

¹ Virginity, Sex and Marriage through all is Well that Ends Well
² by William Shakespear

Dr. Alidou Razakou Ibourahima Boro¹

1 UNIVERSITY OF PARAKOU

Received: 10 December 2017 Accepted: 31 December 2017 Published: 15 January 2018

7 Abstract

8 The issue of sex, virginity and marriage has been an important issue in many societies may
9 they be traditional or modern. The issue becomes a national challenge when it has to do with
10 young men of both sexes. Nowadays, many young men more or less of sixteen years old are
11 already sexually active. In some African societies, before the wedding ceremonies there was a
12 step called linen ceremony aiming to control whether the woman was virgin before she get
13 married. So the first night with her husband is a purpose to sex. This made parents not to
14 speak of sex to their children for fear not to make them know about it and abuse before the
15 time they expect in order to keep their honour and the one of their daughter. Although this
16 practice is not observed in European countries, it a great pride for parents to marry their
17 daughter knowing that she preserves her virginity. But nowadays things have significantly
18 changed. Sexuality, which has been a core of many taboos in many societies, is no more
19 hidden. It seems while to be an act of no boundary, no age. It has become a source of many
20 worries, from parents. This article therefore, aims at addressing the issue of Virginity, Sex and
21 Marriage in general and Benin and British young men in particular with the emphasis on the
22 challenges towards a responsible use of sex outside marriage through William Shakespeare's
23 All is well that ends well.

Index terms— virginity, sex, marriage, young men, modern and traditional society
Virginity, Sex and Marriage through all is Well that Ends Well by William Shakespeare Dr. Alidou Razakou
Ibourahima Boro Abstract-The issue of sex, virginity, and marriage has been an important issue in many societies
may they be traditional or modern. The situation becomes a national challenge when it has to do with young
men of both sexes. Nowadays, many young men more or less of sixteen years old are already sexually active. In
some African societies, before the wedding ceremonies, there was a step called linen ceremony aiming to control
whether the woman was virgin before she gets married. So the first night with her husband is a purpose to
sex. This gets made parents not to speak of sex to their children for fear not to make them know about it
and abuse before the right age in order to preserve not only the honor of the family but also the one of their
daughter. Although this practice is not the case in some European countries, it is a wonderful pride for parents to
marry their daughter knowing that she preserves her virginity. But nowadays things have significantly changed.
Sexuality, which has been a core of many taboos in many societies, is no more hidden. It seems while to be an
act of no boundary, no age. It has become a source of many worries, from parents. This article, therefore aims
at addressing the issue of Virginity, Sex and Marriage in general and Benin and British young men in particular
with the emphasis on the challenges towards a right use of sex outside marriage through William Shakespeare's
All is well that ends well. Keywords: virginity, sex, marriage, young men, modern and traditional society.

Résumé—La question du sexe, de la virginité et du mariage est une question de grande préoccupation dans de nombreuses sociétés, qu'elles soient traditionnelles ou modernes. La question devient un défi national lorsqu'il s'agit des jeunes des deux sexes. De nos jours, de nombreux jeunes de plus ou moins seize ans sont déjà sexuellement

