

TELEPHONE SCATOLOGIA AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC: IMPLICATION FOR COUNSELLING

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Abstract

Many humans are chiefly reproductive beings who cherish all sorts of intimacy to a sexual partner, for reasons best known to individuals engaging in sexual relationship. Unfortunately, many people deviate in a bid to satisfy their libido. Both male and female have different preferences as regards sexual gratification. This study examined deviant sexual practice obtained through the usage of obscene language on the phone to compel the non-consenting partner in to discussion. While the scatologist making the obscene call gets sexual gratification during the process. Many use telephone scatologia as an alternative to having physical contact or coital relationship with their sexual partner. To avoid contracting COVID-19 disease. In Nigeria, telephone scatologia is frowned at, as a punishable sexual offence. This study further examined the benefits of a healthy sex life among others. Focus Group Discussion was used to elicit responses from the participants. It was concluded that many males engage in telephone scatologia to get sexual pleasure more than their female counterpart. Based on this, it was recommended that: professional counsellors should embark more on mood-testing programmes in collaboration with medical experts. This will allow the reduction of telephone scatologia to a barest minimum.

Introduction

Human beings tend to be sexually active organisms, who mostly want gratification through different means. It appears to be in form of search-and-error procedure. After trying so many methods that can give utmost sexual pleasure, the best one(s) might be internalized by individual(s) without considering may be the society approves of it or not. The main goal is to be sexually satisfied, even at the expense other partner's consent, approval or pleasure. Infact, many sexual activities are termed "deviations" which are frowned at by the society and punishable under the law governing each nation. Telephone scatologia is one of the prevalent sexual deviations across the globe, without exception to Nigeria as a nation. According to Newring (2014) there is a clear-cut difference between common prank phone calls and telephone scatologia. Telephone scatologia involves sexual arousal that exposes the unsuspecting victim to sexually explicit articles. Telephone scatalogist uses threats to force his/her victim into the discussion by listening and participating in the cordial conversation. The telephone scatalogist along the line gets sexual gratification through masturbation or any other means.

Telephone scatologia has been described as telephone scatophilia and telephonicophilia. This paraphilic disorder involves placing an obscene phone calls to a non-consenting person in an attempt to derive sexual pleasure (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Those who engage in this type sexual disorder are referred to as telephone scatalogists. Sidiqi, Qureshi and Zahrani (2017) reported that a telephone scatalogist make explicit obscene calls to a stranger or a non-consenting person to get sexual arousal. Telephone scatologia involves the usage of foul language which could be threatening to the listener or receiver. Chiefly, telephone scatologia is devoid of visual encounter but in the form of audio scatologia (akophilia) Arora, Gupta and Mahejan (2009). This sexual disorder may also be in form of acoustic voyeurism, verbal sexual abuse and verbal exhibitionism which many cultures in the world frown at its engagement by any homo sapien.

Adolescents especially males tend to be the major participants of telephone scatologia. Male adolescents with this sexual deviation, place calls through to avoiding ladies to woo and threaten them on the phone. Segen Medical Dictionary (2012) explained that telephone scatologia which could also be referred to as telephonicophilia is based on sexuorotism by calling an uninvited listener to get sexual pleasure. It was further recorded that telephone scatalogists are not dangerous or harmful for any reason, but are nuisance. Scatologia could also be known as coprolalia. Coprolalia is an aberrated sexual practice that involves the use of obscene language which in its totality is compulsive to derive sexual gratification. The pleasure of frightening the call recipients may sexually arouse the scatalogist who in turn masturbates during the call place across to the stranger. This sexual deviant behaviour is associated with neurological disorder called Tourette's syndrome (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1998).

According to Alexandra and Pamela (2015) telephone scatologists or offenders have some characteristics that single them out for quick recognition. Telephone scatologists or offenders are mostly not homosexual males with no history of cognitive deficits or disorders. But they have a history of failed relationships, limited social interactions and elevated or average sex drive among others (Milner, Dopke and Crouch, 2008; Newring, 2014). Scatologists are chiefly male of low esteem and great hostility to women. It was further stated that intoxication, intellectual disability and psychosis can push offenders into scatologia (Milner, Dopke and Crouch 2008).

This type of sexual deviation is a sexual offence to another individual at a distance. Alexandra and Pamela (2015) stated that telephone scatologia is a non-contact offence, but has grievous impacts on the lives of the victims in general. Larsen, Leth and Maher (2000) conducted a research on 56 children who were victims of telephone scatologia. The study revealed more girls were the victims, some children fainted after receiving obscene calls, developed stress, experienced shock, isolation, worry, feeling of fearfulness, crying, embarrassment among others.

