

# Dinah and Her Experience of Sexual Assault in Genesis 34: Lessons for the Girl-Child In The Contemporary Society

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**Abstract-** Growing is associated with being exposed to certain ideals that can make life meaningful, less disastrous and less painful. Sexual harassment is taken to mean the same as sexual assault in this work. This involves illegal sexual contact that involves force upon a person without the consent of that person or someone incapable of given consent based on age, physical or mental incapacity. It is often unwelcome and the one affected is not as strong as the other assaulting or harassing. The problem of sexual assault or harassment is not new as shown in Dinah's experience in Genesis 34. Putting up with strange and unreliable persons and peers has spelt doom for many with the girl-child being severely affected and devastated. The wickedness of Shechem has continued in the world at large. However, this work intends to help the girl-child learn from the mistake of Dinah and the consequential effect on her, her family and Shechem's family. Educating the girl-child on how to handle loneliness, who to associate with or visit, avoiding indecent dressing and lifestyles are some areas of focus. The thesis of this paper is that the girl-child with proper education and orientation can avoid repeating the mistake of Dinah but rather portray decent lifestyle and attitude.

**Index Terms-** Sexual Assault, Girl-Child, Experience, Lifestyle, Loneliness, Boredom and Decency.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The world today is characterized with a number of indecent acts that calls for urgent attention. Such activities include theft, armed robbery, kidnapping, killings, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and so on. The rate at which these are happening is becoming alarming and quite disgusting (Layman, Gidycz and Lynn, 1996: 131-134). The focus of this paper is to have a look at the case of sexual assault as it relates to the girl-child with reference to the instance of Dinah in Genesis 34. The work intends to share a life story of a 15 year old girl that has an experience of sexual assault from his step father. This act has made the girl dropped from her school which invariably has caused the girl her life fortune as shall be discussed later under the case study. The girl child is often faced with a number of sexual assaults from different categories of persons such as their biological father, step father, uncles, brothers and friends of the family that are not considered to be evil in such regard sometimes (Foa & Riggs, 1995: 61-65; Wyatt, et., 1990:153-176 and White Kress, 2003:54-87 and Solomon, 2016: 83-93).

In this paper, sexual assault and harassment are presented as the same because both involve "illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent" (because of age or physical or mental incapacity) or who places the assailant (as a doctor) in a position of trust or authority" (sexual assault" @ e-Merriam- Webster Dictionary via Smartphone). The synonyms are assault, ravishment, rape and violation. On the other hand, sexual harassment is "uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature especially by a person in authority towards a subordinate as an employee or student" (sexual harassment" @ e-Merriam-Webster Dictionary via Smartphone). Sexual assault happens through coercion and physical force and is done without the consent of the victim. Sexual assault is happening world- wide, across gender and race and all religions have some of their members as victims ("Recommended Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexual Assault Response and Prevention ..."). The girl-child is a female that is younger in age and can be considered a teenager. According to Obaja (2016: 182-185), the girl-child is from birth to eighteen years old. It is a period associated with growing and developing and should be a time of becoming educated and established. It is however unfortunate the embarrassing repeated act of sexual assault cases that are reported or revealed among this category of persons. Sometimes those involved pretend to be innocent until the case is affirmed. The girl-child is more disposed to sexual assault / harassment than the boy-child (Obaja. 2016: 186-192). The *thesis of this paper is that the girl-child with proper education and orientation can avoid repeating the mistake of Dinah but rather portray decent lifestyle and attitude.*

## II. LITERATURE REVIEWS

This section of the research consulted other scholars on the subject of discussion with some level of interaction which also involved a true-life case study but with pseudo names to protect the identities of the persons involved.

## III. DINAH AND HER EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The story of Dinah and her sexual assault experience is recorded in Genesis 34. Dinah was the daughter of Jacob, the twin brother of Esau. The biblical record in Genesis 31:21 revealed her mother; Leah gave birth to her after having six sons

for Jacob making Leah the seventh child and the only girl in the family. Afterwards, God remembered Rachel and she had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. The maids of Leah and Rachel also had additional sons for Jacob. Invariably, Dinah was the only girl in that home and may desire to have some time with her mates. The incidence occurred when Dinah went out to visit other women in her environment when she was sexually assaulted by Shechem, the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the country. Instead of following the procedure of wooing and marrying her, he jumped on her at first sight and violated her which also means rape (Genesis 34:1-2 (NKJV)).

