

## WHAT LEADS URBAN SEXUALLY ACTIVE MEN INTO TRANSACTIONAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN SELECTED SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES?

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### ABSTRACT

*Previous studies on sexual behaviour focused on women as the key instigator of risky sexual behaviour. Normal sexual relationship is not a single sex affair; the study explored the levels of transaction sexual behaviour and the behaviours' determinants among men in the selected sub-Saharan African countries. Demographic and Health Survey Data of Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho and Zimbabwe were used. The results revealed that, among the countries, Zimbabwe had the highest case of transaction sex (28%), followed by Lesotho (14%). Distribution of transaction sex by wealth status indicates that, most men were rich in all the countries. The highest proportion of men with highest level of education came from Lesotho. Age at first sex, number of living children and men educational level significantly influenced transaction sex in Nigeria, Lesotho and Zimbabwe ( $p < 0.01, 0.05$ ) while their wealth quintile and number of wives was significant in Nigeria ( $p < 0.01, 0.05$ ).*

**Key words:** Transaction, urban, men, sub-Saharan Africa.

### Background to the Study

Transaction sex relationship takes place across the countries of the globe (Chatterji, Murray, London & Anglewicz, 2005; Kirsten, Lori, Joyce & Natalia, 2016). In this contemporary times, the focus has been on the high rate of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and reported cases of HIV/AIDS among people of reproductive ages in sub-Saharan Africa. This is associated with indiscriminate and transaction sexual behaviour of both men and women in the region (Moore, Biddlecom & Zulu, 2007; Kirsten, Heise, Wamoyi & Bobrova, 2016). There are ample

evidences that increase in this risky sexual behaviour in African countries has contributed to increase in HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases not only among women but men in the region and which has contributed to high rate of mortality (Shoveller & Johnson, 2006; Oldenburg, Catherine, Perez – Brumer, Reisner & Mimiaga, 2015).

In this part of the world, the risky sexual behaviours have contributed to poor health outcomes for both sexes and which, cannot be overemphasized. This is due to the fact that the region recorded the greatest number of HIV infections and other sexually transmitted diseases. (Pettifor, Rees, Kleinschmidt, Steffenson, MacPhail, Hlongwa-Madikizela & Padian, 2005; Fearon, Wiggins, Pettifor, & Hargreaves, 2015). It is widely believed that HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan African are mostly caused by heterosexual activities (Holmes, 2003; Suzanne, 2003) and transaction sex (Dunkle, Jewkes, Brown, Gray, Mcintyre & Harlow, 2004; UNAIDS, 2013; 2014).

Transaction sex is a type of relationship between a young girl and older men usually by ten years older (Bantebya, Ochen, Pereznieta & Walker, 2014). Some are kind of relationship between men and women of almost the same age or a little age difference. There are some between a tutors and their students irrespective of sex. Although, not all sexual relationships that are characterised by gifts exchange are risky, but most of the relationships are risky. The behaviour is risky because of negative outcomes or even death that are associated with it. Such behaviours include unprotected sexual intercourse, multiple sexual partners, forced or coerced sexual intercourse and transactional sexual intercourse (Desiderato & Crawford, 1995; Zhou, 2011). In some studies, transactional sex is interchangeably used with the term prostitution. It was clearly explained by some authors that it cannot be substituted for prostitution because it is more than exchange of money only but includes exchange of gifts such as rent, i-phones, clothes, drinks, drugs, grades, marks, school tuition, securities and a lot more for sex (Desiderato & Crawford, 1995; Hunter, 2002; Hoefinger, 2010, 2013).

Many studies in sub-Saharan Africa have shown that combinations of transactional sex and men multiple sexual partnerships are some of the indicators of risky sexual behaviour and which has contributed to the increase in HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (Chatterji,

Murray, London & Anglewicz, 2005). These have caused serious and major illnesses, infertility, sexual malfunction and serious medical and psychological implications among millions of people in the region (Meade & Sikkema, 2005; Glasier., Gülmezoglu, Schmid, Moreno & Van Look, 2006). The menace has made the region to account for about 60% of the estimated 40 million HIV infections globally (Chen, Jha, Stirling, Sgaier, Daid, Kaul, et al., 2007).