Telephone scatologia could be known as telephone scatophilia which involves phone calls which are accompanied by sexually stimulating urges or fantasies to non-consenting individuals. This sexual deviation is naturally ignored because scatologists are non-harmful (Merih, Oguz, Oguz and Leman, 2016). Telephone may be medium that eases conversations and dissemination of information. This tends to reduce unnecessary travelling which reduces so many hazards especially through road transportation. Telephone communication seems to be easier and cheaper than ancient means of communication across the world. Unfortunately, telephone has been used to derive sexual gratification, though each culture moderates its usage especially in attaining sexual gratification.

Telephone scatologia appears not to be a confusing term, because it has major differences with common phone calls or pranks. Pakhomou (2006); Newring(2014) affirmed that common phone practical jokes are done not for sexual gratification and they are casual in exhibition. But telephone scatologia derives sexual pleasure by luring non-consenting call recipient to sexually explicit discussion. Telephone scatologist compels the phone recipient to listen or participate in the sexual discussion using threats or filthy language to intimidate the listener. Newring (2014) posited that telephone scatologist masturbate during the phone conversation which is not an attribute of common phone prank.

Telephone scatologia tends to be a sexual paraphilia that is so much concealed that could be hardly noticed by anyone unless reported. Many victims close off the incidence as a result of threats accompanying the obscene calls received from scatologists. At times those that report to law enforcement agents might be stigmatized or not able to provide evidences needed to prosecute scatologists, especially when fear and inability to make good use of sophisticated phones to record every bit of the obscene call. This has made the preponderance of telephone scatologia as a sexual deviation burdensome for researchers, despite its predominance. Since it is a contactless sexual deviation as observed during corona virus pandemic, it was resulted to as an alternative to coital relationship

which does not demand male and female counterpart physically coming together to have sexual gratification. Smith and Morra (1994) reported that telephone scatologia is too difficult to report its prevalence in every society. It was revealed that 83% of women were victims of telephone scatologia, while only 14% reported to the police and 20% reported to phone companies. This appears to make hunky-dory data on this sexual deviation deficient. This may not speak well of the sexual paraphilia in research parlance.

Corona virus outbreak pandemic has further encouraged telephone scatologia's prevalence by placing obscene calls across to a non-consenting victim in a bid to avoid contracting the deadly virus and get sexual gratification. It appears non-expensive to carry out and could accurately aid non-contracting sexually transmitted infections. Giredea and Cristian (2019) affirmed that telephone scatologia is a non-tactile relationship that may only need electronic means of communication to derive sexual gratification from a non-consenting victim. While Constrachevici and Delcea (2019) found that environmental and cognitive factors were the major contributing factors to engaging in telephone scatologia.

Telephone scatologia seems to be an aberration towards humanity in almost all societies. As observed by the researcher, COVID-19 pandemic has aided and initiated more individuals especially males into telephone scatologia. It appears that once this sexual paraphilia is internalized, scatologist becomes obsessed and gets only sexual gratification through telephone scatologia. This may portend serious dangers for the society which include but not poor coital relationship, prevalence of masturbation, mental issue among others. Abel, Becker, Cunningham-Rathner, Mittleman and Rouleau (1998), Braford, Bailet and Pawlak (1992) ; Price Kafka, Commons, Gutheil & Simpson (2002) posited that telephone scatologia is mostly connected with other disorders or deviations which different cultures describe with a grimace of exasperation .

It appears that despites the prevalence of this hidden sexual deviation, it could be termed as a crime in almost all societies. There seems to be no alternative to having a healthy sexual life. Jones and Rowney (2018) affirmed that there were convincing reasons while sexual intercourse in healthy sexual life is the best. They are listed below:

- Makes male and female look younger
- Boost fertility
- Fights colds and flu
- Disease-proof the body
- Improves longevity
- Helps body fitness
- Eases nasty period cramps
- Lowers risk of incontinence

