

## CONSEQUENCES OF PRE-MARITAL SEX AMONG EDUCATED PEOPLE IN ONDO WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ONDO STATE

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### Abstract

The study investigated the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State. Stratified sampling technique was used to stratified the respondents into different strata of gender, age and religion. Simple random sampling technique was used to select two hundred (200) educated people consisting of seventy five (75) males and one hundred and twenty five (125) females. Questionnaire titled, Consequences of Pre-marital Sex among Educated People in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State Questionnaire (CPSEPOWLGAOSQ) was used to collect relevant data. The t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistics were used to test three null hypotheses, and where the result of ANOVA showed a significant difference, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) statistics was used to determine the group(s) that led to the significant difference. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The findings showed that item 1 which has Sexually Transmitted Infections (STDs) with the highest consequences of pre-marital sex with a mean score of 2.80 ranked 1st, while item 9 which states Increased risk abuse which can be physical, emotional and sexual abuse ranked lowest with a mean score of 2.52 ranked 10th.. In addition, the findings showed that there was no significant difference in the expression of the respondents based on age and gender, while significant differences were noticed based religion. Based on the findings, it was recommended that professional counsellors should organize seminars to educate the adolescents on how to avoid pre-marital sex and its negative consequences like abortion which can lead to the death of the female partner.

**Keywords:** Educated People, Pre-marital sex, Sexual Intercourse, Unwanted Pregnancy

### Introduction

Pre-marital sex is an act of having sexual intercourse between a young and unmarried male and female people. According to Boyd (2000), the incidence of unwanted pregnancy is on the increase and is regarded as a major public health and social problem among the nations of the world. Okwilagwe and Oyeha (2013) opined that, in African ancient society, particularly in some Nigerian traditional and cultural societies, it was a taboo for any young girl to be pregnant before marriage, which is the opposite of the modern African society where young people are exposed to illicit sexual behaviours as a result of moral decadence, exposure to adult content videos, music, magazines and peer pressure among friends and so on.

Pre-marital sex is a violation of sexual norms and values of a society (Paul, 2021). Ibrahim (2003) observed that, students seem to value free sexual life on campuses, unlike students of 1970s and 1980s, most of the students in present day Nigeria are most likely to be of the view that life has little or no meaning without social interaction on campus. Paul (2021) opined that in most communities, it is a

taboo to talk about sex education especially our religious leaders who usually preach daily against what is called behaviours like alcoholism, corruption, hoarding and the like but seldomly talk about sex education, in addition, the researcher observed that it is very easy to talk to the students to abstain from sex until marriage but within the university environment might be difficult to enforce such values because of the multiethnic and social nature of the environment. Some of the previous researchers has carried some studies like, Adegoke (2012), his research was based on Adolescents in Africa: The role of context and process in developmental trajectories.

Amobi and Igwegbe (2004) carried out their study on unintended pregnancy among unmarried adolescents and young women in Anambra State, South East, Nigeria. Ejue and Effion (2005) in Musa and Umar (2013) consequences of premarital sex among the youth: A study of university of Maiduguri. Gelana (2009) the pre-engagement cohabitation effects. It is the gaps above researchers left that the present study intends to bridge with the study titled consequences of pre-marital sex among adolescents as perceived by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State.

Pre-marital sex can have significant consequences on an individual's emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. Some of the consequences includes: physical consequences, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): pre-marital sex increase the tendency of increasing the risks of contracting STIs, including HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, and herpes. Unintended pregnancies: pre-marital sex can lead to unwanted pregnancies, which may result into distress, financial burdens and health risks. Emotional and psychological consequences: Emotional baggage: pre-marital sex can create emotional baggage, including sexual dysfunctions in marriage and increased risk of cheating. Loss of respect: pre-marital sex can lead to a loss of respect for one-self and one's partner, potentially damaging the relationship. Guilt and shame: Engaging in pre-marital sex can lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem which may negatively impact mental health and relationships. Spiritual consequences (separation from God): pre-marital sex can lead to spiritual separation from God and a sense of guilt and shame. Lack of purity: engaging in pre-marital sex can compromise one's spiritual purity and values. Relationship consequences: Breaking relationship: pre-marital sex can increase the risk of broken relationships, since it can create unrealistic expectations and pressures from either of the partner. Lack of trust: pre-marital can damage trust as well as intimacy in relationship which can maintain a long-term consequences. Conditional love: pre-marital sex can lead to conditional love, where individuals may feel valued only for their physical actions and not their inherent worth.

### **Statement of the Problem**

One of the major public health and social menace to the Nigerian society and the entire world at large is pre-marital sex, and the rationale behind this is not far fetched, it is simply because pre-marital sex and unwanted pregnancy has been observed to be concomitant with increase in STDs, the drop out rate among secondary and tertiary school female students, pregnancy-induced diseases, loss of pregnancy, premature delivery of babies, abortion, still birth, complication during delivery, womb loss, or some other internal vital organs during abortion process and fatality rate among adolescent mothers.