4 A) VIRGINITY, SEX AND MARRIAGE THROUGH ALL IS WELL THAT

44 actifs. Dans certaines sociétés africaines, avant les cérémonies de mariage, il y avait une étape appelée cérémonie
45 de lendemain visant à contrôler si la femme était vierge avant de se marier. Donc, la première nuit avec son mari
46 a pour principal l'activité sexuelle. Cela a fait que beaucoup de parents n'osent pas parler de sexe à leurs enfants
47 de peur de ne pas leur faire savoir et leur donner le goût avant le mariage. Tout cela vise à les faire pour garder
48 leur honneur et celui de leur fille. Bien que cette pratique ne soit pas observée dans les pays européens, c'est une
49 grande fierté pour les parents de marier leur fille sachant qu'elle a conservé sa virginité. Mais aujourd'hui, les
50 choses ont considérablement changé. La sexualité, qui était un véritable tabou dans de nombreuses sociétés, n'est
51 plus cachée. Il semble que ce soit un acte de frontière, pas d'âge. Il est devenu une source de nombreux soucis,
52 des parents. Cet article vise donc à aborder la question de la virginité, du sexe Introduction ll's Well That Ends
53 Well is one best Shakespeare's works. The play is full sexual dramas. The play explores women virginity and
54 tresses on how and when a woman should lose her virginity. This has been the main topic around which all the
55 conservations between characters focused. In the play Shakespeare linked in some bizarre ways sex and warfare
56 and the problem of gender. All's Well That Ends Well presents marriage as a means for social harmony and
57 integration. The heart of the play although being written in the past century, the developed themes are the going
58 concerns of our time. The whole society has been consumed with the medicalization of sex. Prostitution was
59 flourishing, and sexual politics, rights for women sex was the central social concern Vancouver director Rachel
60 Ditor 1 II.

61 1 Study Methods

62 "William Shakespeare's tricky All's Well that Ends Well are still relevant." Very instructive, the most of the
63 play's scenes and expressions are related to the difficulties and situations that young men face today in their love
64 affairs. The question is how do young men perceive marriage, sex and virginity? Without ignoring the fact that
65 some factors are causes of sex used by young men and women before getting married, the aim of the paper is to
66 find out young women perception of sex, and marriage today. And since the play under study is a problem play
67 that seeks to put a stress on how young men in general and women, in particular, decide to lose her virginity,
68 this article will address also the challenges targeting young women use of sex and their desire to get married.

69 For this research work, I have passed through documentary research, and then I went through books and plays
70 pointing up the issue of sexuality and some notions about the conception of sexuality in love relationship of young
71 people. I find it necessary to get students point of view on such a topic. To reach my goal, I have elaborated a
72 series of questionnaires I have addressed to first and second year students. They are about 200 students selected
73 randomly at University of Parakou. I then made a comparison between documentary information on former
74 thought and realities of youth sexuality and the interviewees' conceptions in order see the similarities. The above
75 method has been used taking into account my understanding of the book under study.

76 2 III.

77 3 Study Results

78 In Africa, it was considered as a curse to talk about sex for the statement is that there is a punishment to taboos
79 when doing so. Teenagers are defended from debates about sexuality. An old man I met during this study said
80 "It is by hearing and by talking about such a topic that our children will undoubtedly create circumstances of
81 shame and give themselves to forgiven deeds and fornication. That is not part of our customs and values".

82 The old man claimed that Virginity constitutes the pride of a maiden it is preserved for the honor of the bride
83 family and in particular the one of the girls. As you can see, sex was to stay untouched before marriage and to
84 be only for married two partners. In some African and European societies, before the wedding ceremonies, there
85 was a step called linen ceremony aiming to control whether the woman was virgin before she gets married. The
86 first night with the groom is of sex purpose. That was the reason why parents do not talk about sex to their
87 daughters for fear not to make them know about it and use it before marriage to keep their honor and the one
88 of their family. These taboos of human sexuality have been similar in all African countries as well as in many
89 other countries in the world.

90 Unfortunately things have greatly changed nowadays. According to the result of my field investigation
91 about seventy percent unmarried young girls lose their virginity before marriage. Sexual intercourse seems
92 to be the reason why they get engaged love relationships. The deplorable matter is that most of them started
93 using sex between twelve and seventeen years old. The obvious consequences of such a situation are often the
94 multiplication of divorces, the proliferation of diseases.