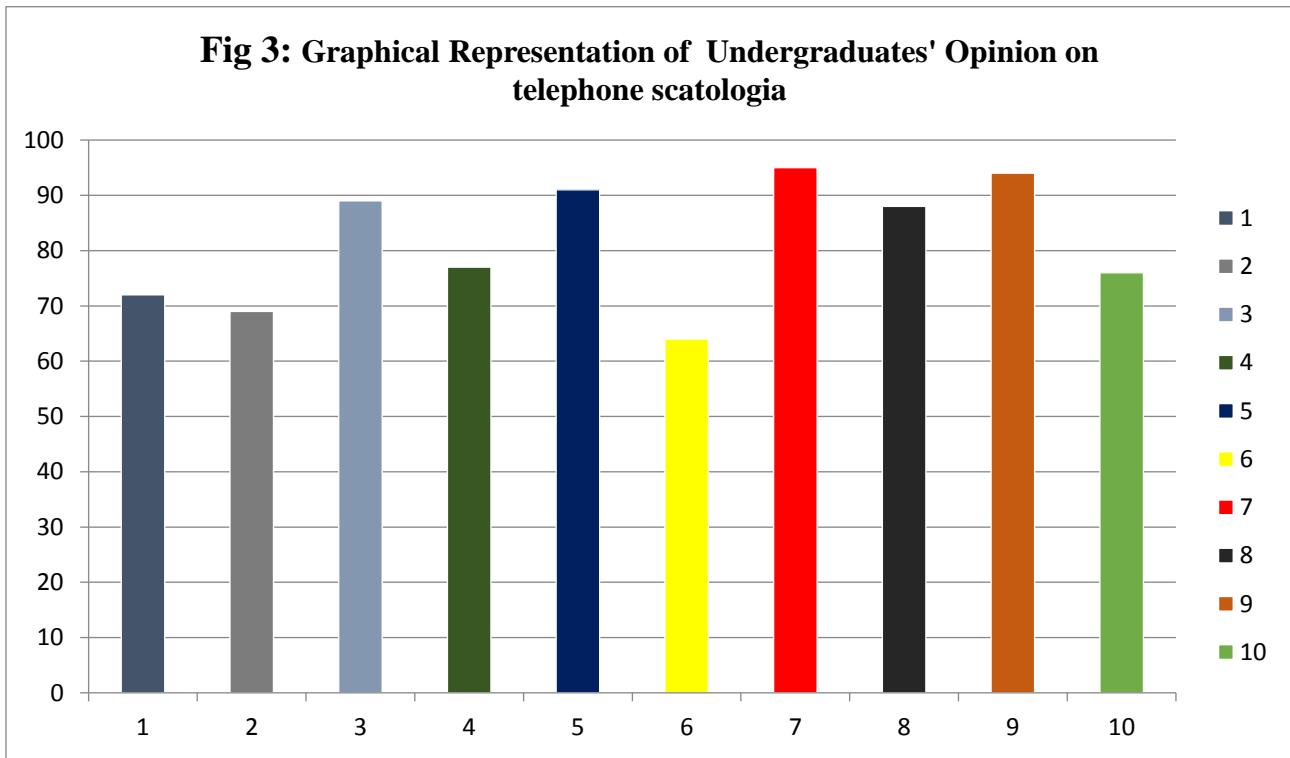
- Prevents a heart attack
- Increases attractiveness to others
- Smooths out wrinkles
- Gives an all-over healthy glow
- Improves self-esteem
- Lowers blood pressure
- Suppresses depression
- Slash stress
- Cures headache by surging love hormone oxytocin and other feel-good-endorphins, which can ease pain
- Kick insomnia into touch
- Strengthen bones
- Reduces prostate cancer
- Makes individual feel better all day

According to Akanle, Ola and Johnson (2012) telephone scatologia is a kind of sexual crime in Nigeria and other societies. 46% were found to experience sexual crimes in southwest Nigeria. The prevalence of sexual crimes without exemption to telephone scatologia is high among Yoruba ethnic group in Nigeria. There is doubt that telephone scatologia is a sexual deviation many societies frown at, in its entirety. It is a sexual syncope that is not mutually beneficial, but may be life threatening. As observed by the researcher, its everywhere poses a lot of danger on the common existence of human beings globally. Both scatologist and victim appear to suffer in silence as the sexual deviation plays out. The round-the-clock silence about telephone scatologia portends pitfalls that puts burden on individuals and the society at large. Procreation might also be adversely affected, if telephone scatologia increases in leaps and bounds. Several societies might be ambushed by emotional disturbance, depression and mental worries, if proper-attention is not given to telephone scatologia, this could be further engaged in, during Covid-19 to prevent physical contact in a bid to avoid contracting corona virus. Therefore, this study examines telephone scatologia an Covid-19 pandemic.

Methodology

Focus group discussion was used to elicit information from selected 100 participants. The participants were randomly selected based cross the two universities. Calculated cut-off means score of 1.50 was used for the rating scale. Items with the mean score of 1.50 above were considered high, while items from 1.50 below were considered low.

