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### Modeling Determinants of Marital Instability in Taraba State of Nigeria

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#### Abstract

Many Nigerian homes and children have struggled to grow and succeed due to marital instability, which can be caused by a variety of issues including poverty, impotence, parental influence, a lack of trust, and more. It has several negative effects on kids, including lack of love, illiteracy, and peer pressure. The government needs to have created mandatory laws governing marriage and provided appropriate guidance prior to marriage in order to address this marital issue. In

order to determine the reasons that lead to marriage instability in the region, the purpose of this research project is to fit a binary logistic model that will characterize the pattern of marriage instability in Taraba state, Nigeria. Both men and women working in local government were the subjects of questionnaires and in-person interviews. It was concluded that each region contributed differently to the marriage instability in Taraba State.

**Keywords:** Modeling, Binary Logistic, Marriage Instability

#### Introduction

The dynamics of culture and human relationships have made researchers to observe many influences, manifestations, happenings and occurrences in marriage stability within the African society. These manifestations and occurrences have significant impact on marriage within the African modern society (Animasahun and, 2011) <sup>[2]</sup>. The impacts have been both positive and negative. However, a recent observation on people's attitude to marriages in African modern society, suggest an alarming negative effect of these impacts (Bongaarts and Potter, 2000) <sup>[4]</sup>. According to Gove (1986), marriage is described as the state of being united with a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife; the mutual relation of the husband and wife; the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family; an act of marrying or rite by which the married status is affected. From a societal level of analysis, the institution of marriage represents all the behaviours, norms, roles, expectations, and values that are associated with legal union of a man and woman. It is the institution in society in which a man and woman are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence to found and maintain a family. For most people, getting married and having children are the principal life events that mark the passage into mature adulthood. Marriage is considered to represent a lifelong commitment by two people to each other and it is signified by a contract sanctioned by the state (and for many people, by God). It thus involves legal rights, responsibilities, and duties that are enforced by both secular and sacred laws.

As a legal contract ratified by the state, marriage can only be dissolved with state permission (Borgatta and Edgor, 2000; Asana, 1990). Every culture of the world recognizes some form of the institution of marriage. In most cultures, (societies) and religions neither man nor woman is considered complete, after reaching maturity, without a spouse. Many (societies) religions consider marriage as a sacred act that originates from God or as the union of souls or spirits with the sacred realm. Jewish beliefs trace the origin of marriage to Adam and Eve and view their union as a part of the fabric of creation. The nuptial blessings emphasize marriage in the scheme of creation and speak of the state of marriage as paradise regained. As a blessing from God, Jewish marriage should only perpetuate humankind but should also enhance and complete the partner's personal growth, (Esere and Omotosho, 2011) <sup>[5]</sup>.

However, marriage and family life have undergone major changes during the past few decades globally (Musau, Kisovi and Otor, 2015); the marriage institution is witnessing instability globally (Maciver and Dimkpa, 2012). The fragility of the marriage bond is a notable feature of the contemporary world, and is present at every level of society (OmoniyiOyafunke, Falola and Salau, 2014) <sup>[7]</sup>, including rural farming households in Akwa-Ibom State of Nigeria.