95 4 a) Virginity, Sex and Marriage through All is Well that

96 Ends Well All's Well That Ends Well is an interesting play by William Shakespeare. In this play Shakespeare
97 shows through that play how young people conceive sex in getting love relationship. This work as well as others
98 from the author may be part of strategic documents for youth sexuality change in their love relationships. Love
99 and sex have been the main topic of the play. Because of Love" Helena used all means to get the King's assent
100 for her relation with Bertram though their social class difference, and despite his disagreement she fulfilled his
101 challenge to get him as her love. Because of this love she was ready to lose her virginity for the sake of that

102 toward the countess' son. "Let me ask you a question; Man is enemy to virginity; how may we barricado it
103 against him? 2 Sexuality analysis, and its consequent concerns with the themes of love relationship has provided
104 the dominant model of contemporary critical analysis about the play. Helena's strong attachment to Bertram
105 and all she is able to do to get the man she desires, show much when a women is in love she is ready for any
106 sacrifice. Peter Erickson commented on how Helena's sexualized actions toward Bertram upset the dominant
107 patriarchal order. David McCandless studies Helena's infamous "bed-trick" and the tensions it raises concerning
108 conventional distinctions between masculine and feminine roles as far as sexual relations are concerned. Jonathan
109 Hall takes a somewhat different approach, seeing Helena's active sexual pursuit of Bertram as posing a symbolic
110 threat to patriarchy that in her later renunciation of "ambitious love" ultimately serves to re-establish traditional
111 social hierarchies. The analysis of the character of Helena led to different opinions about her virtue and ambition.
112 Levin argues that Helena uses guile and dissimulation throughout the drama, seeing her as a master of intrigue
113 who carefully orchestrates Bertram's acquiescence to her passions. David McCandless takes an opposing point of
114 view. Interpreting All's Well That Ends Well as essentially a romance, rather than a "defective festive comedy,"
115 McCandless perceives Helena's purity as an indication of the play's romantic theme of redemption.

116 "Another behavior from that is regular today is her capability to replace Diana on the bed to lose her virginity
117 by having sex with Bertram to meet her challenge. Sexual intercourse becomes a challenge for young men, for
118 some of it becomes a must and an object of competition. Overall, while numerous topics from the play drawn
119 modern critics, the subjects of sexuality continue to draw the attention of many researchers today and give rise
120 to much commentary. McCandless (1990) Kinsey reported that about 67-98% of men had had premarital sex,
121 depending on socioeconomic status, and around 50% of women had engaged in premarital sex. From what have
122 been said above, it appears that men are those who lead their relative to sex. Sexuality may be on a perpetual
123 change because of the different lifestyle. For example, a rich man or a married man when approaching a young
124 girl pretending to love her does not gain her trust easily, but a young boy with an 2 Helena in Act 1 Scene 1 "All's
125 Well That Ends Well" 1603 P9 FTLN 0117 to FTLN 0118 apparent serious face can gain her easily because for
126 her it is possible to get true love relationship with the latter. All these facts show that it is by the aim of getting
127 love women fall into sexual affairs whereas men target sex firstly toward the girl they find attractive. 4 From
128 the above ideas, one can realize the effectiveness of the changes in history of sexual and the use of sex through
129 history. Love and Sexuality are not easily expressed even though things seem to have changed today. I think
130 that there are enough to go dealing with the way young men are going with love affairs. As I mentioned above
131 the use of sex has become a game for young men in many societies. There is a need to do something to help the
132 new generation to get involved in mutual trust love relationship.

133 5 IV.

134 6 Results of Field Investigation

135 To check my hypothesis about youth sexuality in their love relationship I elaborated a questionnaire I have
136 distributed to two hundred young men and hundred young women. I got all of them submitted the answer sheet.
137 Below are the descriptive analysis and the interpretation of the obtained results. I first try to group my target
138 population according to their age. The below figure shows that 8% of interviewees are between 16 and 18 years
139 old. 92% of them are above eighteen. Almost two third (65.32%) of the interviewees think that staying far from
140 sex is good for a love relationship.on the contrary more than a quarter (34.68%) have a different perception about
141 the subject.

