitant costs on families, communities and economies [12].

Sexual violence encompasses all forms of sexual assault against people and can take a variety of forms depending on their nature (insults, caresses, penetration), their frequency (single or repeated in the course of a more or less long period), their intensity (aggressive episode accompanied by torture), their context (ritual, hazing), their environment (school, family, resort, workplace) and the type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator of the violence (paternal or maternal incest, sexual harassment, authoritative person, spouse, sexual partner ... up to self-inflicted sexual violence from prostitution) [13].

As a major global public health problem of epidemic scale and requiring urgent action, sexual violence must be considered as a scourge to be fought at all costs [14]. Nearly one in four women would be exposed, at some point in their lives, to their partner's sexual violence [15]. But the most recent statistics indicate a prevalence of 35% [16]. Around the world, 120 million girls (about one in ten girls) have had sexual or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. Boys are also at risk [17]. Sexual violence depends on a variety of factors in a wide variety of social, cultural and economic situations [15].

With the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) having a poverty rate of around 70% of its general population [18] [19] [20], sexual violence is still rife despite the existence of a remarkable criminal arsenal [21] [22] [23]. Statistics on this scourge are divergent and unreliable. In addition, there is a paucity of in-depth scientific studies of sexual abuse, although the DRC is a time-stamped "World Capital of Rape" [24].

The purpose of the study was to identify the determinants of sexual violence in urban areas outside of any armed conflict.

2. Methodology

The Sanitary District of Kampemba (that is to say the Kampemba Health Zone, according to the Congolese nomenclature) which served us as a framework of study includes 2 Health Areas (SA) disproportionate in terms of population of responsibility: 46,856 inhabitants for the AS Kabanga and 23,730 inhabitants for the AS Suzanella, the 2 Health Areas forming administratively the Bongonga District [25]. This is a cross-sectional descriptive study in the form of a survey of 501 households, conducted on May 17 and 20, 2018, from 9 am to 4 pm with the assistance of 10 previously trained interviewers. The sampling was proportional random stratified and the probing step was of the order of 17. Carried out tactfully in an African environment where sex remains notoriously a taboo subject, this victimization survey over the period from 2016 to 2018 targeted both sexes, regardless of age or marital status. After obtaining free and informed consent, the data was collected by the structured interview technique based on a strictly funnel-based questionnaire, entered and encoded with Excel 2016 before being analyzed by SPSS Version 23 (Univariate and bivariate analyses as well as logistic regression).

3. Results

3.1. Community Prevalence of Sexual Violence

The community prevalence of sexual violence during the period 2016-2018 was around 31.1% (Figure 1).

3.2. Types of Sexual Violence

Table 1 shows that the most prevalent types of sexual violence were, in order of decreasing importance, rape (64.1%), sexual harassment (29.5%), indecent assault (21.2%), forced pregnancy (20.5%) and forced marriage (19.9%), while the incitement of minors to debauchery represented the lowest proportion in the sample (4.5%).

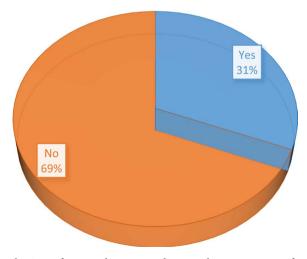


Figure 1. Distribution of respondents according to the occurrence of sexual violence during the period from 2016 to 2018.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents by type of sexual violence.

Types of sexual violence	(N = 156)	(%)	
Rape	100	64.1	
Forced marriage	31	19.9	
Forced pregnancy	32	20.5	
Incitement of minors to debauchery	7	4.5	
Sexual harassment	46	29.5	
Molestation	33	21.2	

3.3. History of Sexual Abuse during Childhood

Forty-four respondents out of 501 (8.8%) reported having been sexually assaulted during childhood (Figure 2).

3.4. Sex

Almost all of the interviewees were female, both for the respondents in general and for the victims in particular, namely 99% (sex ratio between men and women = 0.01) and 98% (sex ratio between men and women = 0.02).

3.5. Age

Nearly 8 out of 10 respondents were older than or equal to 20 years, *i.e.* 79.4% compared to 0.6% of cases under 10 years of age and 20% of interviewees whose age ranged from 10 to 19 years. In this series, age 4 and age 76, the median age was 29 years and the mean age was 31.3 ± 12.6 years.

