

Causes of Premarital Sex Among Undergraduate Students of University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

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Abstract: This study examined the causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was employed while a total of 200 male and female students were purposively and accidentally selected. A 35 items questionnaire named Causes of Premarital Sex Questionnaire (CPSQ) developed by the researchers was used to generate data for the study. The instrument was validated by expert's and a reliability index of 0.84 was obtained using the Person Product Moment Correlation. Data generated were analyzed using percentage and multiple regression to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. On the basis of findings, the study concludes that premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin were caused by peers, media, single parenthood, economic reason, academic progression and curiosity. Recommendations are made, among which is that sex education curriculum should be developed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for higher institution of learning in Nigeria. This will contribute to the understanding of students on the dangers associated with premarital sex and prepare them on how to manage sexual urges.

Key words: Undergraduate students, Causes, Premarital sex, University of Ilorin

I. INTRODUCTION

Undergraduates are students of universities and colleges, they have graduated from secondary school and have been accepted to college, but they have not graduated yet. Undergraduate classes are usually much larger and less individualized. It typically includes all the academic programmes up to the level of a bachelor's degree. Bachelor's degree typically takes at least four or five years to complete.

Premarital sex is sexual activity practiced by persons who are unmarried and it has been considered a taboo in some cultures and sin in numerous religions. Premarital sex is the involvement in sexual intercourse by persons who have not engaged in marital vow or culturally recognized as having been enrolled in marriage institution. In most cases, premarital sex is not always a problem to individuals who are sexually matured since they may view it as a natural response to a natural stimulus. However, premarital sex is morally unacceptable in almost every human society that regards marriage as the legitimate requirement for sexual permissiveness, and especially among youths who are considered vulnerable to health – related problems (Ajiboye, Aina, Oyebanji & Awoniyi, 2014).

Premarital cohabitation has been reported as a common phenomenon among Nigeria university

undergraduates because premarital sex is a predisposing factor in the initiation of sexual activities (Alo, 2018). Furthermore, Ibrahim (2013), opined that the life style of university students have changed over the years because students, seem to value free sexual life on campus. WHO (2011), stated that premarital behaviors of university students, tend to pose major threats to life and the future of the country as students involved in reckless sexual activities. Public opinion polls have consistently shown that premarital sex is wrong and dangerous to health, resulting in abortions, teenage mothers (Aaron, 2016).

Peer pressure is one of the main factors that influences students' sexual behavior. Ojo and Asebiomo, (2018) stated that a commonly cited reason for initiating sexual relations among adolescents was pressure from society and their peers. Pressure from parents, friends, peer group, lecturers, boss and future partners. So also, some men do physical pressure on their partners, while some ladies mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their nakedness to seduce men. According to Ojo (2014) that peer pressure creates a sense of abnormal sexual behaviour within themselves, having multiple sexual partners, and inconsistent condom use by peers, thus becoming a peer group norm.

Electronic media/ Internet is another cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students. Television, film, radio and video have contributed to the high rate of premarital sex. Books, Magazines, Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Imo etc. Some satanic authors are in town destroying the youths, they write some sexual stories, books and magazines; they bring out many pictures that stimulate the youth to think about sex always. Mushwana, Monareng, Richter and Muller (2015) submitted that determined sexual content in music, movies, television and magazines had an influence on early sexual activity among the youth. A developmental study by Ojo and Asebiomo, (2018) revealed that media/Internet exposure is a contributing variable to teenage pregnancy, the Internet might however have a positive effect on teenagers, as there are some sites that create awareness about teen pregnancy, human immunodeficiency virus, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Broken home is one of the leading causes of premarital sex among undergraduates in Nigeria. Children from broken homes can fall into wrong hands due to the situation of their homes. Moreover, in Nigeria, there is high rate of divorce, separation, abandonment, unmarried couples,

poverty and death of spouse. These are the contributing factors of single parenting in our country. To be specific, there are many behavioural problems among the adolescents that Nigerian society is contending with presently and such problems include: drug offences, assault and cult activities (Nnachi, 2003).