Amazingly, Shechem did what he supposed to do first in vs 3 by speaking softly to Dinah expressing his love for her. In vs 4, Shechem spoke to his father to ask for Dinah as a wife from her father and relatives. The action of Shechem met with the anger of Jacob and his sons for the defilement of Dinah which was against the practice of the Jews. This unwelcome attitude of Shechem eventually resulted in total elimination and destruction of Shechem and his family as shown in the remaining parts of Genesis 34. Dinah is the real focus in this passage and this is because of the sexual assault she went through. Some questions that can come to mind quickly are: Why should Dinah go out to visit the women of the land? Why did she go alone? Why can't she shout out for help and so on?

An in depth study of the passage reveals Dinah should have her freedom to move out but she was unaware that those in her community can attack her violently like that. Definitely, she was not prepared and nothing shows she gave her consent. Rather, Shechem came upon her forcefully and definitely with violence that she could not handle. While some commentators felt the action of Shechem was not a rape issue, this writer considering the words used by different bible versions such as "violated her, defiled her, humbled her, seized her, disgraced her, took her and lay with her by force etc revealed instance of sexual assault. She should be in her teen's years at that period of the incidence and cannot have enough power, energy or strength to resist Shechem. Shechem therefore is to be blamed for all that happened then and after considering the subtle way Jacob's children killed and exterminated Shechem's family (Genesis 34: 5-31 NKJV).

The innocent action of Dinah by her visit to the women of the land places caution on what to watch, where to go and who to move with for the girl-child and women folk. This is because those who seem to appear as friends can eventually have evil intentions. The vulnerability of the girl-child requires that they should be watchful, sensitive and alert to scenes around that can be dangerous.

#### IV. CASE STUDY OF ADESEWA OLATUNDE

Adesewa Olatunde is a pseudo name for the victim of sexual assault that is narrated in this study. Adesewa is a daughter to Adebimpe who was also deceived into sexual relationship according to her story by her boyfriend who pretended to be a single man in the year 2000. The relationship led to the pregnancy of Adesewa who was born in September 2001. Adebimpe later discovered her man already had a wife with five children. She lived with the first wife, their children and her man but had to be withdrawn by her own mother because of the mal-treatment meted to her by the first wife. Adebimpe

lived with her mother until she got another man who never paid her dowry until this moment of report after sixteen years of marriage (probably co-habitation because they were never married legally). Adesewa lived with her mother and her step-father and was taken care of. She grew with her mother's siblings but Adebimpe never knew her husband has been sleeping with her daughter until four years later.

According to the pathetic story, Adebimpe's husband deflowered Adesewa. The young girl has been warned strictly by her step father never to share the story or experience with anyone. Luck ran against the man when the girl, Adesewa narrated the ordeal when she was given serious beating because of her truancy in school. Adesewa usually leaves home for days and weeks not knowing it was her step-father that usually camp her in another rented apartment for sexual activities. She narrated how her step father bought her phone which he uses to call her and arrange for their meeting; the girl, Adesewa narrated how much pampering and gifts that she has been receiving from her step-father. Adesewa became addicted to sex to the extent that she has other boys and men outside who usually sleep with her on regular basis for a token or some gifts. As at the time of this report, Adesewa has been impregnated and it was difficult to determine who owns the baby. In fact, the person Adesewa identified as the father of her baby is another teenager of about seventeen years whose parents are still furious, angry and violent because their underground investigation made them suspected the pregnancy could have been that of his step-father.

However, because the teen boy accepted that he slept with Adesewa, the baby has been taken but the mother has gone back to her brother leaving behind about two months old baby. The pathetic story is such that the girl, Adesewa is now out of school, not in any apprenticeship relationship but has become a burden to the immediate family. The plan by her family is to make her go back to school if she cooperates with them. What a wicked act committed by her step father who exposed a child of about twelve years to early sex. As at this moment of writing, the girl is just sixteen years old and already had her first child in May 2016 (Gbadamosi 2016).