Marital instability, worrisomely, is continuously on the increase in Africa and other developing countries (Duke-Natrebo, 2014) and is associated with separation, divorce and widowhood (Omoniyi Oyafunke, Falola and Salau, 2014) [7]. The increase in divorce rates is one of the most visible changes in African societies and family lives. The consequences of separation and divorce are severe (Burnam and Margolin, 1992): early experiences of parental conflict (i.e. during childhood) have lasting consequences on the quality of relationship between children and their parents (Amato and Afifi, 2006 [1]; Sobolewski and Amato, 2007); the risk of divorce or separation is high among people who experience their parents' marital instability; children from intact families have better outcomes and a higher well-being than children from divorced families (Sigle-Rushton and McLanahan, 2004) [8]; and children from divorced parents have worse cognitive, behavioral and health outcomes in general than children born into more stable families (Duke-Natrebo, 2014). Generally, instability and the breakdown of family and conjugal ties have relevant consequences of demographic, social and economic nature for the persons involved hence the need for a deep analysis of the subject matter (Omoniyi-Oyafunke *et al*, 2014) [7]. Duke-Natrebo (2014) emphasized the importance of conducting research on marital instability and divorce in Nigeria. It is against this background that this study was conducted to investigate the factors associated with marital instability among rural farming households in Akwa-Ibom, State, Nigeria. Focusing the study on rural farming households is germane given the economic significance of farming as the livelihood most rural dwellers in the study area are engaged in (Asa, 2008) [3]. The study also examined the demographic characteristics of married couples in the rural farming households and the nature of marital instability of the married couples as its specific objectives. Thus, this study models the determinant factor(s) responsible for marital instability using a mathematical / statistical model.

**Methodology**

The study is designed to ascertain the relationship between some factors that determine marital instability. Data were gathered in this study through the use of questionnaire and face to face interview. Questions relating to the personal data, geographical and determinant of marital instability of each respondent etc. were investigated. The forms were made short with limited number of questions needed by researcher.

**Data Collection**

Data were collected via interview with the use of data sheets and Questionnaire method. The survey will cover nine local government areas of Taraba state as sample to represent the state. A selected number of married women and men in some selected Ward in each selected local government area of the states were interviewed.

**Data Analysis**

Data obtained via the survey were analyzed at the computing laboratory of department of Statistics, Federal Polytechnic Bali, with the use of symbolic algebraic

Program-R and SPSS software. This process is patterned to generate extensive determinants of marital instability in Taraba State of Nigeria.

**Table 1:** Model Parameters estimate for the Bali-Gassol Constituency

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-2.34818	0.36795	-6.382	1.75e-10	
Religion	0.92915	0.35559	2.613	0.008975	0.753236
Partner's education	-0.86735	0.18403	-4.713	2.44e-06	0.42006
Beating	-1.25633	0.35825	-3.507	0.000453	0.28470
Women place of work	-0.3803	0.18140	-2.096	0.036056	0.68368
.Extra marital relationship	-0.2275	0.10052	-1.776	0.041256	0.34569
Income	-0.5837	0.30195	-3.989	0.008975	0.61746
Sex Satisfaction	-0.6764	0.30328	-6.049	2.44e-06	0.2168
Infertility	-0.7691	0.30461	-4.109	0.000453	0.5511
contiguous disease	-0.8619	0.30594	-2.169	0.008975	0.2853
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	-0.9546	0.30727	-9.229	2.44e-06	0.6196

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 75.3% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner's level of education causing marriage instability is 42%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 28.4% respectively.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 68.3% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 68.3% more than the risk of men

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 61.7% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 21.7%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 55.1% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 28.5%.

**Immorality:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 62% more than the men.

**Table 2:** Model Parameters estimate for the Jalingo-Yarro-Zing Constituency

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-1.714982	0.232563	-7.374	1.65e-13	
Religion	-0.594866	0.232610	-2.557	0.010547	0.551636
Partner's education	-1.847634	0.556540	-3.320	0.000901	0.157610
Beating	-0.414349	0.159128	-2.604	0.009218	0.660770
Women place of work	-0.688604	0.206396	-3.336	0.000849	0.502277
.Extra marital relationship	-0.609359	0.153656	-3.966	7.32e-05	0.543699
Income	-0.7718	0.24261	-2.874	0.010547	0.56581
Sex Satisfaction	-0.6815	0.20587	-2.0975	0.010901	0.32037
Infertility	-0.5912	0.16913	-2.421	0.019218	0.47494
contiguous disease	-0.501	0.13239	-2.0445	0.010547	0.12951
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	-0.4107	0.09565	-2.968	0.000901	0.78407

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 55.1% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner’s level of education causing marriage instability is 15.7%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 66.1% respectively.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 50.2% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 54.4% more than the risk of men

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 56.6% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 32%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 47.5% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 13%.