3.6. Age at First Sexual Intercourse

The vast majority of respondents had their first sexual intercourse during adolescence, at 88.8%, while the cases that experienced it before the age of 10 constituted a

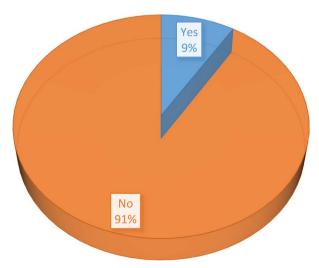


Figure 2. Distribution of respondents according to the history of sexual abuse during childhood.

very small proportion (1.1%). The median age at first intercourse was around 17 years and the mean age was 15.8 \pm 8 years.

3.7. Educational and Socio-Economic Level

The majority of respondents were either uneducated (38.1%) or at a primary level (45.1%), with academics being almost rare in our sample (1.6%). About 63% of those interviewed were of low socioeconomic status.

3.8. Factors Associated with Sexual Violence

Victims who reported the history of childhood sexual abuse were 3 times (88.6%) more likely than No-affected children (25.6%). Respondents with a history of sexual abuse during childhood were 22.7 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence than respondents who had not experienced this child sexual abuse, as the difference was very high. Significant (OR = 22.7 [8.7 - 58.9], p = 0.000).

The association between physical disability and sexual violence was not considered significant (OR = 1.1 [0.43 - 2.73], p = 0.859) while a statistically significant relationship was observed between mental disability and the occurrence of sexual violence (OR = 4.2 [1.8 - 9.7], p = 0.000), the risk for exposed individuals being multiplied by approximately 4.

Respondents living in couples (29.5%) experienced more sexual violence than those who were outside the conjugal roof (12.5%). The association between living with a partner and sexual violence was highly significant, with a risk of being about 3 times higher (OR = 2.9 [1.8 - 4.6], p = 0.000).

Sexually abused drug abused victims were more represented than those without a history of substance abuse (66.7% versus 17.9%). However, the association between these two variables (substance abuse and sexual violence) was not significant (OR = 9.2 [0.8 - 102.5], p = 0.086).

The occurrence of sexual assault was more common among those who were drunk (60.9%) than those who did not show drunkenness (16.1%). There was a very highly significant association between drunkenness and sexual abuse, with the risk being nearly 8 times higher (OR = 8.1 [3.4 - 19.4], p = 0.000).

Respondents with sexy clothing were about 3 times more sexually abused (72.7%) than those who were decently dressed (15.7%). There was a very highly significant association between sexy clothing and sexual abuse, the risk being about 14 times higher (OR = 14.4 [5.4 - 37.9], p = 0.000).

Sexually abused respondents at a party accounted for a far greater proportion (60.0%) than other victims (29.6%). A highly significant association was found between the variable "feast" and that called "sexual violence", the risk incurred being approximately 4 times higher (OR = 3.6 [1.6 - 8.1] p = 0.001).

3.9. Determinants of Sexual Violence

Multivariate analysis of logistic regression data showed that six of the following

variables were determinants of sexual abuse among victims: the history of childhood sexual abuse (AOR = 30.2~95% CI [10.4~87.4], p = 0.000) and the feast (AOR = 4.9~95% CI [1.2~19.7], p = 0.027) and the couple's life (AOR = 0.532~95% CI [0.33~0.87], p = 0.011), sexy clothing (AOR = 0.11~95% CI [0.02~0.56], p = 0.008), drunkenness (AOR = 0.081~95% CI [0.02~0.36], p = 0.001) and mental handicap (AOR = 0.079~95% CI [0.02~0.34], p = 0.001).

4. Discussion

In this series, almost all of the respondents were female, both for the respondents in general and for the victims in particular, 99% (with a male/female sex ratio of 0.01) and 98% respectively. (sex ratio between men and women = 0.02). This corroborates the results of many studies that have confirmed that victims of sexual violence are mainly female as shown by **Table 2** [8] [10] [26] [27] [28] [29].