Previous studies on risky sexual behaviour in the countries have been focused largely on female adolescents and women. Consequently, much attention has been focused on women because of its impact on their reproductive health. This might result from the norms that the negative implications of risky sexual behavior are always born by women. Evidences revealed that men, apart from women were also the victims of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Chatterji, Murray, London & Anglewicz, 2005; Shoveller *et al*, 2006; Oldenburg *et al*, 2015). It is therefore imperative to look into reducing the menace of HIV and other Sexually transmitted disease among men who are supposed to be the bread winner of some families in African countries. However, little attention has been paid to men who also involves in sexual behaviour. Normal sexuality is not a single person affair, it involves both sexes.

Several indicators of risky sexual behaviour and its implication on sexual and reproductive health of women of reproductive ages in African countries are well documented. One important factor influencing the behaviour is migration. As young women move from rural areas to urban town and cities seeking for better opportunities, there is likelihood of increase in this type sexual behaviour especially, in African countries (Zulu, Konseiga, Darteh & Mberu, 2006; Adepoju, 2008; Anglewicz, 2012). Apart from the stated cause, another important factor of this risky sexual behaviour is the rise in poverty in some African countries (Bakilana, 2001; Yaro, 2008; World Bank, 2016) and which has led to failure of the parents or whoever supposes to be the provider to provide for their female children especially those that are of reproductive age. Poverty is therefore one of the underlying factors in this type of sexual behaviour among women. Among many negative implications is low level of education which may reduce earning power and this in turn may lead to high sexual behaviour or pursuit of multiple sexual partners.

Among men, socio-economic factors such as family size, income, nature of job, mobility nature, wealth status, religious affiliation and so on have been documented as factors affecting the sexual behaviour of men. In Nigeria, sexual behaviour among men is determined by so many factors which have greater influence on sexual activities in the country (McToslat, 2016). Religion may be influential on a man's decision to engage in sexual behaviour. The effect of religion on sexual partnerships may vary depending on the religion and the level of religious affiliation of the men and religiosity observed at individual community level, which varies significantly within regions and communities. The number of wives, sexual partners may also directly have an effect on sexual behaviour among men in Nigeria, a man that has four or more sexual partners, the person will engage in high sexual activity and the risk of having sexually transmitted diseases will equally likely to be high. Multiple sexual partners also determine the proportion of men that are sexually active in Nigeria and other African countries (Joseph, Monica & Mohammad, 2010; Muchiri, Odimegwu, Banda, Ntoimo & Adedini, 2017) and the frequency in which men engage in risky or non-risky sexual intercourse. Another important factor is the effect of occupational types, especially in the urban centres may also determine sexual behaviour because of men including the movement associated with such occupations. Men with higher occupational status such as politician, contractors and other businessmen are more likely to have more risky sexual partners than people with more skilled occupation that occupies most of their productive times.

Several efforts have been made to reduce the death rates caused by HIV/AIDS epidemics and other STDs influenced by risky sexual behaviour in African countries. The efforts yielded very few results. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV infections were dropped by 38% since 2001, the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Zambia was reduced by 19% by falling between 2003 and 2015 and reduced by 35% in Nigeria between 2005 and 2013 (UNAIDS, 2014). Several programmes and conferences were also held in different countries of sub-Saharan Africa which focused on conditions of reproductive health of both men and women especially, the problems still prevail. There were about 2.1 million people newly infected in 2013 and there are also millions of people who are not presently accessing life-saving treatment (UNAIDS 2014). Sub-Saharan Africa region having the highest prevalence rate of the behaviour in the world (UNAIDS 2013) and which has constituted a subject of concern in the

countries of the region but the studies on the subject have been focused largely on adolescents and women. In the same region, it is widely believed that men are biologically different from women in their need for sex. This is generated from the perception that men have sexual freedom than women in terms of number of sexual partners. Little is revealed, however, of the relationship between the determinants and men's risky (transaction) sexual behaviour in Africa by using multi-country studies.