Poverty or economic depravity has also been linked with premarital sexual practice among students. Girls whose parents are economically disadvantaged or less empowered are often times unable to adequately provide for their daughters and thus, their daughters are exposed to seek financial favours elsewhere. In this regard, research has shown that the most likely sources of obtaining such financial favours are from young and older men who in turn ask for sexual favours from such girls. Akanbi, Gbadebo, Adekola, Olawole-Isaac, Sowunmi and Godwin (2015) submitted that some females entered into premarital sexual relationships ostensibly for financial reward; because their parents could not meet their basic needs such as paying for tuition fees.

Students can occasionally engage in sex for academic advantage, specially the academically weak ones. Students who are academically weak become “lay ups” for any student that is academically sound and is ready to do his/ her assignments and exams. Some of the Lombroso’s (poor but intelligent students) are always willing to come to the aid of dull students (Ekpenyong & Ekpenyong, 2016). They sometimes engage in sex with them and also collect money. As a result of quest for academic advantage, female students sleep with male students to compensate them for writing examinations, assignments, copying notes etc. Weak female students are afraid of losing their studentship; hence, they go the extra mile to maintain good grades.

Many youths have engaged themselves in premarital sex as a result of curiosity and the pleasure derived from it. They thought they were searching for reality, but they ended up destroying themselves. They are not satisfied with what their parents, pastors and Christian friends told them concerning sex. They want to experience it themselves (Adewale, 2018). Ojo and Asebiomo, (2018) observed that when students are in the transitional stage of life, pleasure and sensation is what most of them seek on campus. Tomas, Asfew and Anteneh, (2015) argued that while some people engage in sex for money and love, others do so for the pleasure of it. A student may engage in pre-marital sex with another person just for pleasure.

According to Adeoye, Ola and Aliu; (2015), modern day youths are more susceptible to the dangers of illicit sex than previous generations. Unfortunately, some Nigerian youths actively engaged in premarital sex despite the detrimental consequences associated with it. Abdullahi and Abdullahi (2013), Ekpenyong and Ekpenyong; (2016) strongly believe that premarital sex poses a lot of health challenges to those who engage in it. Students who engage in premarital sex run the risk of contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) such as AIDs, HIV, Chlamydia,

Gonorrhoea, Genital herpes, general Warts, Trichomoniasis, syphilis and so on. These diseases are life-threatening, painful and can cause infertility. Students who engage in group sex, sharp-sharp sex and sodomy account for a greater proportion of STI’s victims, unwanted pregnancy, school dropout, victims of rituals, depression, poor academic performance, loss of respect, feeling of regret and guilt and so on.

Researchers observed that there is prevalence of premarital sex among students in the university environment, which leads to high incidence of unintended pregnancies where many female students were coming to school being pregnant and some with babies. Previous studies (Adeoye, Ola & Aliu, 2015; Eze, 2014; Kamaku & Mberia, 2014; Ajiboye, Aina, Oyebanji & Awoniyi, 2014; Ekponyong & Ekponyong, 2016) have focused much on adolescents’ attitude towards premarital sex, strategies for reducing risky behaviour and perception of parents on prevalence of premarital sex among youths. The present study deems it fit to investigate the causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students. However, the study was limited to University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

- H01:** Peer pressure is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.
- H02:** Electronic media is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.
- H03:** Broken home is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.
- H04:** Poverty is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.
- H05:** Academic advantage is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.
- H06:** Curiosity is not a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin.

II. METHODS

The descriptive survey method was adopted to find out the causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students. The population for this study comprised all students of the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. As at 2018/2019 academic session, the entire population of the students was estimated at over 40,000. However, a sample of 200 respondents were involved in the study. The non-probability sampling procedures (purposive and accidental sampling techniques) were adopted to select the respondents across the faculties. Purposive sampling was used to select 5 faculties and forty respondents each (Education, Art and Social Science, Engineering, Science and Management Studies) while accidental sampling was used to administer questionnaire to the selected respondents at every faculty. This was used because of the ongoing University second semester examination at the time of the study. The main criterion for inclusion in the study was that a respondent is an undergraduate student of the University. Verbal consent of

ethical consideration was obtained from the respondents and those who agreed to participate in the study were recruited. Respondents were assured of confidentiality and privacy for the information provided and given the choice not to partake in the study if they so desired. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data titled “Causes of Premarital Sex Questionnaire (CPSQ)”. The research instrument used for the study has two sections (A and B). Section A contains items on demographic characteristics while section B sought the causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students. Having subjected the instrument to test re-test method reliability, a correlation co-efficient of 0.84 was obtained. The instrument was administered personally with two research assistants to the respondents. Thus, 192 were returned and analyzed using the descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentage and pie chart for demographic data, while multiple regression using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0 was used to test the stated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level.