#### V. CAUSES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN TODAY'S WORLD

The fact that cannot be pushed aside is that there are a number of statistics on sexual abuse, assault, harassment and rape all over the world. There is no country of the world that is immune. It is a prevalent act that is still difficult to know precisely those affected because it is not often reported. However, casual observation and underground discussions revealed many girls and women face this experience almost on a daily basis. In advanced nations, few reports as presented by the studies by [David Finkelhor](#), Director of the [Crimes against Children Research Center](#), show that:

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse;
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident;

- During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Children are most vulnerable to CSA between the ages of 7 and 13 (David Finkelhor, "Child Sexual Abuse Statistics" @ <https://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>).

Reports of sexual assault and harassment have continued to be a form of threat to the girl child from those who are not too far from them. Those who assault them are sometimes relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Persons who endanger them through sexual assault are not considered suspects initially because they often pretend to be nice to their victims. Sexual assault therefore occur in homes, or that of relatives, in a car, at a party, club, or other gathering, school, workplace, doctor's office, or personal office of the one who did the assault (Frazier, 2000: 204). Many girls and women cover up their experiences of sexual assault because of shame which ordinarily should not be. Opening up by victims helps counselors, parents, medical practitioners and others who care. It is unfortunate that despite measures put up many years ago to eliminate and reduce sexual assault; it has continued to be a reoccurring incidence. The girl-child is expected to be at alert to recognize signs that can lead to sexual assault and flee such persons or environment. In addition, the girl—child and younger girls generally should avoid deliberate involvement in early sexual activities (Onaolapo, 2016:117-130). Few causes of sexual assault and harassment include:

**Lack of godly training and modeling-** Younger girls who are exposed to rough and ungodly lifestyles are usually prone to sexual assault. As at the time of this research, two girls knocked at the door of the researcher and asked for help. Upon some inquiry, the ladies said their mother died some years ago and their father who has three wives is not taken care of them. The older one is about sixteen or eighteen years, she already had a baby and is not with the man that impregnated her. According to the story of the older one, five of them are living with their grandmother who could not provide adequately for their meals resulting in begging around. Girls in similar situation are often exposed to sexual activities too early and too soon according to Onaolapo (2016:117-130) and such reveals the home is weak in appropriate training and modeling.

**Ungodly company and visitation-** The age of civilization and freedom make some girls to move out freely and sometimes without restriction. Those unfortunate have become prey in the hands of wicked and violent men who have no restriction when it comes to the issue of sex. Continuous association with ungodly people will mar the future of young girls when early prevention and caution are not introduced. Visiting indiscriminately is also very dangerous and harmful for younger girls. There are reports of kidnap; ritual acts on daily basis to the extent that even when a girl-child is not raped could become victim in the hands of ritualists and this also call for needed caution.

**Covetousness of the girl-child-** We live in a world that is engrossed in materialism. Many girls who are not very disciplined are sometimes enticed by gifts that are considered

prey from those who afterwards molest the girl-child. Insatiable appetites for food, clothes, shoes and some other lady stuff can lure such girls into the hands of those who will sexually assault them. Some in-disciplined girls in primary, secondary and higher institutions are known for such acts. When this happens, the greediness and covetousness of the girls are considered the major cause of sexual assault.

**Reckless and indecent lifestyle-**Today, reckless and indecent lifestyles are in vogue. These are considered being fashionable, knowledgeable and civilized. On the contrary, there is nothing good that comes of such attitude and way of life. Girls who live reckless and indecently have stories of regret, pains, cry, agony and frustration especially when they are dumped by those they think have flair for them. **Lack of self-discipline on the part of the girl-child and inability to resist what is not ideal** will bring trauma. Instead, learning to have satisfaction with the little parents and guardians can offer will be helpful. Barna (2001: 21-44) revealed that the younger generation are combating with numerous lifestyles and influences that are sometimes negative. Such are the influences of media, peer groups, musical preferences and internet etc.

**Impact of Media- Social media, television, movies, sexy and worldly songs** – the exposures that are impacting all children from media are too numerous to mention. Adversely, the girl-child has been tempted to attempt trying what is seen in the movies, on T.V and worldly songs. Those who have not been too disciplined to say no to some enticements are already victims and will remain preys in the hands of those who have the tendency of assaulting them ("Violence against the Girl Child" @ [http://www.stopvaw.org/violence\\_against\\_the\\_girl\\_child...](http://www.stopvaw.org/violence_against_the_girl_child...)"; Barna, 2001: 21-44).