### **Literature and Theoretical Background**

Sexuality is an integral part of human-being which is influenced by interaction of biological, psychological, social, cultural or religious factors. It is the outcome of socio-cultural practices and social learning experiences that individuals develop over time (Feldman & MacCulloch, 1980). Involving in risky sexual behaviours are sometimes, functions of personal decision and behaviour, access to information and service as well as community influences (Haour-Knipe, 2013). The behaviour among both married and unmarried men is a common practice in African countries. Out of about 2 billion young men and women in the world that live in developing countries (Imaledo, Peter-Kio & Asuquo, 2012), several studies across the region have shown that sexual activity among this group is high and increasing (Meekers, 1994; Blum, 2007; Kirsten *et al*, 2016).

As explained by Bantebya, Ochen, Perezniето & Walker in 2014, risky sexual behaviour is explained as transactional sexual relationships between an adolescent girl and a partner who is older by 10 or more years and which has many negative implications. The sexual behaviour is linked with sexual violence especially if the male partner is wealthier and too older than the young girl. This type of sexual behaviour has become a motivator for migration in places where younger women have intimate relationships with older men in urban areas for sexual exploitation (Groes-Green, 2014).

In the study of knowledge, attitudes, and sexual behaviour among unmarried migrant workers in China by Wang, Zhao, Zhou & Ji in 2013, it was discovered that indicators of risky sexual behaviour(including transaction sexual behaviour) among the migrants were younger age at first sexual intercourse, poor perception of acquiring HIV/AIDS, frequent exposure to

pornography, not knowing someone who had or had died of HIV/AIDS and related diseases and having peers who engaged in sex with a non-regular sex partner.

In a study in Zimbabwe, transactional sex which is considered as risky sexual behaviour among young women depend largely on the age at sexual debut, the number of partners, the age of the partner and the partner's risk behavior (Glynn et al, 2001). A study by Mavhandu-Mudzusi in 2016 enumerated age at first sex contributed immensely to risky sexual behaviour in Ethiopia. In the study done in Botswana and Zwaziland, poverty and food insufficiency were attributed to risky multiple sexual behaviour (Joseph *et al*, 2010) which could have been prevented if basic rights to basic needs have been provided.

### **Social Learning Theory**

Men and women sexual behaviour is the outcome of socio-cultural practices, social learning experiences and social interaction that individuals develop through time (Feldman and Mac Culloch, 1980). The behaviours are not determined by instincts, but by socially organized institutions and assumptions and it is believed that men and women attitudes towards sexual behaviour are determined by the sexual norms that regulate sexual behaviours before, during and after marriage and by the social conditions in which people live.

The theory states that people learn by observing the behaviour of others and by interacting with them. It explained that human beings learn by observing the outcome of other people's actions without necessarily experiencing them personally. For instance, individuals learn about their own sexuality by first imitating the behaviour of others and then acting accordingly.

It is possible to argue that men sexual behaviour in African countries are guided majorly by socio-cultural and institutional factors such as places of residence (rural or urban), ethnic communities in which the person is living, religious affiliation to which he belongs, educational attainment, occupational status, income level, access to media and the generation to which he belongs. In the case of urban men, their sexual behaviour may be condition by their place of residence especially these contemporary times.

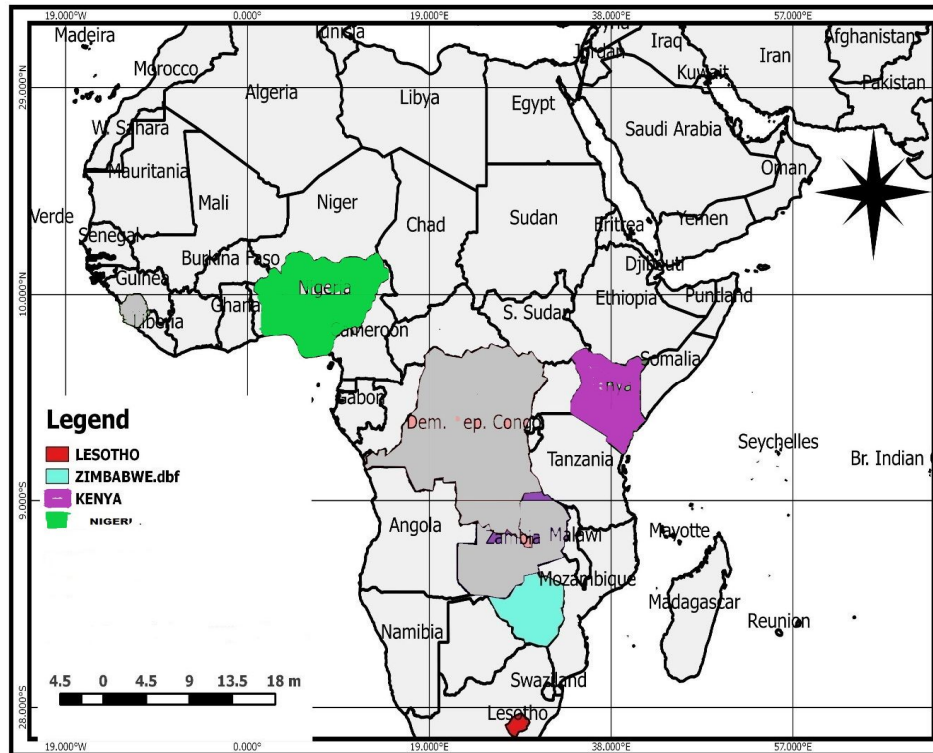
### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to ascertain the level of transactional sexual behavior among urban men that are sexually active in selected countries of Africa. More so, to examine the correlates of transactional sexual behavior, among men in the selected countries.

