



Causes of marital conflict and its effect on academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia state universities

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Abstract

The study examined the Causes of Marital Conflict and Its Effect on Academic Performance of Married undergraduate students in Abia State Universities. Five (5) objectives, 5 research questions and 5 hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive survey design was used in the study. The population of the study consists of all the married undergraduate students in Abia State Universities with a total population size of 180 students. Census was used to engage all the population 180 married undergraduate students (126 males and 216 females) in Abia State University. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire. The instrument was titled "Causes of Marital Conflict and Its Effect on Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students Questionnaire". The instrument was validated by the research supervisor and two other experts in Measurement and Evaluation, Faculty of Education. The internal consistency reliability through Cronbach Alpha was used to establish the reliability of the instruments which obtained a reliability coefficient of 0.77. The data gathered were analyzed using descriptive statistics, mean and standard deviation for the research questions, while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that infertility, physical abuse, external pressure, financial problem and communication problem have effects on the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State Universities. However, the study recommends that government through the community town hall meeting should enlighten parents on how to manage infertility with social and academic performance of married undergraduate students among others.

Keywords: causes, marital conflicts, effects, academic performance, married

Introduction

Marital conflicts are ubiquitous and inevitable, cutting across socio-economic strata and without prejudice to the age, religion and occupation of marital partners (Wile, 2016)^[5]. According to Nwoye (2011), conflict in marriage refers to dissensions between marital partners over values, beliefs, goals, mores, and behaviours that make up the structure of the nuclear unit. In other words, marital conflict is a negative interaction in marriage, which can be verbal, or non-verbal, or both in which the husband and the wife aim to neutralize, injure, and disgrace each other. A marital conflict could be viewed as the failure of husband and wife to perform their role obligations in marriage. Marital conflict or instability can be equated to disorganization and perceived unstable marriage as a problem-ridden. In our present society, marriage institution has been affected by problems, which is as a result of social changes. It seems likely that the impact of such changes is becoming more drastic, negative, and severe on marriage. Alan and Johnson (2013)^[6] described marital conflict to refer to marital disruption, low marital quality, and less frequent desertion, which affects the stability of marriage. Marital conflict can lead to undesirable outcomes. Severe adverse reactions could trail marital withdrawal, verbal hospitality, nonverbal hostility, personal threat, physical distress, personal insult and defensiveness (Cunimings & Morey, 2015). Marital conflicts have implications for mental, physical and family health (Fincham, 2017)^[1]. The implications of marital conflict often transcend the individuals directly involved in the relationship. It has been observed that marital conflict has more negative outcomes on undergraduate students whose parents engage in extreme marital conflict tend to be

worse off than whose parents are divorced (Morrinson & Coiro, 2014). Marital conflicts may be functional when properly managed, allowing partners to know more of each other; understand each other and develop a stronger sense of unity (Siegert & Stamp, 2016)^[3]. Marital conflicts are possible in all marriages, but a distinction has been made between stable and unstable marriages (Omorogbe, 2013)^[4]. Several situations can account for conflict in a marriage relationship among couples. In a marriage relationship, love for one another is sometimes a function of contribution, though there is a general knowledge that love satisfies our emotional and psychological needs. In light of this, verbal expression of love may not be enough to sustain the marriage relationship especially, when children began to come and when responsibility. began to pile up on the couples.

According to Sasse (2017)^[18] conflict is a disagreement/struggle between two or more people. Conflict is bound to be worse between people with stronger emotional intimacy. Many people engage in conflict mainly because they do not employ good decision-making procedures. Fighting is a matter of power-sharing, that is, everyone would like to get his or her way and no one likes to lose. Many couples neglect consideration of how they are going to make decisions and consequently often end up fighting about how the decision was made, even though they have little difficulty with the decision itself. Anger in the family could result in avoiding responsibility, neglect, thoughtlessness, unfaithfulness, and rejection. According to Kithaka (2016)^[17], marital conflict is till about differences. Without trust between two people, conflicts cannot be resolved. Negative feelings will prevail. Marital conflict can

be divided into rational, irrational, overt, covert, acute, chronic, basic, non-basic, personal, and interpersonal. Gitaari identified the following as predominant causes of marital conflicts: unrealistic expectations, external pressure, children, economic problems, and communication breakdown.