142 7 Source: field investigation data

143 8 Source: Field investigation data

144 Of those who think that chastity is good in a relationship, 39.13% say that this behavior is a sign of respect
145 between partners. For 32.61%, this behavior can help to prevent Sexual Transmitted Diseases. As for the rest
146 (28.26%), chastity or being a virgin creates trust or fidelity among partners in their relationship. (See the below
147 chart) Source: Field investigation data Among those who think that chastity or being a virgin is not good for a
148 relationship, 75% point out that this behavior does not allow knowing the sexual performance of your partner.
149 Moreover, 25% of those think chastity or being a virgin cause's mistrust within the partners. (See the below
150 chart).

151 9 65.32%

152 10 34.68%

153 11 Yes No

154 Do you think that virginity or else chastity is better for good love ? Source: Field investigation data a) Can true
155 love exist without sex between the partners? Almost 60% of the interviewees believe that true love can exist
156 without sex between partners. While about 40% think the opposite.

18 CONCLUSION

157 Source: Field investigation data b) Is it advisable to have sex even if there is no love? About 29% of respondents
158 think it is advisable to have sex even if there is not love.

159 Source: Field investigation data c) For you is sexuality a need or justa pleasure without importance? Most of
160 the interviewees (80.16%) think that sexuality is a necessity. Others (about 20%) think it's just a pleasure.

161 **12 75.00%**

162 **13 25.00%**

163 No, why ? Nearly 45% of respondents believe that sexual addiction is a disease. On the other hand, more than
164 50% think it is a natural reaction of the body.

165 **14 Source : Field investigation data e) Do you need to have sex 166 with your partner before you marry him or her?**

167 More than 50% of the interviewees believe that having sex with your partner is necessary before you get married.

168 **15 Source: Field investigation data f) Necessarily, why?**

169 Among those who think that it is necessary to have sex with their partner before they get married, 78.57%
170 declared that it allows them knowing in advance the capacity or the sexual performance of their partners. For
171 others (21.43%) this helps to keep his / her partner or not to lose his / her partner. Source: Field Investigation
172 Data g) Not necessarily, why? Among those who think that it is not necessary to have sex with your partner
173 before you get married, 30% believed that going to sex before marriage is not allowed by religion. For some
174 (35%), maintaining oneself until marriage is a sign of respect among partners. On the other hand, for the rest
175 (35%), partners do not need to go to sex before marriage if they love each other.

176 **16 Results Interpretation**

177 From the analysis of field investigation it appears that about 52 % of respondents are engaged in a love
178 relationship. This represents a total number of 104 interviewees out the 200. The remaining 48% are still hesitating
179 to get involved to a love relationship. This statistic includes both men and women. It results from this analysis
180 at that young men get engaged in love relationship earlier. This could have an impact on the normal evolution
181 of their studies. A great number of the interviewees (65%) affirmed that having sex before the age of 18. This is
182 completely the opposite of African culture realities which puts a stress on virginity and chastity before marriage.
183 Only 35% of my target is still waiting for marriage before having sex. Some of them argue that it is also to avoid
184 sexual transmitted diseases. It worth to mention that of the 54.5% who started their relationship before age 18,
185 about 61.5% are men while 38.5% are women. Does this mean that women are more serious than men?

186 Seventy percent (70%) of the interviewees believe that using sex is crucial for a good relationship.

187 For 140 respondents of the 200 or 70%, chastity or being a virgin is good for a good relationship. More
188 precisely, of these 140 respondents, about 57% are women while about 43% are men. Most respondents (65%)
189 think that true love can exist without sex between partners; 35% have of them had a different opinion. They
190 believe it is advisable to have sex without love. According to some them, having sex is just a sharing of pleasure
191 and joy. One of them said "the desire to have sex is an illness and a necessity" considering the range of age of
192 my interviewees I think actions should be taken to help young men have responsible sex contact.