## VI. TOWARDS AVOIDING THE TROUBLE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Love God and the holiness attached to the knowledge of God-** The Christian experience is such that younger girls are to be brought up in the way of the Lord. Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 known as the Shema has enough direction on bringing up the younger generation (male and female) in the way of God. Teaching growing girls and boys to love and fear God has the tendency of helping them flee all appearances of evil (Ayanrinola, 2013: 205-208).

**Avoid ungodly peer influence and company-** Dinah was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Younger girls are expected to watch where they go and who they moved with because such carelessness can spell doom for the life of the victim (Genesis 34:1). Many age mates of young girls can serve as traps and should be avoided as much as possible by the girl-child. In addition, ungodly peers that can make life miserable are not to be pitched tent with for any reason.

**Speak with your parents on sexual assault experience early enough-** In the case of Adesewa as narrated above, the case could not have become worsened if the girl had been educated earlier to speak out her experiences. Contrary, her quietness and supposed secrecy destroyed her life except she determined to rewrite her own life story. There are many girls outside there who are victims of sexual assault in the hands of those very close to them. Ayandokun (2013: 157-166) advises parents on guidelines

that can be adopted in overcoming negative peer group influences.

**Call for help where possible-**Girls and younger ladies are to be educated and given needed orientation to shout and cry for help when traits of sexual assault are perceived or apparent. There could be someone very close who can be of help which the girl-child can call on. In instances where the life of a child is threatened, once beaten should not be allowed to happen again. The girl-child deserves to be protected to become greater persons in the nearest future (“The Worth of a Girl-Child” *Proclaim*, 2016: 25-27).

**Use Joseph’s style of fleeing-** Genesis 39 revealed the story of Joseph and his experience with his master’s wife, Potiphar. Specifically, Potiphar’s wife had interest in Joseph; upon his refusal, the woman wanted to force him to bed. The quick and smart response of Joseph was by fleeing. This single act brought pain to Joseph but the story revealed God eventually vindicated Joseph. The style of fleeing as much as possible is often encouraged if possible (Genesis 39: 1-23 NKJV). An in-depth youth ministry has the capacity to orientate younger ones on appropriate attitude to sex as seen in Joseph’s style (Oyelade, 2012: 9-12).

**Report Cases or Instances of Sexual Assault-** since most of sexual assault comes from people who are friendly, familiar and are sometimes relatives reveal the reason why the cases or instances call for being reported so that such reports will help in designing strategies for others not to become victim of sexual assault (“Sexual Assault: What Every Girl Should Know...” @ <http://www.sackingston.com>.). Koss, Mary and Mary Achillies citing Coker, (2004: 1331-1353) revealed that perpetrators could also be provided with restorative justice with the hope that they will not continue in such acts. This concept is biblical and in line with Jesus’ response to the woman caught in adultery in John 8: 1-11 when Jesus asked the woman to go and sin no more.

**Educate the girl-child on appropriate sex life** – Okpara (2015) affirm that,

There is also the issue of safety and security in schools; girls tend to suffer violence. From ages 15 and 24, about one out of every three girls have suffered violence one way or the other, either through sexual harassment, rape or incest. So it is important for the government to address the issue of sexual education, provide incentives for girls to complete in primary and secondary schools.

Here, the role of parents, pastors, teachers, adults & counselors are considered without excluding the role of the government. While both genders can experience the trouble of sexual assault, the girl-child is more vulnerable than the boy-child. As the girls grow in homes, churches, schools and in the community, they need to be taught and enlightened on what to watch and signs to identify to avoid inappropriate sex experience. This can also be made possible by proper education and orientation (Garland, N. D: 1-20). Parents, pastors, teachers and people who protect the girl-child should not fold hands in this regard and some other issues concerning the girl-child worldwide (“Attitude toward a Girl-Child” 2016: 24-25).