According to Sasse (2013) ^[16], marital conflict creates a home environment where people live in constant fear. Kantor and Straus (2014) ^[15] indicated the people who witness marital conflict are affected in ways similar to people who are physically abused. Burke (2014) ^[14] noted that one of the most important relationships between a man and woman is marriage. It involves emotional and legal commitment that is very important in adult life. Moreover, selecting a partner and entering into a marital contract is considered both maturational milestone and personal achievement. Therefore, there is no doubt that the choice of marital partner is one of the most important decisions one makes in his /her lifetime. As observed by Okpechi (2017) ^[13], people marry for many reasons, such as love, happiness, companionship and desire to have children, physical attraction or desire to escape from an unhappy situation. Marriage is a commitment with love and responsibility for peace, happiness and development of strong family relationship. Marriage is a socially legitimate sexual union, which begins with admiration and undertaken with some ideas of permanence. The students learning should be organized, sequenced and supervised by the instructor so that the new knowledge and skills are consequently gained (Denga, 2014) ^[12]. In academics, males and females are involved but most people lose their sleep over the performance effectiveness of some married female academics. Many people tend to express reservation over role performance of effectiveness of married academics (Danga, 2014) ^[12]. Therefore, marital conflict is a situation where there is disagreement, disaffection and the marriage almost at the verge of collapse. In such case, it is either the husband or wife is no longer comfortable with the relationship or both and have reached the point of parting ways or separation. Similarly, academic performance by students has always been a subject of interest to every educational institute (Wilson & Tienken, 2013) ^[11].

Researchers over the years have used a variety of ways to measure academic performance and these include result, standardized test scores, and grade retention (Burns & Darling, 2015) ^[10]. Thus students' academic performance is typically assessed by the use of teacher rating, text and exams (Hijazi, 2016) ^[9]. Students' academic performance is more likely to be experienced and evidenced when students feel personally validated and believe that their effort matters and can influence or control the prospects of their academic success. Granting the importance of academic performance is rarely questioned, however the factors that influence and mediate it have been elusive (Eliot, 2017) ^[8].

Morrison and Charlie (2015) ^[7] opined that marital conflict is associated with a variety of indicators such as poor conduct disorders, anxiety and aggression. Exposure to marital conflict might influence married student directly or indirectly through its effect on their academics. Emery (2012) opined that the effects of married student's conflicts can be more harmful to their academic performance as well as their social behaviors. He also expressed that high-conflict couples had significantly poorer adjustment in school than those in low-conflict families.

Married students from high conflict family have lower self-esteem and greater anxiety. The researcher remarked that the most prevalent type of marital conflicts are mostly based on unmet needs, money, power struggle, sexual problems, physical abuse and in-law problems. Marital conflict can lead to mental instability and family disorganization resulting to lots of social ills. Crisis and conflicts in marriages produce discord and reduces affection among couples leading to divorce and separation and total dissolution of the family system, with an influence or academic performance. Moral decadence, depression is a major impact that results to crisis among married couples. Gradual degeneration, of traditional system of marriage, disintegrations and commuter marriage system has made marital conflict to be on the increase. Escalating marital conflicts and crisis can lead the nation of its capability to possess responsible citizens with poor educational performance. This implies that there will be deteriorations in the caliber of citizens with every new generation. The nation will be full of selfish, self-conceited individuals. There will be continued national instability due to unstable personalities. There will be national disintegration and eminent collapse in marriage if the family system is not addressed and refocused to its status quo. Spinner and Ortese (2018) ^[19] explained that couples who are always in conflict tend to have psychopathic behavior, emotional imbalance, mentally disturbed and poor retentive memory. Cumming (2012) explained that couples from conflict free family tend to contribute immensely to the society through their high level of productivity within and in their places of work.

Statement of the problem

The problems of broken homes are universal phenomenon which affect both developed as well as the under developed country. Yet the causes and effects still persist with varying degree in different parts of the world. In an ideal atmosphere, women should happily live with their husband for healthier and prosperous growth. In the past, students' performance was very encouraging irrespective of marriage status. This is due to the fact that most couples were living in close proximity with their relatives, they were been checkmate whenever they do something wrong. But in recent years, due to increase in acquisition of knowledge, urbanization and struggling to make earns meets by spouse, they no longer live close proximity with relations and as such no relation seem to know when spouse are having any form of marital conflict, hence, they cannot be cautioned. This situation has impact on spouse academic performance. The phenomenon of marital conflict on marriage undergraduate students has been studied by various people from different aspects, on social and emotional problems. For instance, Karia and Materu (2013) studied social and emotional problems of student from marital conflicts. Basela (2014) studies behaviour adjustment of student from marital conflict. Studying the effect of marital conflict on student academic performance is inevitable due to the fact that there is a relationship between marital conflicts and students' poor academic performance. Marital conflict has led to poor state of mind during lecture and examination time, which cause the student not to reason faster during examination and test. For married undergraduate students to achieve its educational goals, there should be counselling programme for both married students and unmarried

students. This will help to mitigate conflict among marriage couple. Based on the above shortfall, the study therefore, tries to assess causes of marital conflict and its effect on academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the causes of marital conflict and its effect on academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To determine the extent to which physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.
2. To determine the extent to which external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.
3. To determine the extent to which financial problem effects academic, performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent does physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?
2. To what extent does external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?
3. To what extent does financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?