Almost 9 out of 10 (88.8%) had their first sexual intercourse during adolescence, with a median age of 17 and an average age of 15.8 ± 8 years. This is almost identical to the results found by the DHS II/DRC that among women aged 25 - 49 in the survey, 24% had already had sex before reaching age 15, 65% before to reach 18 years, 81% before reaching 20 years and 25 years exact, almost all women had already had their first sexual intercourse (**Table 3**). For women aged 25 - 49, the median age at first intercourse is estimated at 16.8 years [18]. According to some authors, the age at first intercourse has fallen sharply by two years: from 20 and a half in 1960 to 18 and a half in 1970 for women, and from 18 to 17 years and a half for men, "unlike the period from the 1980s to the mid-2000s." The median age is estimated around $17^{1/2}$ years for young men and women in France, "Sexual initiation is currently" a full experience of adolescence, increasingly disconnected from a conjugal project and a fortiori nuptial [30].

In this study, it was shown that there was a significant association between the occurrence of sexual violence and mental (**Table 3**) disability (OR = 4.2 [1.8 - 9.7], p = 0.000), this variable also proved to be a determinant (AOR = 0.079 95% CI [0.02 - 0.34], p = 0.001). Fragile by their physical and intellectual difficulties (loss of vision, difficulty hearing, motor restriction, overconfidence in the caregiver, etc.), women with disabilities are more vulnerable to violence, verbal aggression, physical, sexual and psychological [31].

Indeed, women with disabilities experience emotional, physical and sexual

Table 2. Distribution of respondents and victims by gender.

Sex —			(9	%)
	N	Victims		
Female	496	153	99.0	98.0
Male	5	3	1.0	2.0
Total	501	156	100.0	100.0

Table 3. Distribution of respondents by factors associated with sexual violence.

		Sexual ·	violence					
Detrerminants		Yes N (%)	No N (%)	Total	OR	CI _{95%}	Chi-square	p-Value
History of sexual violence during childhood	Yes	39 (88.6)	5 (11.4)	44	22.7	[8.7 - 58.9]	74.4	0.000
	No	117 (25.6)	340 (74.4)	457	1			
Mantal han diasa	Yes	11 (45.8)	13 (54.2)	24	4.199	[1.8 - 9.7]	12.983	0.000
Mental handicap	No	80 (16.8)	397 (83.2)	477	1			
Physical disability	Yes	6 (19.4)	25 (80.6)	31	1.087	[0.4 - 2.7]	0.032	0.859
	No	85 (18.1)	385 (81.9)	470	1			
Life in a relationship	Yes	49 (29.5)	117 (70.5)	166	2.922	[1.8 - 4.6]	21.532	0.000
	No	42 (12.5)	293 (81.5)	335	1			
Substance addiction	Yes	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	3	9.191	[0.8 - 102.5]	4.777	0.086
	No	89 (17.9)	409 (82.1)	498	1			
Drunkness	Yes	14 (60.9)	9 (39.1)	23	8.101	[3.4 - 19.4]	29.578	0.000
	No	77 (16.1)	401 (83.9)	478	1			
Sexy clothing	Yes	16 (72.7)	6 (27.3)	22	14.364	[5.4 - 37.9]	46.087	0.000
	No	75 (15.7)	404 (84.3)	479	1			
Party	Yes	15 (60.0)	10 (40.0)	25	3.6	[1.6 - 8.1]	10.2	0.001
	No	141 (29.6)	335 (70.4)	476	1			

assault by a variety of individuals, including their caregivers, caregivers, health care providers, and family members and strangers [32].

The fact that people with disabilities often live, regardless of their age and despite appearances, in a real emotional desert increases their vulnerability [33].

Interviewees with a history of sexual abuse during childhood accounted for 8.8% of cases. A highly significant relationship was observed between having been sexually abused during childhood and the occurrence of sexual violence reported in this survey (OR = 22.7~[8.7~-58.9]~p=0.000) and logistic regression demonstrated that this variable is a determinant of transgressive sexual behaviour in Lubumbashi (AOR = 30.2~95% CI [10.4~-87.4], p=0.000). Many studies have highlighted the trans generational effects of sexual violence (**Table 4**). Events such as violence, attacks, abuse and rapes that cause fear can have serious long-term psychological consequences [34].