## VII. EDUCATING THE GIRL –CHILD TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF DINAH

There is urgent need to provide a kind of orientation for the girl-child on appropriate lifestyles that reduces sexual assault. The story of Dinah revealed she visited with the women of the land which probably showed she did not know them very well. They are not people to be trusted because the story did not reveal their attempt to protect her despite the fact that she went out to visit them. Moving out in a wrong dimension has negative consequences. Ordinarily, supposed freedom that Dinah thought she could have landed her in disgrace, shame and unnecessary sexual assault. As a virgin, she was violated and assaulted bringing humiliation to her family. Any movement or association that can lead to harassment should be avoided by all persons but most especially by the female persons and the girl-child in the context of this research. Ayanrinola advised that providing early and adequate nurture for the younger girls and even boys are helpful to build godly foundation and the walls of the life of each child from evil predators (Ayanrinola, 2013:199-204).

A girl-child should be given needed orientation that instead of being home property, she can become valued, cherished, make informed decisions about her life, career, who to marry and what to become in life. Dinah made a wrong choice though she is not to be blamed 100% for the calamity that befell her but shared in that scene because of her action which was not considered appropriate. The story did not reveal she took any permission; maybe she could have been escorted by one of her siblings. This is a lesson for the girl-child to reduce walking alone especially in places not considered secure. Loneliness should also be handled wisely as much as possible. Keeping watchful eyes on the environment and the types of persons around can save the girl – child sometimes from unnecessary sexual assault (Young, 2014: 62-92).

Dinah was violated against her wish and desire. Her cherished virginity was tampered with. There are many ladies who have had such brutal experiences; some were able to overcome the trauma because of persons around them who provided support, succor, encouragement and hope that life still worth’s it after all. Many others having been traumatized could not make meaning out life. Some eventually developed emotional distress that destroyed their life’s ambitions and careers. We live in a world where sex is considered as fun even when it does not involve assault. Many young girls who are expected to keep themselves pure have allowed men to violate them for ephemeral things. Though this was not the story of Dinah but the experience should make the girl-child avoid actions that can lead to their being violated sexually. Providing effective teaching on how to live will help the girl-child become fulfilling and goal-oriented (Horton, 1992:15-30).

## VIII. RESEARCH ELABORATIONS

The researcher in an attempt to test the research topic empirically sent out 100 questionnaires shared among teenagers and youths during teens’ and youth program at Victory Baptist Church, Owu, Agbowa, Lagos State, Nigeria on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, among selected pastors in Baptist College of Theology, Lagos and members of Baptist churches in selected sections of Lagos State, Nigeria. This was done through simple random

sampling. A total of 84 questionnaires were returned which gave 84% that is considered reliable to analyze. The respondents were female and male teenagers, youths and adult males and females. The biographical tables were considered not necessary in this type of research. However, from the questionnaires, the tables drawn were on, *Understanding the Concept of Sexual Assault or Harassment, Problems Emerging from Sexual Assault or Harassment, Causes of Sexual Assault or Harassment, Strategies to Deal with Sexual Assault or Harassment and Educating the Girl –Child to Learn from the Experience of Dinah.*

**Table 1: Understanding the Concept of Sexual Assault or Harassment**

NO	Statements	A	SA	D	SD	Total
1	It involves illegal sexual contact that involves force upon a person without the consent of that person.	34 40.48%	48 57.14%	1 1.19%	1 1.19%	84
2	It is often unwelcome and the one affected is not as strong as the other assaulting or harassing.	35 41.67%	42 50%	7 8.33%		84
3	It is also an uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature especially by a person in authority towards a subordinate as an employee or student.	30 35.72%	42 50%	5 5.95%	7 8.33%	84
4	Sexual assault is happening world-wide, across gender and	33 35.71%	49 58.33%	1 1.19%	1 1.19%	84

	race and all religions have some of their members as victims.					
5	Putting up with strange and unreliable persons and peers has spelt doom for many with the girl-child severely affected and devastated	38 45.24%	44 52.38%	2 2.38%		84

Table 1 reveals a larger percentage of the respondents understand the concept of sexual assault and harassment. This is an indication that it is a recurrent experience world-wide. It therefore calls for an appropriate response.