III. RESULTS

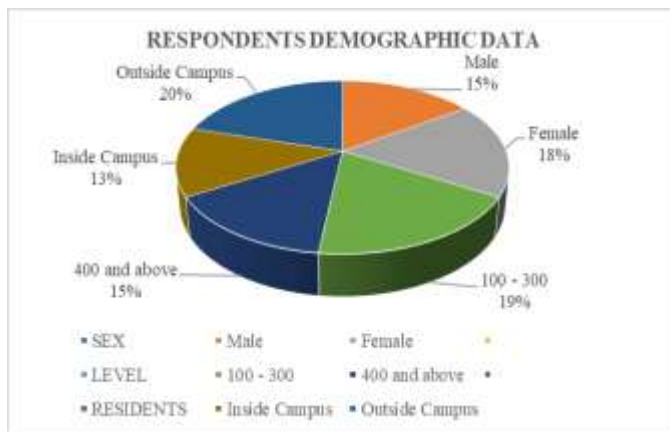


Figure 1: Pie Chart showing results on respondents’ demographic data

Table 1: Model summary on causes of premarital sex

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.320 ^a	.102	.074	1.99542
Predictors: (Constant), Curiosity, Academic Advantage, Electronic Media, Broken Home, Poor Finance, Peer Pressure				

Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on causes of premarital sex

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	85.701	6	14.284	3.587	.002 ^b
	Residual	752.544	186	3.982		
	Total	838.245	192			
a. Dependent Variable: Premarital Sex						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Curiosity Pleasure, Academic Advantage, Electronic Media, Broken Home, Poor Finance, Peer Pressure						

Table 3: Coefficient summary on causes of premarital sex

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	26.227	2.454		10.688	.000
	Peer Pressure	.075	.077	.069	.974	.331
	Electronic Media	.218	.070	.218	3.136	.072
	Broken Home	.111	.074	.105	1.511	.132
	Poor Finance	.106	.057	.129	1.843	.067
	Academic Advantage	.102	.067	.107	1.530	.128
	Curiosity	.116	.062	.131	1.874	.063

a. Dependent Variable: Premarital Sex

Table 1 shown model summary of adjusted R square of 0.74; table 2 also showing F-ratio of 3.587 and table 3 revealed Coefficients and significant level of all the variables involved. Electronic Media ($\beta = .218$; $t = 3.136$; $P < 0.05$); followed by Curiosity and pleasure ($\beta = .131$; $t = 1.874$; $P < 0.05$); Poor finance ($\beta = .129$; $t = 1.511$; $P < 0.05$); Academic advantage ($\beta = .107$; $t = 1.530$; $P < 0.05$); Broken Home ($\beta = .105$; $t = 1.511$; $P < 0.05$) and peer pressure ($\beta = .069$; $t = .974$; $P < 0.05$). From the aforementioned results, all the hypotheses that were hypothesized as not significant were not accepted. Therefore, all identified variables were causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Electronic media result was the most contributing variable to premarital sex among undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. The hypothesis that was hypothesized no significant on electronic media as a cause of premarital sex among the undergraduate students of university of Ilorin was rejected. However, electronic media is a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of university of Ilorin. Therefore, the increase of electronic devices in our society today enhances more exposure of undergraduate students to undesirable acts. This finding was supported by Mushwana, Monareng, Richter and Muller (2015) who determined sexual content in music, movies, television and magazines as having influence on early sexual activity among the youth. Likewise, Ojo and Asebiomo; (2018) revealed that media/Internet exposure is a contributing variable to teenage pregnancy, the internet might have a positive effect on teenagers, as there are some sites that create awareness about teen pregnancy, human immunodeficiency virus, and sexually transmitted diseases

Also, curiosity is another contributing variable to premarital sex among undergraduate students of university of Ilorin. The hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, curiosity is a cause of premarital sex among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. The finding was substantiated by Ojo and Asebiomo, (2018) who stated that when students are in the transitional stage of life, pleasure and sensation is what most of them seek on campus. Likewise, Tomas, Asfew and Anteneh, (2015) asserted that some people engaged in sex for

money and love while; others do so for the pleasure of it. Moreover, sex is a natural thing that gives pleasure.

