

Determinants of Acceptance and Non -Acceptance of Tattoo and Body Piercing among Youths: Universities in Ogun State: A Case of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

¹Mojeed, A.M. and ²Oose, M. O.

¹Department of Home and Rural Economics, Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State, Nigeria;

²Department of Agricultural Administration, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Abstract

This study focused on tattoo and body piercing among youths in tertiary institutions in Ogun State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined youths' awareness of body parts for the placement of tattoos and body piercing, factors influence youth's acceptance of tattoos and body piercing and factors that influence youths' non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing. The area of the study was Ogun State. Population was made up of undergraduates of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Data were obtained through questionnaire. Frequency counts and percentages were used for data analysis. Findings include 13 body parts were tattoo and body piercing are placed. These include hand (91.8%), leg (88.2%), nose (93.6%) navel (76.4%), among others. Other major findings include a major factor (Maf) that influencing youths' acceptance of tattoos and body piercing, namely, "Interest" with percentage score of (58.2%). Further, there are eight (8) major factors that influences youths' non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing. These include; risk of disease (82.7%), risk of infection (66.4%), not interested (79.1%), it is difficult to remove (70.9%), and others. Based on the findings it is recommended that sensitization and educative awareness should be made available in various tertiary institutions on health and disease related risks associated with tattoos and body piercing.

Keywords: Body, Piercing, Tattoo, Youths, Acceptance, Non -Acceptance, Determinants.

Introduction

Tattoo is a form of body modification made by inserting indelible ink into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment (Schorzman, Gold,

Downs, and Murray, 2017). Body piercing, on its part, has been defined as the penetration of jewelry into openings made in body areas such as eyebrows, lips, tongues, nose, nipples

or genitals. In addition, piercings are often used in initiation rites with the purpose of assigning their bearer to a certain social or age group or the other hand, tattoos are utilized to signal religious affiliations, strength or social status (Gilbert, Schildkrout, 2014). Utoh-Ezeajugh (2015) also noted that body adornment is a significant cultural activity among many ethnic groups in Africa. These body modifications which may be temporary or permanent are often used for social, ritual and aesthetic purposes.

The modification of the body (that is, tattooing and body piercing) is becoming increasingly common globally and particularly in Nigeria. About 10 to 13 percent of youths and 3 to 8 percent of the general population have tattoos (Armstrong, Murphy, 2016). Body piercing at locations other than the ear lobes has also been increasing in frequency and acceptance. Currently, tattoos are done by a rapid injection from an electrical device into the dermal layer to make permanent markings. In contrast, body piercing among women involved a jewelry object inserted in the skin on any part of the body except the earlobes and anywhere among men. Pierces are done by making an opening in the skin inserting a metal bar or a ring and sometimes using a piercing gun Armstrong *et al* (2016).

Studies show that during the past decade, undergraduates in developed countries found between 30 and 60 percent of students reporting having body piercings at one point in their

lifetime. Tattooing among young adults in Colleges and Universities is reported to be less prevalent than body piercing. Nevertheless, very high proportions of young adults having tattoos have been reported elsewhere (Farrow, Schwartz, Vanderleeuw, 2015). It is still popular in many parts of the world and in different cultures, serving as a rite of passage, a mark of status or rank, a symbol of religious and spiritual devotion, a decoration for bravery, a sexual lure, a mark of fertility, a pledge of love, a punishment, a protection and as a mark of outcasts, (slaves and convicts). According to Raspa and Cusack (2018) people choose to be tattooed for cosmetic, sentimental/memorial/religious reasons, to symbolize their belonging to particular groups, including criminal gangs, ethnic groups or specific subcultures. (Armstrong, Murphy Sallee, 2016). Young adults obtained body modifications to embellish the body, achieve a fashion accessory and obtaining a piece of art (Dhossche, 2017). Other motivational investigations indicated that the cause of body modification is to demonstrate their self-identity or individuality and distinctive from others. It was also noted that men were much more likely to approach the women when they were wearing the tattoo, and took on average much less time to approach the sunbathing women in the first place. Other empirical studies found associations between some family characteristics and the prevalence of body modifications. In particular,

adolescents from single-parent households were more likely to be tattooed or pierced than adolescents living with both parents. In addition, youths whose parents had received little education were found more likely to have undergone body modifications (Armstrong *et al* 2016). The hazard effects of tattoo and body piercing causes skin problems such as granulomas (red bumps caused by inflammation) and keloid scars. It can also provoke allergic reactions like skin itches and break out (Wohlrab, Stahl, and Kappeler, 2017). Also, viral infectious diseases, such as hepatitis A, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDs can also be contracted via discharged body fluids and needles used during modification exercise.

