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Factors Responsible for Marital Instability in Taraba State of Nigeria

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Abstract

This research work is aimed at fitting a model that will describe the pattern of marriage instability in Taraba state of Nigeria in order to identify the factors that trigger marriage instability in the area. Questionnaires and face to face interview were carried out on women and men in local government areas of Taraba states of Nigeria to elicit relevant information regarding their general attitudes to causes of divorce among couples. The following factors shall be considered among others; number of unions, wealth (Rich, Middle, and Poor), religion (Islam, Christianity, and Traditional), partners' formal education level (No formal education, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary), work at home

(Away or at home), beating wife when she refuses sex (Yes or No), partner's tired/mood (Yes or No), fertility preference (Fertile, Sterilized, and Not fertile), income of spouse etc. which are all categorical variables. The concluding part of this work will be a public enlightenment session that will be conducted to educate Nigerian couples cum populace on consequences of divorce/ several marriages as this work will generate information concerning the determinants factors responsible for marital instability. Chi-square Statistic was used to analyse the data on number of unions extracted from the responses.

Keywords: Marriage Instability, Questionnaire, Factors, Chi-square

Introduction

Marriage is the oldest social institution ordained by God as a social contract between two individuals to become husband and wife. Marriage as ordained by God gives legitimacy to sexual relationship and reproduction for legitimate children (Asa, 2016) ^[5]. Marriage is the state of being united with a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife for the purpose companionship, procreation maintaining a family (Gove, 2006) ^[6]. However, marital instability has become a thing of concern in this contemporary society and this is associated with separation, divorce, and widowhood. Separation and divorce are social phenomena created by either husband or the wife or both, but widowhood is beyond the control of human being, it is related to death and thus universal (Amina, 2008) ^[3]. Meanwhile, separation may be in two categories: physical Separation i.e. when the husband and the wife reside separately without resolving their marital tie; mental separation i.e. when the couple decides to live together in the same household but without having biological and psychological relations. It is imperative to note that when marriage is dissolved in the court of law, it is called divorce, but when it is dissolved by death is called widowhood (Amina, 2008) ^[3]. Meanwhile, the term marital instability is used to refer to the process whereby marriages breakdown through separation, desertion or divorce (Omoniyi *et al.*, 2014) ^[8].

The concept of women in this study is associated with the ladies who are victims of marital instability due to separation and divorce by their husbands. Unfortunately, many children today are faced with the challenges of multiple divorces or separations within their families. Parents who divorce often goes on to remarry or form other intimate relationships have higher incidence of failure (Amato, 2000; Ambakederemo, 2006; Anima, 2008) ^[1, 2, 3]. The children are defined here who are also victims of marital instability of their parents and they are below 18 years of age in marriage, because of our different cultural diversity, problems that result from marital breakdown are multidimensional in our society today; the exigencies of these factors either combine to or singly rock marriage (Udobong, 2016) ^[7]. It is extremely difficult to understand the character of an individual because of human complex behavior patterns. If interaction in the family with one of its members leads to conflict, it is a symptom of a sick system. If the symptom persists, it may not only cause misery to the individuals but also to the rest of the members in that family. Several factors are responsible for marital instability in Nigeria. Animasaun (2011) ^[4] identified the following factors among others are: cultural and ethnic norms that influence how roles are carried out within a given family

system, Poor level of exposure of spouses, Communication gap, Influence of wrong models, Infidelity, Infertility, Breach of Trust, Early Marriage, Sexual Deprivation, Conflict in Marital Roles, Finance and Religious Differences.

Marital is a word derived from "marriage". According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, marriage is a legal relationship between husband and wife. Also, marriage can be defined as the coming together of man and woman aim at satisfying their individual desires, needs and values. In various society marriage is an important phenomenon, it confers status on the individual. It constitutes the yardstick for determination of responsibility. Rules governing the institution of marriage are always prescribed by all society and ensure that all offspring are fully protected. It is the starting point for the formation of family. The aim of this work is to determine the model that will describe the pattern of marriage instability in Nigeria in order to identify the factors that trigger marriage instability in Taraba state of Nigeria.

The Study Area

Taraba state was carved out of the former Gongola state on 27th August, 1991 by the then regime of General Ibrahim Babangida. The state is situated in the north eastern part of the country; Taraba state occupies 54,473 square-kilometers. Taraba state is bounded in the west by Plateau, Nasarawa and Benue states, on the eastern border by Adamawa state and the republic of Cameroon, and on the northern border by Gombe state. The state lies largely within the tropical zone and has a grassland in the northern part. The Mambilla plateau with an altitude of 1,800 meters (6000ft) above sea

level has a temperature climate all year round. Rivers Benue, Donga, Taraba and Ibi are the main rivers and rise from the Cameroon mountains, straining almost the entire length of the state in the North and South direction to link up with the River Niger. Communities living on the banks of River Benue, River Taraba, River Donga and Ibi engage in fishing all year round. Other occupational activities such as pottery, cloth-weaving, dying, mat-making, carving, embroidery and blacksmithing are also carried out in various parts of the state. Taraba state is richly endowed with potentials for the development of tourism, and mineral resources and that include the recently discovering of uranium in huge quantities in the state. Taraba state is called "Nature's gift to the nation" as the state is rich and have many ethnic groups, including Chamba, Mumuyes, Mambilla, Jibawa, Wukuns, Fulanis, Jukun, Jenjo, Kuteb, Icheng, Tiv, and Ngoro to mention but a few.