Fig 3: Graphical Representation of Undergraduates' Opinion on telephone scatologia













KEY	I often:
	engage in telephone scatologia
	report incidences of telephone scatologia
	engage in telephone scatologia to prevent sexually transmitted infections and COVID-19
	feel sexually gratified engaging in telephone scatologia more than coital relationship or penile penetration
	masturbate along when making obscene calls
	think about the act at the expense of my academics
	get worried about marital responsibilities
	get stigmatised after reporting being a victim of telephone scatologia
	know it is a sexual deviation
	read a lot about telephone scatologia

Table 9: Opinion of Undergraduates on telephone scatologia

S/N	ITEMS	YES		NO		MEAN
		f	%	f	%	
	I often:					
1	engage in telephone scatologia	72	72.0	28	28.0	1.72
2	feel too weak to do physical activities needed for their academics after engaging in telephone scatologia	69	69.0	31	31.0	1.69
3	engage in telephone scatologia to prevent sexually transmitted infections and COVID-19	89	89.0	11	11.0	1.89
4	feel sexually gratified engaging in telephone scatologia more than coital relationship or penile penetration	77	77.0	23	23.0	1.77
5	masturbate along when making obscene calls	91	91.0	9	9.0	1.91
6	think about the act at the expense of my academics	64	64.0	36	36.0	1.64
7	get worried about marital responsibilities	95	95.0	5	5.0	1.95
8	get stigmatised after reporting being a victim of telephone scatologia	88.0	88.0	12	12.0	1.88
9	know it is a sexual deviation	94	94.0	6	6.0	1.94
10	devote more time to thinking about it than my academics	76	76.0	24	24.0	1.76

Table 9 presents telephone scatologia among undergraduates in South-west, Nigeria. The result reveals that 72% of the respondents often engage in telephone scatologia, 69% feel too weak to do physical activities needed for their academics after engaging in telephone scatologia, 89% engage in telephone scatologia to prevent sexually transmitted infections and COVID-19, while 77% of the respondents feel sexually gratified engaging in telephone scatologia more than coital relationship or penile penetration. 91% masturbate along when making obscene calls, while 64% think about the act at the expense of their academics. 95% get worried about marital responsibilities.

88% get stigmatised after reporting being a victim of telephone scatologia, 94% undergraduates know it is a sexual deviation and 76% devotes more time to thinking about it than their academic issues. Using a cut-off mean score of 1.50 for the rating scale, all the items had mean scores above the cut-off point. This implies that undergraduates are aware, engage in telephone scatologia and their involvement influences their capacity and ability to study as expected.

Discussion

The study investigated telephone scatologia and Covid-19 Pandemic. The study found out that 72% of the undergraduates in Southwest, Nigeria engage in telephone scatologia ordinarily to get sexual pleasure, while 89% of undergraduates intentionally engage in telephone scatologia to prevent contracting sexually transmitted infections and corona virus. This supports Giredea and Christian (2019) who considered telephone scatologia as prevalent. It was further stated that electronic means of communication was the only determinant ingredient needed to engage in this sexual deviation. This study found out that 91% undergraduates engage in masturbation when involved in telephone scatologia. This is in line with the findings of Newring (2014) that telephone scatologists masturbate along when engaging in telephone scatologia just derive gratification. This study also revealed that 88% of undergraduates are stigmatised after reporting the offence. This is in line with the submission of Smith and Mora (1994) that out of 83% victims of undergraduates, only 14% reported to law enforcement agents, while only 20% reported to network provider. This study found out that many undergraduates engage in telephone scatologia at the expense of their academics and undergraduates are fully aware, that, it is a sexual deviation. This is in accordance with the findings of Akanle, Ola and Johnson (2012) who found that telephone scatologia is a crime that is prevalent in southwest Nigeria and many undergraduates are aware of it.

Conclusion

Telephone scatologia despite being a sex disorder and deviation, is still prevalent among undergraduates in Nigeria. It is worthwhile to say that during Covid-19 pandemic, it is more prevalent, in a bid to avoid contracting the deadly virus. No doubt that, the constant engagement of undergraduates in telephone scatologia negatively affect their total concentration on the academics. Undergraduates in Nigeria are aware of the sexual deviation, but victims find it difficult to report it, to avoid stigmatization.

Recommendations/Implications for Counselling

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- Professional counsellors should embark more on mood-testing programmes in collaboration with medical experts to reduce telephone scatologia to the barest minimum

- More orientation should be given to undergraduates, especially in assertiveness training to report any case of telephone scatologia.
- Stiffer penalty should be meted out to anyone stigmatizing victims to telephone scatologia.
- Clinical aspects of counselling should be reactivated across Nigeria tertiary institution.
- Counselling practices may be having difficult time dealing with mental, marital and emotional issues, if adequate steps are not taken promptly to reduce its prevalence in Nigeria.

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