In an attempt for young adolescent to solve the problem of social acceptance, body modifications are potentially solution to their identification (Starkie, 2015). This has significantly aided forensic anthropological cases in recent years (Thompson and Puxley 2017). Starkie (2015) articulates that the increasing use of body modifications encourages those undertaking the practices for their "extreme" nature to seek new methods of modifying their bodies. Today, tattoo and piercing are now becoming common, particularly among young individuals who use them as means of self-expression (Balci, Sari, and Mutlu, 2015) and according to Wessely (2013), the motivation for tattooing can be emotional, practical, complex or very simple. In Nigeria the rate of

acceptance of tattoo and body piercing among tertiary institutions students is now remarkable and worth investigating, hence this study.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study was to examine the determinants of young adults' acceptance and non-acceptance of tattoo and body piercing among youths in tertiary institutions in southwestern part of Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined

1. youths' awareness of body parts for the placement of tattoos and body piercing,
2. factors that influence youth's acceptance of tattoos and body piercing
3. factors that influence youths' non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing.

Research Questions

1. Are youth's aware of the parts of the body where tattoo and body piercing are placed?
2. What are the factors that influence young adult's acceptance of tattoos and body piercing?
3. What are the factors influencing young adult's non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing

Methodology

Design of the study: The design adopted for this study was descriptive survey. This was used to obtain information on awareness of placement of tattoo and body piercing, influence of youth's acceptance and non- acceptance of tattoo and body piercing.

Area of study: The area of the study was Ogun state in Southwestern part of Nigeria. There are three government owned and 13 private universities in stated.

Population of study: The population was made up of undergraduate students of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State (FUNAAB). The University runs 10 Colleges. There are 49 Departments.

Sample for the study: One College was purposively selected for the study. Two Departments were also purposively selected from the College. A total of 150 students were randomly selected from the Departments to form the sample for the study.

Instrument for Data Collection: Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. It was developed based on literature review and the specific objectives of the study. It was made up

of three sections. The first section focused on specific objective No 1 while the second and third focused on specific objectives 2 and 3 respectively. The first section was based on "Yes" and "No" responses. While the second and third had 3- point scales of "Major factor", "Mild factors" and "Not at all". The Instrument was validated by three Health Education experts.

Data Collection Methods: A total of 150 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents by hand. Only 110 copies were properly completed and retrieved. This gave 73.3 percent return.

Data Analysis Techniques: Data were analyzed using frequencies and percentage. Fifty percent (50%) scores were used for decision making regarding the factors in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

Table 1: Percentage Responses on Parts of the Body where Tattoos and Body Piercing are Placed

S/N	Body Parts	Frequency (F%)	Rank
Tattoo			
1	Back	77(70.0)	4 th
2	Hand	101(91.8)	1 st
3	Chest	81(73.6)	3 rd
4	Leg	97(88.2)	2 nd
Body pierced			
6	Eyebrow	54(49.1)	8 th
7	Nose	103(93.6)	1 st
8	Lip	76(69.1)	4 th
9	Tongue	77(70.0)	3 rd
10	Navel	84(76.4)	2 nd
11	Genital	55(50.0)	7 th
12	Cheek	74(67.3)	5 th
13	Breast	72(65.0)	6 th

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 3: Percentage Responses on Factors Influencing Youth's Non-Acceptance of Tattoos/Body Piercing (N=110)

S/N	Factors Influencing Non-Acceptance	Maf F (%)	Mif F (%)	NaA F(%)
1	Risk of disease	91(82.7)	10(9.1)	9(8.2)
2	Risk of infection	73(66.4)	32(29.1)	5(4.5)
3	Scarring	68(61.8)	32(29.1)	10(9.1)
4	Don't like the message it sends	71(64.5)	32(29.1)	7(6.4)
5	Allergic reaction to metals	47(42.7)	37(33.6)	26(23.6)
6	Spiritual beliefs	70(63.6)	29(26.4)	11(10.0)
7	It difficult to remove	78(70.9)	24(21.8)	8(7.3)
8	Unattractive	41(37.3)	40(36.4)	29(26.4)
9	Not interested	87(79.1)	16(14.5)	7(6.4)
10	Fear	51(46.4)	35(31.8)	24(21.8)
11	Pain	72(65.5)	23(20.9)	15(13.6)

Source: Field survey, 2020 Maf = Major factors; Mif = Mild factors; NaA = Not at all factors.

Table 3 shows the factors that influence respondents' non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing. The findings reveal that eight out of the 11 factors have Maf scores of 50 percent and above. These include, Risk of disease {91(82.7%)}; Risk of infection {73 (66.4%)}. It difficult to remove {78 (70.9%)}; and Not interested {51(46.4)}. The Table also shows that non of the items (factors) obtained any score that is 50 percent and above for Mif and NaA. This means that majority of the factors (72.7%) are major factors (Maf).