In addition, some scholars have carried out some studies, in the area of pre-marital sex, among which are Bayisa and Wuberg (2015), which their study was based on pre-marital sex practices, consequences and associated factors among regular undergraduate female students in Ambo University Oromia Regional State, Central Ethiopia, Ikpe (2003), who's study was based on sexual negotiation in tertiary institution in Nigeria. Lee, and Kaur (2006), their research was based on pre-marital sex intercourse among young people in Malaysia: Across sectional Malaysia school survey Singapore.

Musa and Abdullah (2013), their study was carried out on consequences of pre-marital sex among the

youth: A study of university of Maiduguri. It is the gaps created by the above mentioned researchers that the present study based on consequences of pre-marital sex among adolescents as perceived by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State. It is the gaps left behinds the aforementioned authors that the present study wants to fill which is titled, consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State.

### **Research Question**

One research question was raised for the study:

1. What are the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses were raised to guide the study:

- 1 There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on gender.
- 2 There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on age.
- 3 There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on religion.

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Design**

The research design that was adopted for this study was descriptive survey method which generally involves collection of data from a defined population to describe the present condition of the population being investigated using the variables under survey. Based on this, the researcher considered the method as being appropriate to use for the present study since the method would facilitate making inferences from data collected.

#### **Sample and Sampling Procedure**

The target population for this study consisted of educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State. However, two hundred (200) respondents were randomly selected consisting of seventy five (75) males and one hundred and twenty five (125) females. The respondents were stratified into different strata of gender, age and religion. After which a simple random sampling technique was employed to select two hundred (200) respondents.

#### **Instrumentation**

The main instrument used for collecting data for this research was developed by the researcher and it was tagged “Consequences of Pre-marital Sex among Educated People Questionnaire (CPSEPQ)”. Items in the questionnaire were derived from information obtained from the review of related literature. The instrument has two sections, that is, sections “A” and “B”. Section “A” contains demographic data of the respondents, while section “B” consisted of items on consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State. The 4-point Likert type response format was adopted for use in section B, thus:

SA = Strongly Agree (4 points),

A = Agree (3 points),

D = Disagree (2 points),

SD = Strongly Disagree (1 point)

All the items were positively structured, which means that the scores would not be reversed.

### Psychometric Properties

**Validity:** In order to ensure both content and face validity, the instrument was validated by five experts in Department of Educational Psychology and Counselling, Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo.

**Reliability:** The reliability of the instrument used for this study was established using test-retest method within an interval of four weeks. After which the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient was used in computing the data generated and co-efficient of 0.78 was obtained which mean that the instrument was reliable for usage.

### Method of Data Analysis

The researcher employed inferential statistics for the data analysis. The t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) statistical tools were used to test the null hypotheses. All the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

### Results

The purpose of this study was to determine the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State. This section therefore, presents the result obtained from the analysis of data and the interpretation of the findings on the study.

The results are presented in three sections. The first section provides the descriptive (demographic) data which was analysed using frequency counts and simple percentages, while the second section was analysed with the use of inferential statistic. The results obtained from null hypotheses postulated and tested are presented in this section. The third section of this study presents the discussion of findings.

### Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section covers demographic data of the respondents using frequency counts and percentages.

**Table 1: The distributions of respondents on variables**

S/N	Items	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Gender	Male	75	37.5
		Female	125	62.5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2.	Age	15-20 years	61	30.5
		21-30 years	94	47.0
		31 years and above	45	22.5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
3.	Religion	Christian	117	58.5
		Islam	64	32.0
		African Trad. Rel (ATR)	19	9.5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 1 indicated that 75 (37.5%) of the respondents were males while 125 (62.5%) were females. Between the ages of 15-20 years, we have 61 (30.5%) respondents, between 21-30 years we have 94

(47.0%) respondents, between ages, while between ages 31 years and above, we have 45 (22.5%). For religion, 117 (58.5%) of the respondents were Christian, 64 (32.0%) were Islam while 19 (9.5%) were African Traditional Religion (ATR).

**Research Question 1:** What are the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State?

**Table 2: Mean and Rank order analysis of the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State**

Item No	Item	Mean	Rank
1	Sexually Transmitted Infections (STDs)	2.80	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Social stigma from family and community.	2.76	2 <sup>nd</sup>
8	Physical health consequences including cervical cancer and infertility.	2.74	3 <sup>rd</sup>
10	Emotional and psychological trauma including guilt, shame, and low self-esteem	2.71	4 <sup>th</sup>
3	Unintended pregnancies which can lead to abortions.	2.64	5 <sup>th</sup>
4	Loss of virginity which can lead to feelings of regret and shame.	2.63	6 <sup>th</sup>
7	Academic and career consequences i.e. negative impact on academic and career goals.	2.62	7 <sup>th</sup>
6	Strained relationships with family and friends.	2.59	8 <sup>th</sup>
5	Spiritual consequences including feelings of guilt and shame.	2.58	9 <sup>th</sup>
9	Increased risk abuse which can be physical, emotional and sexual abuse.	2.52	10 <sup>th</sup>

From Table 2 above, item 1 which states Sexually Transmitted Infections (STDs) with the highest consequences of pre-marital sex with a mean score of 2.80 ranked 1st, while item 9 which states Increased risk abuse which can be physical, emotional and sexual abuse ranked lowest with a mean score of 2.52 ranked 10th.