Sexual abuse corresponds much less to sexual disorders than attempts to "defensive solution" vis-à-vis major anxieties about the feeling of identity that are themselves consecutive to fundamental shortcomings of the primary environment during early childhood [35].

The 2014 WHO report indicated that 20% of women worldwide have experienced sexual abuse in childhood [36].

In France, more than half of the rapes are committed on minors and the "Impact

Table 4. Determinants of sexual violence.

Variables	AOR	CI95%	p
History of sexual violence during childhood	30.208	[10.436 - 87.439]	0.000
Party	4.851	[1.198 - 19.650]	0.027
Mental handicap	0.079	[0.019 - 0.337]	0.001
Life in a relationship	0.532	[0.326 - 0.867]	0.011
Intoxication	0.081	[0.018 - 0.360]	0.001
Sexy clothing	0.107	[0.020 - 0.561]	0.008

of Sexual Violence from Childhood to Adult Adults" survey showed that 81% of sexual violence starts before the age of 18 [28].

Adverse Childhood Experiences (EIDs), in acronyms or English ACE, have long-term negative effects, leaving significant traces both psychically and physically [37].

Mouchet *et al.* suggested a link between childhood victimization and adult sexual abuse in perpetrators of sexual violence [38].

The US "Adverse Childhood Experience" study by Felitti and Anda for more than 17,000 people found that 50 years after experiencing severe childhood abuse and neglect, people were exposed to high-risk sexual behaviour. The risk of trans generational effects, *i.e.* the risk of experiencing violence again or again during his or her life [28].

Subjects living in a conjugal relationship (29.5%) experienced more sexual abuse than those who were not in a couple (12.5%) and the association between living with a partner and the occurrence of sexual violence was significant (OR = 2.9 [1.8 - 4.6], p = 0.000), the risk was nearly 3 times higher. In addition, logistic regression showed that the variable "living in couples" is a determinant of sexual violence (AOR = 0.532 95% CI [0.33 - 0.87], p = 0.011). Conjugal life seems indeed perilous as attested by a French ministerial report of the year 2017 according to which 219,000 women majors declared to have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by their spouse or former spouse over one year, 3 cases on 4 having undergone repeated acts and 80% of the respondents having been subjected to psychological attacks [39].

Sexually abused drug addicts (66.7%) accounted for almost four times the number of victims who did not report substance abuse (17.9%), but the association between these two variables (substance abuse and sexual abuse) was not significant (OR = 9.2 [0.8 - 102.5], p = 0.086), presumably due to the small size of the sample, which contained only 3 out of every 50 drug users. The results would tend to corrobAORte what the Western media reports about the fact that the abuser pours GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid)—commonly called the drug of rape—in the glass of his victim before violating it without his knowledge [40].

Sexual abuse was more common among respondents who were drunk (60.9%)

than those who did not show drunkenness (16.1%) and a very significant association between drunkenness. and sexual abuse was highlighted (OR = 8.1 [3.4 - 19.4], p = 0.000), drunkenness being here also a determinant (AOR = 0.081 95% CI [0.02 - 0], 36], p = 0.001). The drunkenness repeated phenomenon is at the origin of both social and health complications ranging from comas and road accidents, to risks of manipulation and physical or sexual violence, as well as to longer term, addiction [41].

Sexually abused respondents at a party accounted for a larger proportion (60.0%) than other victims (29.6%). This variable "holiday" was significantly related to the occurrence of sexual abuse $(OR = 3.6 \ [1.6 - 8.1], p = 0.001)$ and was found to be a determinant of sexual violence in our medium $(AOR = 4.9 \ 95\% \ CI \ [1.2 - 19.7], p = 0.027)$. This is consistent with a study of 9284 Quebecers working or studying on a university campus where more than one-third (36.9%) had experienced at least one form of sexual victimization in their community and almost half of these cases would have occurred during a party or other social activity [40].

5. Conclusions

This survey of 501 households found a community prevalence of transgressive sexual behavior of 31.1%. Almost all of the victims were female (98%). At first intercourse, the median age was 17 years and the mean age was 15.8 ± 8 years.

Six variables, namely, dating, history of childhood sexual abuse, sexy clothing, party, drunkenness, and mental disability, were clearly determinants of sexual violence, which, despite their scale, constitute a neglected health problem in the city of Lubumbashi.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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