193 Half of the respondents (50%) say they need sex with their partners before marriage. According to 50% of
194 the respondents, it is necessary to have sex with their partner before marriage. While some of them have a
195 completely different position. In their majority men (90%), believe that it is necessary to have sex with their
196 partner before marriage. Women represent only 10% on this subject.

197 All's Well That Ends Well has a reputation for being one of Shakespeare's most sexually charged Source: Field
198 investigation data dramas. In the play, female sexuality is under constant scrutiny; the question of when and
199 how a woman should lose her virginity or useful her sex is. From the results of this paper, it appears that young
200 men do not no more consider sex as a taboo. Having and talking about sex seems to have no meaning for them.
201 It is impossible to ask them to stop using their sex, but I do believe that to continuous sensitization on sex use
202 could be useful.

203 **17 VI.**

204 **18 Conclusion**

205 The findings from documentary researches on the issue of sexuality focus more on youth sexuality. Humans'
206 beings need to have sex; but the fact of having sex too young takes many dimensions that could be deplorable.
207 Since the Shakespearean era debate on sexuality has been a big concern of many scholars. Shakespeare himself
208 had many works touching on sex matters. This research work principal objective is to help young men of the way
209 of changing their mentality and their perceptions about sex and virginity. I do believe that new technology and
210 the abusive use of social networks have an impact on such behaviors. Sensitization and education on sex could

211 help them to preserve their health. They should understand that sex is not an object or a toy they use to play
212 game. Parents help and contributions become a must for a sustainable guidance of the future generation.
213 a) Primary Sources 1. Gordon Williams Shakespeare's sexual language (1997) 2. Robert Hurley, The History
214 of Sexuality, VolumeI by Michel Foucault Translated from the French (1978) 3. William Shakespeare, All's Well
That End Well(1603) ¹



Figure 1: 3 Peter



Figure 2: 3 Peter



Figure 3: Graphic 2 :

215

¹Vancouver director Rachel Ditor"William Shakespeare's tricky All's Well That Ends Well are still relevant"

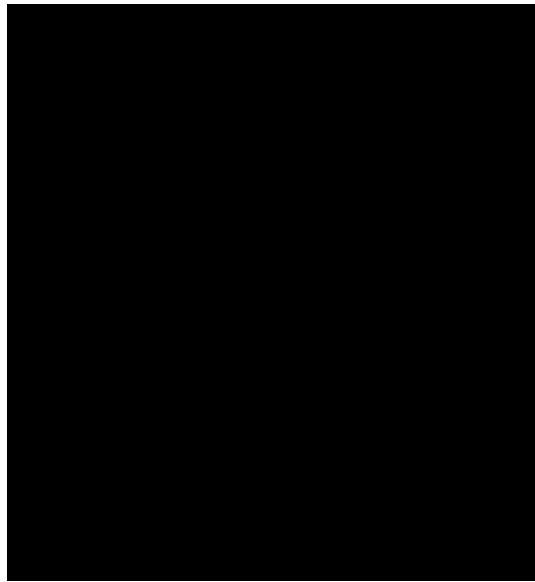


Figure 4: It

Virginity, Sex and Marriage through all is Well that Ends Well by William Shakespeare
How old are you ?

91.94% 16-18 Graphic 1: age apportionment 18 and above
8.06%

Year
2018
3
Volume
XVIII
Issue IV
Version I
(C)
-Global
Journal
of
Human
Social
Science

To the question, are you engaged in a love

having a love relation.

51.59% Yes relationship? Out of the 200interviewed, 51.59% are 46.00% 47.00% 48.00% 49.00% 50.00% 51.00% 52.00%

48.41% are still waiting or

48.41% No hesitating to get involved.