**Table 2: Problems Emerging from Sexual Assault or Harassment**

NO	Statements	A	SA	D	SD	Total
6	Those affected can have their lives caught short by untimely death.	42 50%	37 44.05%	5 5.95%		84
7	Those affected can be endangered by contacting STDs.	25 29.76%	56 66.67%	1 3.57%		84
8	Having unwanted pregnancy can cause dropping out of school.	32 38.10%	50 59.52%	2 2.38%		84
9	The molestation can cause pain, disgrace and defilement.	21 25%	62 73.81%	1 1.19%		84
10	The experience is dangerous	28 33.33%	50 59.53%	6 7.14%		84

	for the health of both involved.					
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Table 2 reveals that there are unpleasant consequences attached to persons who are victims of sexual assault and harassment. This understanding places caution on appropriate way to guide against this among all age groups because of its irreversible experiences.

**Table 3: Causes of Sexual Assault or Harassment**

NO	Statements	A	SA	D	SD	Total
11	Lack of godly training and modeling.	29 34.53%	49 58.33%	4 4.76%	2 2.38%	84
12	Ungodly company and visitation.	37 44.62%	44 52.38%	3 3.57%		84
13	Covetousness of the girl-child on material acquisition.	40 47.62%	39 46.43%	5 5.95%		84
14	Reckless and indecent lifestyle as seen in dressing and outing etc.	38 45.24%	43 51.19%	3 3.57%		84
15	Impact of Media- Social media, television, movies, sexy and worldly songs.	35 41.67%	41 48.81%	8 9.52%		84
16	Putting up with ungodly peers and friends who can lure them.	34 40.48%	48 57.14%	2 2.38%		84
17	Lack of caution from parents and older adults on issue of premarital sex.	42 50%	37 44.05%	5 5.95%		84

Table 3 reveals a variety of causes of sexual assault and harassment out of which many are self-inflicted. This shows that some of these causes when avoided can reduce cases of sexual assault and harassment to the barest minimum. Parents, guardians and older adults can be of great help in teaching against indecent lifestyles and behaviors.

**Table 4: Strategies to Deal with Sexual Assault or Harassment**

NO	Statements	A	SA	D	SD	Total
18	Love God and the holiness attached to the knowledge of God.	32 38.10%	52 61.90%			84
19	Avoid ungodly peer influence and company.	28 33.33%	56 66.67%			84
20	Girls should speak with their parents on sexual assault experience early enough.	25 29.76%	59 70.24%			84
21	Girls should call for help where possible.	33 39.29%	49 58.33%		2 2.38%	84
22	Use Joseph's style of fleeing once you sense danger.	26 30.95%	56 66.67%	2 2.38%		84
23	Report Cases or Instances of Sexual Assault.	33 39.29%	51 60.71%			84
24	Educate the girl-child on appropriate sex life.	31 36.90%	52 61.90%	1 1.20%		84

Table 4 attempts to suggest strategies that can be adopted to deal with cases of sexual assault and harassment. Those suggested are accepted with high ratings by the respondents which revealed they are considered helpful. All who have opportunities to deal with the girl-child should continue to give needed care and guidance to deal with this menace.

**Table 5: Educating the Girl –Child to Learn from the Experience of Dinah**

NO	Statements	A	SA	D	SD	Total
25	Provide orientation for the girl-child on appropriate lifestyles that reduces sexual assault.	29 34.52%	54 64.29%		1 1.19%	84
26	Avoid putting up with people you cannot trust or do not know.	29 34.52%	55 65.48%			84
27	Avoid misuse of freedom where such exist because of its repercussion.	39 49.43%	43 65.48%	1 1.19%	1 1.19%	84
28	Avoid ungodly association with bad peer groups/unbelievers.	33 39.29%	51 60.71%			84
29	Providing early and adequate nurture for the younger girls and boys are helpful to build godly foundation.	36 42.86%	48 57.14%			84
30	A girl-child should be given needed orientation to become valued, cherished, make informed decisions about her life, career, who to marry and what to become in life	26 30.95%	58 69.05%			84

Table 5 provided additional options on what the girl-child should take note and avoid in order not to become victim of sexual assault and harassment. The responses gave high support for the suggestions.

**IX. CONCLUSION**

This paper has presented sexual assault and sexual harassment to mean the same. Both have the tendency of force sexual relationship most common with younger girls called the girl-child in this study. The case of Dinah was examined to serve as warning for younger generation on appropriate company and movement. The paper shared true life story of Adesewa who was violated at age twelve and for about four years before it was known by the mother. The paper also presented some causes of sexual assault, towards avoiding the trouble of sexual and educating the girl-child to learn from the experience of Dinah

and the conclusion. From the work, it is obvious that the girl-child is more vulnerable to sexual assault compared to their male counterparts.