**Immorality:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 78.4% more than the men.

**Table 3:** Model Parameters estimate for the Karim-Ardo Kola Lau constituency

Coefficients:	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-1.89992	0.21374	-8.889	< 2e-16	
Religion	0.53949	0.17264	3.125	0.00178	0.71513
Partner’s education	0.47921	0.16523	-2.900	0.00373	0.61927
Beating	-1.4979	0.15782	-8.925	0.00345	0.4766
Women place of work	-2.5166	0.15041	-14.95	0.00013	0.5725
.Extra marital relationship	-3.5353	0.143	20.975	0.00008	0.2683
Income	-4.554	0.13559	-27.00	0.00322	0.7642
Sex Satisfaction	-3.5727	0.12818	33.025	0.00165	0.5864
Infertility	-2.5914	0.12077	-39.05	0.00030	0.5592
contiguous disease	-2.6101	0.11336	45.075	0.00025	0.1518
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	0.20502	0.09798	2.092	0.00340	0.72755

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 71.5% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner’s level of education causing marriage instability is 61.9%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 47.7% respectively.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 57.3% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 26.8% more than the risk of men.

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 76.4% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 58.6%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 55.9% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 15.2%.

**Immorality:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 72.8% more than the men.

**Table 4:** Model Parameters estimate for the Wukari-Ibi Constituency

Coefficients:	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-1.4863	0.2729	-5.446	5.15e-08**	
Religion	-0.4349	0.1737	-2.504	0.01228*	0.64733
Partner’s education	-0.4103	0.1788	-2.295	0.02171*	0.66345
Beating	-0.9714	0.3461	-2.807	0.00501**	0.37855
Women place of work	-1.4232	0.6328	-2.249	0.02451*	0.24094
.Extra marital relationship	-1.6915	0.719	-2.4005	0.01228*	0.10655
Income	-2.0441	0.87346	-2.3752	0.02171*	0.5439
Sex Satisfaction	-2.3967	1.02792	-2.3499	0.00501**	0.5943
Infertility	-2.1493	1.00238	-2.3246	0.02451*	0.3447
contiguous disease	-3.1019	1.33684	-2.2993	0.03228*	0.4951
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	-3.4545	1.4913	-2.274	0.02171*	0.6455

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 64.7% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner’s level of education causing marriage instability is 66.3%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 37.9% respectively.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 24.1% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 10.7% more than the risk of men

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 54.4% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 59.4%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 34.4% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 49.5%.

**Immorality/ Bad Behaviour:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 64.6% more than the men.

**Table 5:** Model Parameters estimate for the Sardauna-Gashaka Constituency

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	Z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-1.254271	0.242908	-5.164	2.42e-07***	
Religion	-0.625197	0.145223	-4.305	1.67e-05***	0.53516
Partner’s education	-0.802731	0.178838	-4.489	7.17e-06***	0.44810
Beating	-0.643862	0.301077	-2.139	0.032474 *	0.52526
Women place of work	0.682882	0.190134	3.592	0.000329 ***	0.77957
.Extra marital relationship	-0.348901	0.147807	-2.361	0.018249*	0.70546
Income	0.2639	0.19756	1.6503	1.67e-05**	0.40033
Sex Satisfaction	0.46772	0.1992	2.8472	7.17e-06**	0.58754
Infertility	0.67154	0.20085	4.0441	0.032474 *	0.77475
contiguous disease	0.32091	0.20249	5.241	0.000329 **	0.62195
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	0.37045	0.20114	6.4379	0.018249*	0.64916

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 53.5% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner’s level of education causing marriage instability is 44.8%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 52.5% respectively.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 77.9% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 70.6% more than the risk of men

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 40% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 58.8%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 62.2% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 65%.