When I ask the question: At what age did you

Source:filed investigation data

start sexual intercourse?65% of the interviewees said

35% of them have affirmed having sex at eighteen or above.

they have started before the age of 18. On the opposite,

© 2018 Global Journals

Figure 5: Are you engaged in a love relationship ?

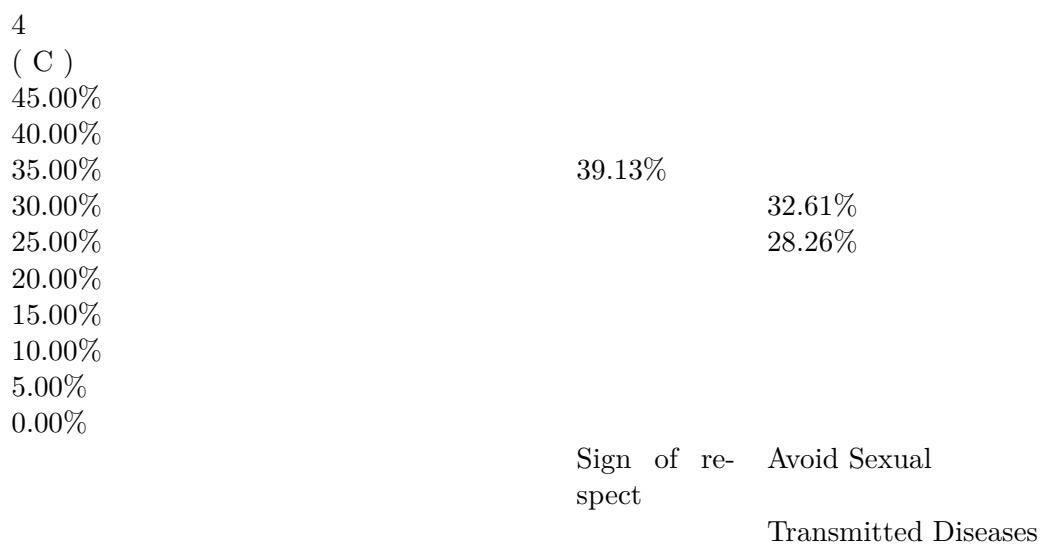


Figure 6: Provoke trust or induce faithfulness Yes, why ? 35% 65% At what age did you start sexual intercourse ? 16-18 18 and above

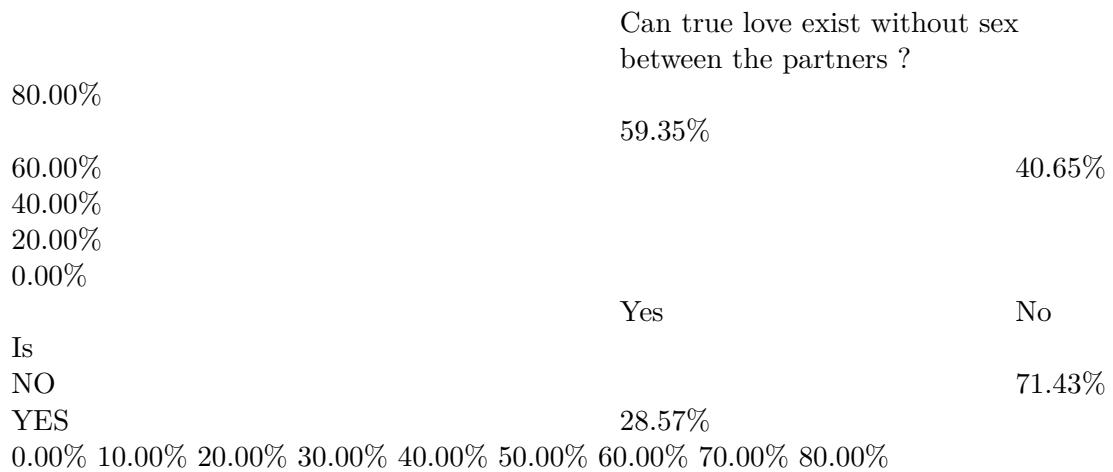


Figure 7: Does not allow to know the sexual performance of his/her partner Provoke distrust

Source: Field investigation Data
Is sexual addiction illness or a normal body?