### Hypotheses Testing

In this study, three (3) null hypotheses were formulated and tested using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical procedure. Significant differences were determined at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Hypothesis One:** *There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on gender.*

**Table 3:** Means, standard deviations and t-value of respondents' view on the basis of gender

Gender	No.	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. t-val.	Crit. t-val.	p-value	Decision
Female	125	26.5520	3.35880	198	2.26	1.96	0.008	Rejected
Male	75	26.6800	3.17149					

\*Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 3 shows the mean, standard deviation and t-value of respondents on the basis of male and female. The result on the table revealed that the calculated t-value of 2.26 is greater than the critical t-value of 1.96 with 198 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Since the p-value of 0.008 is less than

the 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus there is a significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of gender.

**Hypothesis Two:** *There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on age.*

**Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) comparing respondents on consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on age**

Sources	SS	df	MS	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	p-value	Decision
Between Group	19.296	2	9.648	3.895	2.60	0.000	Rejected
Within Group	2124.704	197	10.785				
Total	2144.000	199					

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 4 above presents the calculated F-val. of 3.89 which is greater than the critical F-value of 2.60 at 0.05 alpha level. And since the p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05, thus the hypothesis is rejected. This implies there is a significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of age. In order to determine the mean value(s) that led to the significant difference observed in the ANOVA results of Table 4, the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post-hoc test. The results of the DMRT procedure are displayed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing differences consequences and consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of age**

Age	N	Mean	Duncan's Grouping	Group
15-20 yrs	61	26.13	A	1
31 yrs and above	45	26.80	B	2
21-30 yrs	94	26.81	C	3

Table 5 present Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) result to show group means that led to the significant difference noted in the ANOVA result of Table 4. The DMRT results indicated that group 1 with mean score of 26.13 differed significantly from group 2 with mean score of 26.80 and also greatly differed from group 3 with mean score of 26.81. Hence, all group are significant different to each other. However group 3 (21 – 30 years of age) has the highest level of consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of age.

**Hypothesis Three:** *There is no significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on religion.*

**Table 6:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) comparing respondents on significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State based on religion

Source	df	SS	MS	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	p-value	Decision
Between Group	2	29.576	14.788	4.378	2.60	0.000	Rejected
Within Group	197	2114.424	10.733				
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>2144.000</b>					

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 6 above presents the calculated F-value of 4.378 which is greater than the critical F-value of 2.60 at 0.05 alpha level. And since the p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05, thus the hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of religion. In order to determine the mean value(s) that led to the significant difference observed in the ANOVA results of Table 6, the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post-hoc test. The results of the DMRT procedure are displayed in Table 7.

**Table Seven: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing differences in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State on the basis of religion**

Religion	Duncan's Grouping	Mean	N	Group
<b>African Trad. Rel</b>	A	25.47	19	1
<b>Muslim</b>	B	26.62	117	2
<b>Christian</b>	C	26.89	64	3

Table 7 above presents Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) result to show group means that led to the significant difference noted in the ANOVA result of Table 5. The DMRT results indicated that group 1 with mean score of 25.47 differed significantly from group 2, with a mean score of 26.62 and also greatly differed from group 3 with a mean score of 26.89. Hence, all group are significantly different to each other. However, group 3 (Christian) has the highest level of consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State.

### Discussion of Findings

The results of the study showed that educated people in Ondo are similar in their perceptions on the consequences of pre-marital sex among adolescents in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria based on gender, age and religion because a significant difference were observed. In addition, based on the means rank order, item 1 which states “Sexually Transmitted Infections (STDs)” with a mean score of 2.80 ranked 1st while, item 9 which states “Increased risk abuse which can be physical, emotional and sexual abuse” with a mean score of 2.52 ranked 10th.

The first null hypothesis showed that there is a significant difference in the consequences of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria based on gender. This finding corroborates the finding of Lee and Kaur (2006) in which the study shows that difference was observed while it negates the study of Amobi and Igwegbe (2004) which does not agree with the result of the finding.

The second null hypothesis indicated that a significant difference was listed among the educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria in their perception of consequences of pre-marital sex among adolescents based on age. This finding is in line with the finding of Ejue and Effion (2005) in which the study agreed with the outcome of the present study. However, this study disagreed

with the study of Lee and Kaur (2006) in which the respondents' responses are not similar.

The third null hypothesis indicated that the perceptions of the educated people are similar which is in line with the study of Bayisa and Wuberg (2015). The plausible reason for the outcome of this finding might be because or due to the fact that the respondents differed in terms of religion. This finding negates the finding of Gelana (2009) in which the results indicated a significant difference.

## Conclusion

Pre-marital sex is a well known concept across Nigeria even at the secondary school level. The high rate of this calls for a research into the causes. Thus, this study concludes that the major causes of pre-marital sex among educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State are negative peer pressure, cohabitation, and sexual harassment.

## Recommendations/Counselling Implications

Based on the findings of the study, this was recommended that:

1. Professional counsellors should organize seminars for adolescents and parents to educate them on sex education and consequences of pre-marital sex.

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