### **Data and Methods**

The study area is sub-Saharan Africa which is characterised by large population of people and has the most serious HIV and AIDS epidemic as well as having high prevalence of risky sexual behaviour (UNAIDS, 2013) when compared with other developed regions of the world. The study selected countries with the high sexual prevalence and relative recent DHS data across regions of sub-Saharan African countries. A cross-sectional survey research design among men in selected countries of the region was employed. This study focused on men living in urban residents from four selected countries. The underlying assumption on the use of urban men was based on the gathered facts that migration of young ladies and unmarried women to urban areas has contributed greatly to high risk sexual behaviour which transaction sex is one of them. Relatively recent Demographic and Health Surveys Data from the four selected countries were used, two from Southern Africa sub-region while a country each was selected each from West and East Africa. For Nigeria, the 2013 DHS dataset was used, for Kenya, the 2014 dataset was used, for Lesotho, the 2014 DHS dataset was used while 2014/2015 dataset was used for Zimbabwe. The weighted sample consists of 17,359 men from Nigeria, 2,931 men from Lesotho, 12,819 men from Kenya while 8,396 men were weighted sample from Zimbabwe. The study used both descriptive and inferential statistics to analyse the data obtained.

**Figure 1: Map of Africa showing the Study Areas**



## **Variables Measurement**

The outcome variable analysed in this study is transaction sex engagement defined as exchange of gifts, money or other materials for sex coded as “1” or not engaging in transaction sex, coded as “0”. The explanatory variables are number of concurrent sexual partners and use of condoms during sex which was guided by the existing literatures and theories.

## **Ethical consideration**

This study is based on secondary data from DHS across regions of sub-Saharan African countries (for Nigeria, 2013 DHS dataset was used, for Kenya, the 2014 dataset was used, for Lesotho, the 2014 DHS dataset was used while 2014/2015 dataset was used for Zimbabwe) which has already care of ethical issues at the collection and collation stages, Hence no risk of breaking any interviewee confidentiality. Therefore, this study relied on the ethical consideration of ICF macro for the data sets.



## Results and Discussion

### Descriptive Results

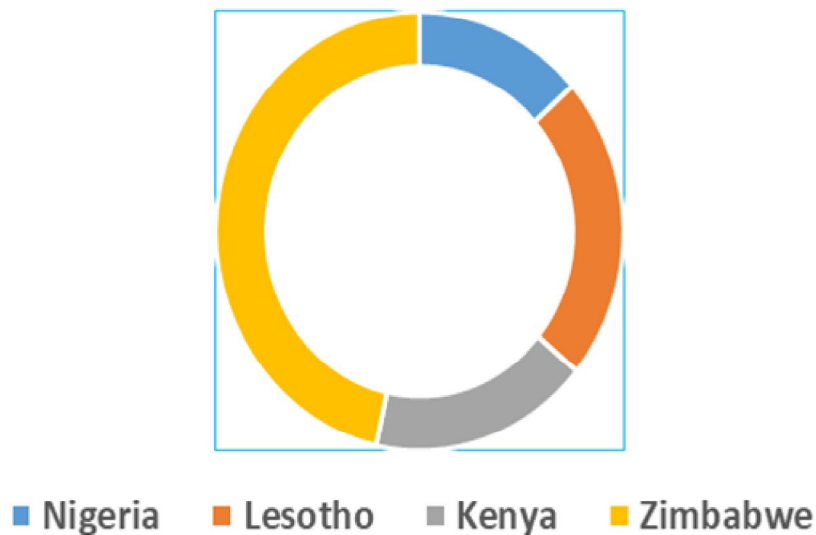
*Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Sexually Active Urban Men in Africa by Age Group*