Figure 8: it advisable to have sex even if there is no love ?

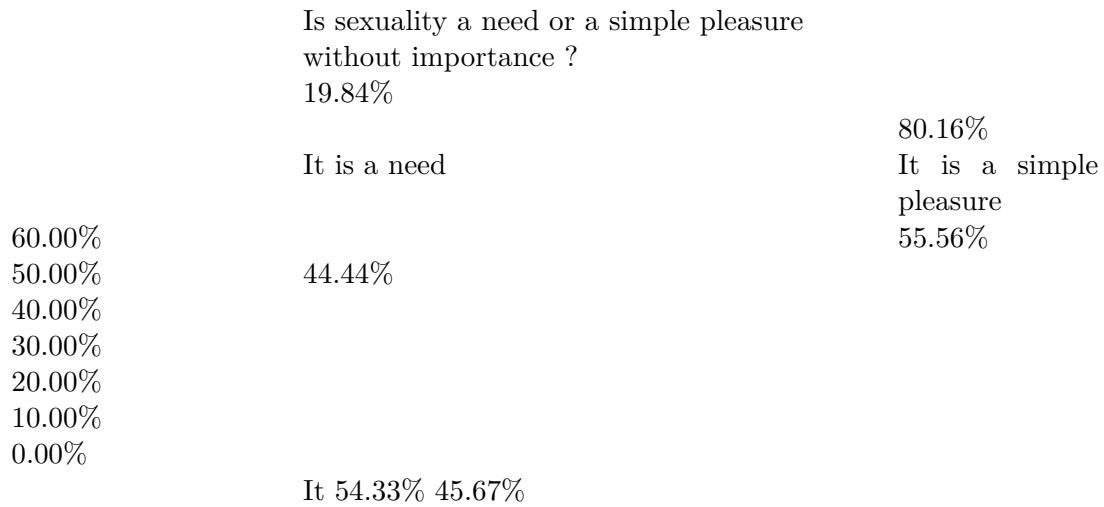


Figure 9: is an illness is normal body reaction Is sexual addiction illness or normal body ?

Year 2018

6

Volume XVIII Issue IV Version I

(C)

Global Journal of Human Social Science -

d)

Yes

Not nec-
essarily

© 2018 Global Journals

Figure 10: Do you need to have sex with your partner before you marry him or her ?

216 [References Références Referencias b) Secondary Sources] , *References Références Referencias b) Secondary*
217 *Sources*

218 [Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committeeon Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth ()] *Assistant*
219 *Deputy Ministers' Committeeon Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth*, 2001.

220 [Barnado's, www.barnado's.org, Chanon Consulting The range of health impacts which can result from child sexual exploitation ()] *Barnado's, www.barnado's.org, Chanon Consulting The range of health impacts which can result from child*
221 *sexual exploitation*, 2014.

222 [Chase and Statham ()] *Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in the UK-A Review*,
223 E Chase , J Statham . 2005. 14 p. .

224 [Brawn and Roe Sepowitz ()] 'Female juvenile prostitutes: Exploring the relationship to substance use'. K M
225 Brawn , D Roe Sepowitz . *Children and Youth Services Review* 2008. 30 p. .

226 [Shake-speare's Sonnets and the History of Sexuality: A Reception History ()] *Shake-speare's Sonnets and the*
227 *History of Sexuality: A Reception History*, 1987. (Andrew Play going in Shakespeare's London Cambridge:
228 CUP,. The Black well Gurr.)

229 [Grazia et al. ()] *The Scandal of Shake-speare's Sonnets*, Catherine Grazia , M S Margretha , Stanley Alexander
230 , Wells . 2001. (Shakespeare and Sexuality)