Discussion

It was discovered that there is high risk of disease/infection, non- interest and difficulty in the removal of the tattoos and body piercing were the main factors for the respondents' choice to decline the acceptance of body modification (that is, tattoos and piercing) which support the findings

of Wohlrab *et al* (2017) and Sperry (2012) that infections, viral and skin-related disease/rashes such as red bumps, keloids scars, hepatitis A/B even HIV/AIDS were reasons for non-acceptance of tattoos and body piercing. Also, increase in their sexual pleasure, emulation of a famous individuals and rebellion on the part of the students were the most part of the factors by the respondents as they were ranked first, second, third and fourth respectively. This indicates that most of the factors revolve round individual interest and enhancement/increase in sexual pleasure. This finding supports those of Thompson and Puxley (2017). They found that the use of body modifications encourages those undertaking the practices for their "extreme" nature that is the "own self"

A tattoo or body piercing, when viewed by someone, is always subject

to a perceptual process: “some sort of interpretation based on the past experiences or knowledge of that individual”. Tattooed professionals obviously have a lot of experience with body art in general, so theirs’ is an almost involuntary reaction to such stimuli Utoh-Ezeajugh (2015). This study’s results supported Cusack (2018) premise that females are increasingly being tattooed as reported by Armstrong (1991). In addition, the results of the study are consistent with those of (Dhossche, 2017).

Conclusion

The use of body piercing and tattooing were low among the youths in the select institution. Majority of respondents considered body piercing and tattooing to be less common and not socially acceptable by the public. The determinants for acceptance of body piercing and tattoo are interest of the youths, for personal interest and other reason. On the hand risks of infection, viral diseases contamination, fear and pain are factors associated with non- acceptance of tattoo and body piercing. Therefore, the study concluded that there are factors influencing the acceptance of tattoos and body piercing by young adults. There are also factors that influence non- acceptance.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Sensitization and educative awareness should be made

available in various tertiary institutions on health and disease related risk associated with tattoos and body piercing.

2. Awareness programmes to sensitized youths on body piercing/tattooing should be included in life building skills programmes for young people.
3. Awareness on temporal tattoos should also be carried out among youths and their parents/guardian as it is becoming a popular alternative to permanent tattoos.
4. Future studies should seek to more fully examine students’ attitudes and behaviors regarding piercings and tattoo.

References

- Armstrong M.L, Murphy K.P. (2016). Tattooing: another adolescent risk behavior warranting health education. *Applied Nursing Resource*. 10:181-189
- Armstrong M.L, Murphy KP, Sallee A, Watson MG(2016). Tattooed army soldiers: examining the incidence, behavior and risk. *Mil Med*;165:135-141
- Balci, S., E. Sari, and B. Mutlu. (2015) Comparison of Risk-Taking Behaviour and Frequency of Piercing and Tattooing among University Students. *Journal of Pakistan Medical Association* 65(6): 587-592.
- Dhossche, (2017) A case control study of tattoos in young suicide victims as a marker for their risk. *The effects of Discord*59:165-168
- Farrow JA, Schwartz RH, Vanderleeuw J (2015) Tattooing behavior in

- adolescence. *Am J Dis Child*.145:184-187
- Gilbert G, Schidikrout G(2014). *Tattoo History. A Source Book*. NewYork: Juno Books..
- Raspa R.F, Cusack J.(2018) Psychiatric implications of tattoos [review article].*Am Fam Physician*.41:1481-1486
- Schorzman, C., Gold, M., Downs, J. and Murray, P. (2017). Body Art: Attitudes and Practices Regarding Body Piercing Among Urban Undergraduates. (Online) Citeseerx.ist.psu.edu.Availableat:<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.846.5681&rep=rep1&type=pdf> [Accessed 21 Oct. 2018
- Schildkrout, E. (2014) Inscribing the Body. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33: 319-344.
- Sperry, K. (2012). Tattoos and Tattooing: Gross Pathology, Histopathology, MedicalComplications, and Applications. *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*
- Starkie, A. (2015). *Body Modifications as a Tool to Aid Human Identification*. PhD Thesis, Teesside University.
- Thompson, T. and Puxley, A. (2017). *Body Modification*. Thompson, M. and Black, D (eds.), *Forensic Human Identification: An Introduction*. CRC Press. 379-400
- Utoh-Ezeajugh, T. (2009). Body Adornment Practices in Nigerian Culture: A Multi-Ethnic.Investigation. *CreativeArtist: A Journal of Theatre and Media Studies*.
- Wessely, M. D. (2013). *Inked and in Public: Tattoos and Disclosure*. M.Sc. Project, The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.
- Wohlrab, S., J. Stahl and P.M. Kappeler. (2017). *Modifying the Body: Motivations for Getting, Tattooed and Pierced*.*Body Image* 4: 87-95

ISSN 1118 - 0021

Journal of
**HOME
ECONOMICS
RESEARCH**

Volume 28 No. 1, September 2021

Published by the
**Home Economics Research Association of Nigeria
(HERAN)**

Journal of Home Economics Research Vol. 28 No. 1, September 2021

ISSN 1118 - 0021

Printed by Great AP Express Publishers Ltd. 08080555723