Country	Urban men by age group			
	15-24	25-34	35+	Total
Nigeria	2,719 (38.1)	2,181 (30.5)	2,244(31.4)	7,144 (100.0)
Lesotho	348 (38.5)	261 (28.9)	294 (32.6)	903 (100.0)
Kenya	1,657 (33.7)	1,624 (33.0)	1,634 (33.3)	4,915 (100.0)
Zimbabwe	1,223 (35.4)	1,016 (29.4)	1,217 (35.2)	3,456 (100.0)

*Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Sexually Active urban men reporting Exchange of Sex for gifts and other materials by age group in Africa*

Country	Sexually Active Urban Men by Age group			
	15-24	25-34	35+	Total
Nigeria	65 (7.1)	173 (9.27)	171 (7.77)	409 (5.7)
Lesotho	18 (7.0)	54 (21.09)	38 (13.19)	110(12.2)
Kenya	68 (6.6)	181(11.5)	201 (12.4)	450 (9.2)
Zimbabwe	103 (16.2)	302(30.7)	395 (33.0)	800 (23.1)

***Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Sexually active urban men reporting exchange of sex for gifts and other materials in sub-Saharan Africa***



As shown in table I, sexually active men in the urban residences constitute approximately 41% of the original sample from Nigeria, 31% of the sample from Lesotho, 38% of the sample from Kenya and 41% of the original sample from Zimbabwe. Out of the selected urban men in the countries, approximately 6%, 12%, 9% and 23% were reported exchange of sex for money or other gift items in Nigeria, Lesotho, Kenya and Zimbabwe respectively. The proportion reporting engagement in transaction sex were highest in the 25-34 years age group in Nigeria and Lesotho while engagement in the behaviour were highest in the age category 35 and above in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

As shown in table 2 and figure 2 above, proportion of men (in percentages) reporting exchange of sex for money or other gifts in the last 12 months were calculated for the countries. Proportions of sexually active men by the explanatory variables were shown in table 3. Such variables as age group, religious affiliation, occupational status, educational status, age at first sex, wealth quintile, number of wives, number of living children etc.

Age was recoded into three age groups (15-24 years, 25-34 years and 35+). In all the selected countries, religious affiliation was categorised into Christianity, Islam, Traditionalist and

others. Occupational status was recoded into not working, professional and non-professional work. Living children ever had was recoded into no children, less than 5 children, between 5 and 9 children and 10 children or more. Number of wives was also recoded into one or less and 2 or more likewise concurrent sexual partners.

**Table 3: Bivariate Analysis of transaction sex and explanatory variables among sexually active men in the selected countries of Africa**

Variables	Nigeria	Lesotho	Kenya	Zimbabwe
<b>Age (in groups)</b>				
15-24 years	7.1	7.0	6.6	16.2
25-34 years	9.3	21.1	11.5	30.7
35+	7.8	13.2	12.4	32.6
	$\chi^2 = 4.90$	$\chi^2 = 21.6$	$\chi^2 = 24.2$	$\chi^2 = 59.82$
<b>Age at First Sex</b>				
< 15 years	20.0	15.1	13.7	40.5
15 years+	9.0	13.7	10.2	27.5
	$\chi^2 = 37.2$	$\chi^2 = 0.18$	$\chi^2 = 9.28$	$\chi^2 = 10.71$
<b>Educational Level</b>				
No Education	4.1	12.9	6.2	20.0
Primary	7.6	12.5	13.4	29.9
Secondary	10.0	11.9	8.7	29.8
Post- Secondary	6.5	20.3	8.9	23.7
	$\chi^2 = 23.8$	$\chi^2 = 6.86$	$\chi^2 = 26.1$	$\chi^2 = 10.15$
<b>No of Living Children</b>				
No Children	9.9	12.4	8.3	20.6
Less than 5	8.0	14.7	11.7	31.3
Between 5 and 9	4.7	20.0	12.4	34.5