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Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria in 2006. She received further training and post-PhD exposure at SWBTS, Forth-Worth, Texas and Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, USA in 2011. She has authored some books and published in learned journals. She is also a conference speaker and facilitator. She lectures presently at Baptist College of Theology, Lagos, Nigeria having served in various academic and administrative positions. She is a member of some learned academic bodies such as the National Association for the Study of Religions and Education; International Council for Higher Education; Society of Professors in Christian Education (SPCE), USA and some others. She is presently an Associate Professor in Christian Education.

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**APPENDIX: SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE ON  
DINAH AND HER EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN GENESIS 34: LESSONS FOR THE GIRL-CHILD IN THE  
CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

**Introduction**

I bring greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and pray that the abundant grace of God remain sufficient for you. Amen. I humbly request that you spend few minutes now to please quickly respond to this questionnaire. Doing that is greatly appreciated and it shows your commitment to the subject above. The information provided is for research purpose and the result will assist in providing right guidance for the girl-child in the contemporary society. You are an instrument that God will use. Amen. Thanks and God bless you.

*Humbly Yours in Christ,*  
*Ayandokun, Esther O.*  
*0802-6232-822*

**NOTE: Please return this to the usher or the researcher today, do not take home please.**

**Section A: Biographical Data:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name: (Optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Are you single or married? (underline)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Range: (Approximate):** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B: Read through the statements below and tick your conviction using (✓) SA= Strong Agree; A= Agree; D= Disagree and SD= Strongly Disagree.**

S/N	STATEMENTS	A	SA	D	SD
<b>A</b>	<b><i>Understanding the Concept Sexual Assault or Harassment</i></b>				
1	It involves illegal sexual contact that involves force upon a person without the consent of that person.				
2	It is often unwelcome and the one affected is not as strong as the other assaulting or harassing.				
3	It is also an uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature especially by a person in authority towards a subordinate as an employee or student.				
4	Sexual assault is happening world- wide, across gender and race and all religions have some of their members as victims.				
5	Putting up with strange and unreliable persons and peers has spelt doom for many with the girl-child severely affected and devastated				
<b>B</b>	<b><i>Problems Emerging from Sexual Assault or Harassment</i></b>				
6	Those affected can have their lives caught short by untimely death.				
7	Those affected can be endangered by contacting STDs.				
8	Having unwanted pregnancy can cause dropping out of school.				
9	The molestation can cause pain, disgrace and defilement.				
10	The experience is dangerous for the health of both involved.				
<b>C</b>	<b><i>Causes of Sexual Assault or Harassment</i></b>				
11	Lack of godly training and modeling				
12	Ungodly company and visitation				

13	Covetousness of the girl-child on material acquisition				
14	Reckless and indecent lifestyle as seen in dressing, outing etc.				
15	Impact of Media- Social media, television, movies, sexy and worldly songs.				
16	Putting up with ungodly peers and friends who can lure them.				
17	Lack of caution from parents and older adults on issue of premarital sex.				
<b>D</b>	<b>Strategies to Deal with Sexual Assault or Harassment</b>				
18	Love God and the holiness attached to the knowledge of God.				
19	Avoid ungodly peer influence and company.				
20	Girls should speak with their parents on sexual assault experience early enough.				
21	Girls should call for help where possible.				
22	Use Joseph's style of fleeing once you sense danger.				
23	Report Cases or Instances of Sexual Assault.				
24	Educate the girl-child on appropriate sex life.				
<b>E</b>	<b>Educating the Girl –Child to Learn from the Experience Of Dinah</b>				
25	Provide orientation for the girl-child on appropriate lifestyles that reduces sexual assault				
26	Avoid putting up with people you cannot trust or do not know.				
27	Avoid misuse of freedom where such exist because of its repercussion.				
28	Avoid ungodly association with bad peer groups/unbelievers.				
29	Providing early and adequate nurture for the younger girls and boys are helpful to build godly foundation.				
30	A girl-child should be given needed orientation to become valued, cherished, make informed decisions about her life, career, who to marry and what to become in life.				

**Add other comments:**