**Immorality/ Bad Behaviour:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 64.9% more than the men.

**Table 6:** Model Parameters estimate for the South-East zone using Forward selection

Coefficients:	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	P-value	Odd Ratio
(Intercept)	-2.36136	0.42235	-5.591	2.26e-08***	
Religion	-1.34909	0.35012	-3.853	0.000117***	0.25948
Partner’s education	-1.73510	0.64562	-2.688	0.007199**	0.17638
Beating	-3.56935	0.50114	6.4379	0.0018249**	0.64916
Women place of work	0.15321	0.20178	7.6348	0.032474 *	0.55636
.Extra marital relationship	-3.15321	0.50193	5.8317	0.000329 **	0.49357
Income	-2.1479	0.40207	10.0286	0.00018249***	0.53077
Sex Satisfaction	-2.2984	0.50222	11.2255	0.00032474 **	0.56798
Infertility	-4.4494	0.50236	12.4224	0.000329 **	0.69518
contiguous disease	-0.5995	0.20251	13.6193	0.018249*	0.24239
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	-0.7501	0.20265	14.8162	0.032474 *	0.17959

**Religion:** The risk of a Muslim household having marriage instability is 25.9% more than that of Christian.

**Education background:** The risk of partner’s level of education causing marriage instability is 17.6%.

**Beating:** The risk of beating partner causing marriage instability is 64.9%.

**Women place of work:** The risk of women that work outside their matrimonial home is 55.6% more than the risk of women that work in their matrimonial home.

**Extra marital relationship:** The risk of women engage in extra marital relationship is 49.4% more than the risk of men

**Income:** The risk of men with low income is 53.1% more than the risk of women with low income.

**Sex Satisfaction:** The risk of a low sex satisfaction in marriage instability is 56.7%.

**Infertility:** The risk of having no child is 69.5% more than that of having one or more children.

**Contiguous disease:** The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 24.2%.

**Immorality/ Bad Behaviour:** Women with immoral behavior have a risk of marriage instability of 18 more than the men.

**Table 7:** Logistic Regression Analysis of Significant Socio-Demographic Factors

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	Z value	P-value	OddRatio
(Intercept)	-1.56616	0.08642	-18.123	< 2e-16 ***	
Religion	-0.14244	0.06891	-2.067	0.03873*	0.21724
Partner’s education	-0.12778	0.05599	-2.282	0.02247*	0.88005
Beating	0.18883	0.06473	2.917	0.00353**	0.40384
Women place of work	-0.51906	0.07508	-6.914	4.72e-12***	0.59508
.Extra marital relationship	-0.28639	0.10965	-2.612	0.00901**	0.75097
Income	-0.38028	0.08704	-4.369	1.25e-05***	0.68367
Sex Satisfaction	-1.20474	0.21461	-5.614	1.98e-08***	0.29977
Infertility	0.13130	0.05300	2.478	0.01323*	0.84031
contiguous disease	-0.11457	0.05268	-2.175	0.02965*	0.29175
Immorality/ Bad Behaviour	-0.17154	0.05866	-2.924	0.00346**	0.84237

**Conclusion**

The risk of a rich household having more than one union is 68.3% smaller than the risk of a poor household having more than one union. The risk of a fertile household having more than one union is 84.% smaller than the risk of infertile household having more than one union The risk of a Muslim household having more than one union is 21% more than the risk of a Christian household having more than one union The risk of having more than one union for a woman whose partner has secondary education is 40% smaller than that of a woman whose partner has no formal education The risk of women having an immoral character was 80.8% smaller than the risk of women having no education. Also the risk of a woman having a tertiary education was 70% smaller than the risk of women having no education The risk of having more than one union for a partner beating his wife when she refuse sex or otherwise was 88.8% more than the risk when she does not The risk of having more than one union for a partner having extra marital affair was 75.1% less than the risk when partner are not tired and also in mood The risk of having more than one union for women working outside their matrimonial home was 59.5% less than the risk of when women work at their matrimonial home. The partner with a contagious disease has a risk of having marriage instability of 29.2%.

Therefore, it can be observed from the above that each region contributed differently to the marriage instability in Taraba State.

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