<b>10 Children +</b>	3.6	0	7.5	33.3
	$\chi^2 = 21.49$	$\chi^2 = 2.19$	$\chi^2 = 13.1$	$\chi^2 = 40.11$
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>				
<b>Christianity</b>	10.1	13.4	11.0	33.9
<b>Islam</b>	4.4	11.7	7.9	25.8
<b>Traditionalists</b>	10.0	16.5	12.2	29.4
<b>Others</b>	50.0	15.0	na	25.2
	$\chi^2 = 62.35$	$\chi^2 = 1.70$	$\chi^2 = 6.30$	$\chi^2 = 11.54$
<b>No of Wives</b>				
<b>One and less</b>	8.5	13.5	10.6	28.2
<b>2 or More Wives</b>	4.1	27.3	10.7	30.4
	$\chi^2 = 7.57$	$\chi^2 = 1.73$	$\chi^2 = 0.004$	$\chi^2 = 0.11$
<b>Wealth Quintile</b>				
<b>Poor</b>	2.4	3.1	10.6	28.3
<b>Middle</b>	5.5	11.4	11.3	na
<b>Rich</b>	9.0	14.7	10.5	na
	$\chi^2 = 22.97$	$\chi^2 = 4.03$	$\chi^2 = 0.37$	
<b>Occupation</b>				
<b>Not Working</b>	6.0	-	4.9	17.8
<b>Professional work</b>	8.1	13.0	10.3	30.5
<b>Non-professional</b>	8.9	16.0	11.6	29.5
	$\chi^2 = 4.86$	$\chi^2 = 1.09$	$\chi^2 = 14.4$	$\chi^2 = 22.89$
<b>Concurrent Number of Sexual Partners</b>				
<b>One or less</b>	6.7	11.5	25.5	51.9
<b>Two or more</b>	27.6	22.8	19.9	43.0
	$\chi^2 = 191.60$	$\chi^2 = 25.75$	$\chi^2 = 2.65$	$\chi^2 = 2.32$
<b>Use of condom during sex with partners</b>				
<b>No</b>	6.2	11.5	9.0	27.3

<b>Yes</b>	12.3	13.8	12.6	27.3
	$\chi^2 = 45.64$	$\chi^2 = 0.72$	$\chi^2 = 0.80$	$\chi^2 = 0.0002$
<b>Knowledge of STI</b>				
<b>No</b>	-	100	-	100
	33.3	66.7		
<b>Yes</b>	8.2	86.3	13.7	89.4
	10.6	71.8	28.2	
	$\chi^2 = 1.88$	$\chi^2 = 0.48$	$\chi^2 = 0.24$	$\chi^2 = 2.18$

**Source: Authors compilation from DHS Data, 2019**

Table 3 presents the results of bivariate relationship between transaction sex engagement and Socio-Demographic characteristics as well as other likely determinants of transaction sex among sexually active men in the selected countries of Africa. The results revealed that transaction sex engagement varied significantly by some of the selected variables.

In Kenya and Zimbabwe, compared with their counterparts, transaction sex was higher among men of age category 35 and above. In Nigeria and Lesotho, it was higher among age category 25-34 years than other age categories. Transaction sex was higher among men that had their first sex before age 15 in all the selected countries. Engagement in transaction was higher among those that had secondary education in Nigeria, among those that had post - secondary education in Lesotho and among those that had primary education in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The engagement in transaction sex was higher among other religious affiliation in Nigeria, it was higher among traditionalist in Lesotho and Kenya and higher among Christians in Zimbabwe. The results further revealed that transaction sex was higher among those that have between 5 and 9 children in Lesotho, Kenya and Zimbabwe but was higher among those with no children in Nigeria. The men with two or more wives were more represented compared with their counterparts with one or no wife in Lesotho, Kenya and Zimbabwe while transaction sex was higher among those with one or no wife in Nigeria compared with their counterparts. The engagement in the act was higher among the Rich and the middle class in Nigeria, Lesotho and Kenya. Transaction sex was higher among non-professional workers in Nigeria, Lesotho and Kenya. Conversely, it was higher among professional workers in Zimbabwe. It was higher

among those with one or no concurrent sexual partners in Kenya and Zimbabwe while it was higher among those with two or more concurrent sexual partners in Nigeria and Lesotho.