The result also shows that poverty/poor finance contributed to premarital sex among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. The hypothesis in this respect was rejected because the result indicates that this factor contributes to the prevalence of premarital sex among the undergraduate students. This finding is similar to that of Akanbi, Gbadebo, Adekola, Olawole-Isaac, Sowunmi and Godwin (2015) who found out that some females entered into premarital sexual relationships ostensibly for financial reward; since their parents could not meet their basic needs such as paying for tuition fees. Also, Adewale; (2018) submitted that greed for money, wealth and position is another cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students in Nigeria Universities where some ladies want money at all costs, hence they are ready to use their bodies to get it by sleeping around with men. Therefore, many of the undergraduate students engage in premarital sex because of the socio-economic status of their parents.

Academic advantage was found to be a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. This hypothesis was rejected, meaning that academic advantage is a cause of premarital sex among undergraduate students. This finding was in line with Abdullahi and Abdullahi (2013) that students can occasionally engage in sex for academic advantage. Finding revealed that sex for academic reasons exists. In rare cases, lecturers were involved in sex with students for marks; it is very rampant among students for reasons of writing assignments or exams. There are students who are academically poor but rich who become 'lay ups' for any student that is academically sound and is ready to do his/her assignments and exams. Likewise, the finding was supported by Abdullahi and Abdullahi (2013) that the departmental Administrative staffs engage in premarital sex with undergraduate students to alter marks during typing or processing of results. Akanbi and et al, (2015) supported this assertion that academic progress and success motivates students into sexual relationships.

The result revealed broken home as one of the causes of premarital sex among the undergraduate students in university of Ilorin. The hypothesis that stated broken home is not a cause of premarital sex was not accepted. Hence, broken home is a cause of premarital sex among the undergraduate students. This finding agrees with the finding of Wallerstein and Lewis (2004) cited in Akanbi and et al; (2015) that girls who come from single parent families entered into sexual relationships at an earlier age than girls who came from in-tact families. In Thailand and Philippines, family structure was associated with premarital sex; youths living with single parent have higher rate of premarital sexual activities than those living with both parents (Ajiboye et al, 2014). In Turkey, Mechet (2006) cited in Ajiboye et al (2014) identified mother's education, age, ethnicity and employment status as the most important predictors of attitudes of young women toward premarital sex. One may deduce from the two studies

mentioned that home background is a common factor that dispose youths to premarital sex. In Nigeria, the existence of multi-culture has enabled parents to prefer western life which led to single parenting that has negative effect on children's psychosocial outcomes. Moreover, in Nigeria, there is high rate of divorce, separation, abandonment, unmarried couples, poverty and death of spouse. These are the contributing factors of single parenting in our country.

Premarital sex among undergraduates in university of Ilorin is caused by peer pressure among the selected variables. The hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, peer pressure will be a significant cause of premarital sex among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. This finding is in tandem with the finding of Ojo and Asebiomo; (2018) that a commonly cited reason for initiating sexual relations among adolescents was pressure from society and their peers. Pressure from parents, friends, peer group, lecturer, boss, future partners and some men do mount pressure physically on their partners while some ladies mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their nakedness to seduce men.

V. CONCLUSION

This study sought for the causes of premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The study concludes that premarital sex among undergraduate students of University of Ilorin were caused by peers, media, single parenthood, economic reason, academic progression and curiosity.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended that:

1. Parents should oblige, monitor and pay regular visits to their children in the universities and provide them with basic materials that will make them comfortable.
2. Residential university system should be encouraged where 100% of students' lives in university campus for easy monitoring of students. The current situation in most of public universities where off campus system is practiced encourages premarital sex among students.
3. Sex education curriculum should be developed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for higher institution of learning in Nigeria. This will contribute to the understanding of students on the dangers associated with premarital sex and prepare them on how to manage sexual urges.

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