Materials and Method

Questionnaires were administered to some selected local government areas of Taraba state 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. Chi-square statistic was used to analyses the data and presented in Table 1 below with the frequencies and percentages of the responses as regards to the factors responsible for the marriage instability.

Results

Table 1: Frequency (Percentage in Parenthesis) distribution of Marriage Instability and the predictors

Causes of Marriage Instability	Response	Number of Union		Total	P value
		One union (0)	More than one union (1)		
Infertility	No	3821(98.7%)	281(44.8%)	4102(91.2%)	0.007**
	Yes	52(1.3%)	346(55.2%)	398 (8.8%)	
Beating if issue arises	No	3850(99.4%)	349(55.7%)	4199(93.3%)	0.011*
	Yes	23(0.6%)	278 (44.3%)	301(6.7%)	
Beating if she refuses sex	No	3489(90.1%)	291(46.4%)	3780(84.0%)	0.025*
	Yes	384(9.9%)	336(53.6%)	720 (16.0%)	
Denying sex	No	3795(98%)	428(68.3%)	4223(93.8%)	0.010*
	Yes	78(2%)	199(31.7%)	277(6.2%)	
Sex Satisfaction	No	3810(98.4%)	220(35.1%)	4030(89.6%)	0.041*
	Yes	63(1.6%)	407(64.9%)	470(10.4%)	
Extra marital relationship	No	3599(92.9%)	252(59.8%)	3851(85.6%)	0.038*
	Yes	274(7.1%)	375(40.2%)	649(14.4%)	
Spouse has a contagious disease	No	3873(100%)	626(99.8%)	4499(100%)	0.001**
	Yes	0(0%)	1(0.2%)	1(26.0%)	
Earn than partner	No	1625(84.5%)	601(95.9%)	2226(49.4%)	0.056
	Yes	2248(88.8%)	26(4.2%)	2274(50.6%)	
Spouse comes home late	No	2935(75.8%)	137(21.9%)	3072(68.3%)	0.002*
	Yes	938(24.2%)	490(78.1%)	1428(31.7%)	
Change of religion	No	3595(92.8%)	320(51%)	2315(51.4%)	0.104
	Yes	278(7.2%)	307(49%)	585(48.6%)	
Having more than one wives	No	3873(100%)	110(17.5%)	3983(86.1%)	0.007*
	Yes	0(0%)	517(82.5%)	517(23.9%)	
Due to nature of spouse's work	No	3873(100%)	604(96.3%)	4477(99.5%)	0.000**
	Yes	0(0%)	23(3.7%)	23(0.5) %	
Quit/Sack from work/No work	No	1927(49.8%)	120(19.1%)	2047(45.5%)	0.191
	Yes	1946(50.2%)	507(80.9%)	4744(54.5%)	

* Implies the determinants/ causes of marriage instability that are significant

** Implies the determinants/ causes of marriage instability that are highly significant

The p-value asterisk for a factor shows the significant contribution of the broken home at 5% level of significant ($p < 0.05$).

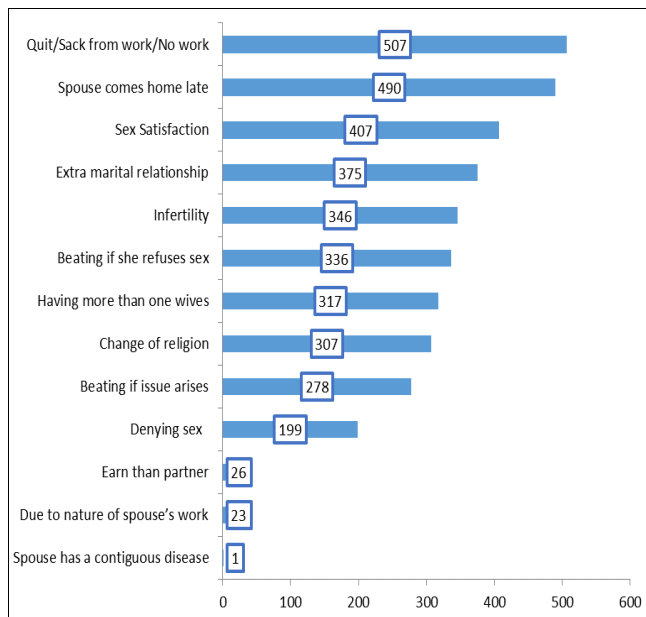


Fig 1: Frequency of Causes of Marriage Instability in Taraba State

Fig 1 shows the number of respondents' causes of marriage instability in some selected area in Taraba state. The strength of causes of marriage instability as responded by the participants are presented in descending order of the bars of the chart.

Conclusion

Model selection procedure showed that not all the twenty-four variables identified in this study are significant in Taraba as a whole for marriage instability. Ten variables contribute significantly to the number of unions in the state. Hence, we focused our attention on the zonal effect of our response variable using the predictors stated above. The breakdown of the baseline survey respondents shows that the infertility, beating, sex satisfaction, partners coming home late, quit/ no work are the major contributors of marriage instability in Taraba state with above 50% respondents' testified.

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