The transaction sex was higher among those reported using condom during sex than their counterparts in all the selected countries.

**Table 4: Estimate of the Relative Odds of Exchange of Sex for Money or Gifts as a function of Various Individual-Level Socio-demographic - Characteristics among Sexually Active Men in Selected African Countries**

<b>Variables</b>	<b><u>Countries</u></b>			
	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
<b>Age</b>				
15-24 years (RC)	-	-	-	-
25-34 years	2.06	2.71***	2.84***(1.42 -5.65)	1.92***
35+years	4.79	1.10***	3.45*** (0.01-1.46)	3.17***
<b>Age at first Sex</b>				
Less than 15 years (RC)	-	-	-	-
15 years and above	0.82*** (0.38-1.76)	1.42	1.14** (0.67-1.97)	0.51**
<b>Wealth Quintile</b>				
Poor (RC)	-	-	-	-
Middle	1.53*** (0.31-7.66)	0.29	1.34	NA*
Rich	1.78*** (0.42-7.58)	0.30	1.57	NA*
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>				
Christianity (RC)	-	-	-	-
Islam	0.91*** (0.54-1.53)	2.07	1.71	1.03***
Traditionalists	1.56*** (0.14-17.04)	0.21	1.16	0.97***
Others	.64*** (0.85-37.20)	1.00	1.00	0.54***
<b>No of living Children</b>				
No Children (RC)	-	-	-	-
Less than 5 Children	1.17*** (0.59-2.31)	0.81	1.53** (0.78-2.35)	2.39***
Between 5 and 9 children	1.10	1.93	1.54** (0.78-2.99)	0.65***
10 Children and above	0.41** (0.03-6.36)	1.00	0.72** (0.511-4.63)	NA
<b>Number of Wives</b>				
One and less (RC)	-	-	-	-
2 or More Wives	0.15*** (0.04-0.54)	1.00	0.26	0.45

**Education level**

No Education(RC)	-	-	-	-
Primary Education	0.46*** (0.12-1.68)	0.50	0.33*** (0.07-1.64)	0.52***
Secondary Education	0.39*** (0.12-1.30)	0.33	0.17*** (0.03-0.87)	0.65***
Post- Secondary	0.26*** (0.07-0.94)	0.92	0.16*** (0.02-0.89)	0.27***

**Occupation**

Not Working (RC)	-	-	-	-
Professional work	1.71	Na	0.64*** (0.23-1.76)	1.75***
Non-professional	1.71	1.32	0.69*** (0.26-1.83)	1.93***

**Concurrent Sexual Partners**

One or less (RC)	-	-	-	-
Two or more	2.04*** (1.01-4.13)	1.40***	1.35	1.59***

**Use of Condom during Sex**

No (RC)	-	-	-	-
Yes	1.94*** (0.53-1.65)	1.59	0.94** (0.53-1.65)	0.95

**Knowledge of STDs**

No (RC)	-	-	-	-
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

**Source: DHS Data compiled by the Author**

**\*\*\* Significant at  $p < .05$  and  $p < .01$**

**\*\* Significant at  $p < .05$**

**\*Data were not available here**

**Multivariate Analysis**

The result of the logistic regression model for the sexually active men were presented in table 4. The odds for engaging in transactional sex relative to not engaging in transaction sex. Estimations were made after the tests of relationship between the explanatory variables and transaction sex were established.

In all the four countries included in the analysis, the estimated odds of men engaging in transaction sex relative to those that do not engage in transaction sex showed that those that belong to age category 25-34 years were two times more likely to engage in transaction sex than those in age category 15-24 in Nigeria and Zimbabwe (OR=2.06,  $P>0.05$  and OR=1.92,  $p$

< 0.05); about three times more likely to engage in transaction sex than those in age category 15-24 years in Lesotho and Kenya (OR=2.71,  $p<0.05$  and OR=2.84,  $p<0.05$ ).

The men that belong to age category 35+ years were about five times, four times and three times more likely to engage in transaction sex than those in age category 15-24 in Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe respectively (OR=4.79,  $P>0.05$ , 3.45,  $P<0.05$  and 3.17,  $p < 0.05$ ). In Lesotho, the men that belongs to age category 35+ were 10 percent more likely to engage in transaction sex than those in age category 15-24 (OR=1.10,  $p<0.05$ ).

Those that reported their age at first sex to be greater than 15 years are less likely to engage in transaction sex than those men who had their age at first sex less than 15 years in Nigeria and Zimbabwe while those with their ages at first sex to be greater than 15 years were more likely to engage in transaction sex than those men who had their age at first sex less than 15 years in Kenya and Lesotho.

Men in rich and Middle wealth quintile category were more likely to engage in transaction sex in Nigeria and Kenya while those stated categories of men were less likely to engage in the behaviour in Lesotho.

The relationship between religious affiliation and sexual exchange is not consistent across the selected countries. Except Nigeria, those men whose religious affiliation are Islam in other selected countries were more likely to engage themselves in transaction sex than their counterparts who were Christians. In Nigeria, the men that were from other religious affiliation were about six times (OR= 5.64) more likely to engage in transaction sex than Christians.

The analysis of the respondents based on the number of living children showed that the men that have less than five children were more likely to engage in transaction sex than those that have no children in all the selected countries except Lesotho. Those with more than ten children were 59 percent and 28 percent less likely to engage in transaction sex than those with no children in Kenya and Nigeria respectively (OR=0.41,  $p<0.05$ ; OR = 0.28,  $p<0.05$ ). In the



same vein, those men that has two or more wives were less likely to engage in transaction sex than those men with one or no wife in Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe

In all the selected countries, the men that has little or higher education were less likely to engage in transaction sex than those with no education.

Looking into the men who reported having concurrent partners, those that have two or more concurrent sexual partners were more likely to engage in transaction sex than those with one or less concurrent sexual partners. In Nigeria, those that have two or more concurrent sexual partners about four times more likely to engage in transaction sex than those with one or less concurrent sexual partners(OR=3.74).

In Nigeria and Lesotho, the men that reported using condom during sex were more likely to engage in transaction sex than those men who reported not using condom during sex. Meanwhile, in Kenya and Lesotho, the men that reported using condom during sex were less likely to engage in transaction sex than those men who reported not using condom during sex.

### **Study Limitations**

There were limitations to the available data on transaction sex as it was measured in the selected countries. DHS information on the type of gifts received for sex was not captured. Also, the specific amount paid or received for sex exchange was not stated.

### **Conclusion**

Transaction sex constitutes a social problem and which has called for number of interventions design. Interventions mainly focused on transactional sex among women in general. From the study, there are high level of transaction sex among urban men in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. After adjusting for background variables, Condom use during sex and age at first sex were determinants of sexual behaviour in Nigeria and Zimbabwe while condom use during sex was responsible in Kenya. Without adjusting for background variables, age was an important contributing factor in Lesotho, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Age at first sex, number of living children and education were determinants of the behaviour in Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Wealth quintile was significant factors associated with the sexual behaviour in only Nigeria

and religion was significant in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Occupation was significant factor in Kenya and Zimbabwe. Concurrent number of sexual partners was significant in Nigeria, Lesotho and Zimbabwe while use of condom during sex was significant in Nigeria and Kenya. Therefore, sensitisation programs which focused on both married and unmarried men should be geared towards preventing transactional sexual relationship in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Authors' Contribution**

S.B.S conceived and designed the study, M.O.I contributed to the work by adding medical knowledge to the background of the study, U.G.M. contributed to the arrangement of the data analysis and results, B.A worked on the literature review of the work.

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### **Compliance with Ethical Standards**

This work complied with ethical standards. The study relied on the ethical consideration of ICF macro for the data sets.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest whatsoever and none of the authors has conflict of interest

### **Ethical Approval**

The study used human not animal(s). There was ethical approval. All procedures performed in this study involves human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and / or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards

### **Informed Consent**

Informed consent was obtained from individual participants included in the study. This study posed no ethical threat to the considered sample population as informed consent was taken as at the time of survey and the privacy of the respondents was put into consideration.

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