Hypotheses

This study tested the following hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State
2. There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State
3. There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State

Methodology

In carrying out this research, the researcher employed descriptive survey design. This design was adopted because of its ability to ensure a representative outlook and provide a sample approach to the study of opinion, attitudes and values of individuals (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011). The area of the study was Abia State. Abia is a state in the South

Eastern part of Nigeria. There are four universities in the state: the federal-owned Michael Okpara University of Agriculture at Umudike, the state-owned Abia State University in Uturu, and the Gregory University Uturu and Rhema University in Aba, both privately owned, Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu, Abia State University Law Campus Umudike, Umuahia. The population of the study was all married undergraduate students in Universities in Abia State. The following statistics was obtained from the statistics department of each institution involved in the study

Table 1: Population of the Study

| S/N | Name of Universities | Population |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Michael Okpara University | 1446 |
| 2. | Abia State University | 1108 |
| 3. | Clifford University | 75 |
| 4. | Rhema University | 44 |
| Total | | 2,373 |

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Taro Yamene formula was used to obtain a sample size of 342. Because it was quite difficult to have access to married undergraduate students and some may not be interested to participate in the study, convenient sampling technique was used to engage only married undergraduates that were accessible and interested to participate in the study. Therefore, the total sample size was 342 (126 males and 216 females).

The instrument that was used for data collection in the study is a self-structured questionnaire titled, “Causes of Marital Conflict and its Effect on Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students Questionnaire (CMCEAPMUSQ)”. The instrument was patterned on a 4 – point scale of Very High Extent (VHE) – 4 points, High Extent (HE) – 3 points, Low Extent (LE) – 2 points, and Very Low Extent (VLE) – 1 point. Face and content validity was carried out on the instrument by giving the questionnaire to experts in the Guidance and Counselling. The internal consistency of the instrument was established through Cronbach Alpha. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.77, 0.85, and 0.82 with the average reliability coefficients 0.81 which is high and justified the use of the instrument for the study. The data collected were analysed using descriptive analysis, weighted mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The criterion decision rule is that any mean score that was from 2.50 and above is high extent, while the mean score that was less than 2.50 is low extent. The null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance.

Result

Research Question 1: To what extent does physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on the Extent Physical Abuse Influence Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| S/N | Statement | Male = 126 | | | Female = 216 | | |
|-----|---|------------|------|-------------|--------------|------|-------------|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | D | \bar{X} | SD | D |
| 1 | Recurrent injuries due to physical abuse leads to students’ loss of interest in academic activities | 2.97 | 0.77 | High Extent | 3.03 | 1.00 | High Extent |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|------|------|-------------|------|------|-------------|
| 2 | Uncommon location for injuries could lead to absence from school which may decrease students' performance | 2.87 | 0.85 | High Extent | 2.71 | 1.13 | High Extent |
| 3 | Aggressive actions from spouses may cause lose of memory of to-do assignments and other academic activities | 3.02 | 1.21 | High Extent | 2.94 | 0.70 | High Extent |
| 4 | Fear of abuse by spouses poses an unconducive atmosphere for home study | 3.06 | 0.71 | High Extent | 2.88 | 0.81 | High Extent |
| 5 | Threats related to violence would possibly results to consistent absence from school | 2.89 | 0.97 | High Extent | 3.01 | 0.75 | High Extent |
| Grand Mean | | 2.96 | 0.90 | | 2.91 | 0.88 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The information in table 2 shows that items 1 to 5 have means of 2.97, 2.87, 3.02, 3.06, 2.89 for married male students with standard deviations ranging from 0.71 to 1.21; and means of 3.03, 2.71, 2.94, 2.88, 3.01 for female students with standard deviations ranging from 0.70 to 1.13 indicating to a "High Extent" that physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The grand means also shows that physical abuse influence academic performance of students respectively, 2.96 and 2.91, which is a confirmation that to a high extent

physical abuse influence the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The above results imply that physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State to a "High Extent".

Research Question 2: To what extent does external pressure from in-laws has effects on the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on the Extent External Pressure from In-laws Influence Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| S/N | Statement | Male = 126 | | | Female = 216 | | |
|------------|---|------------|------|-------------|--------------|------|-------------|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | Dcs | \bar{X} | SD | Dcs |
| 6 | The pressure of mother-in-law causes tension among couples which affect their academic performance. | 3.21 | 0.97 | High Extent | 3.19 | 0.79 | High Extent |
| 7 | Married undergraduate students experience some level of betrayal due to external pressures from in-laws thereby affecting their academic performance. | 3.29 | 0.88 | High Extent | 3.28 | 1.10 | High Extent |
| 8 | Some married undergraduate students experience disappointment as a result of external pressure which affects their learning ability. | 3.12 | 0.85 | High Extent | 3.10 | 0.91 | High Extent |
| 9 | External pressure from in-laws causes emotional trauma among the married undergraduate students which affect their academic performance. | 3.27 | 0.93 | High Extent | 3.25 | 0.71 | High Extent |
| 10 | Unnecessary pressures from in-laws have psychological trauma on the married undergraduate students thereby affecting their academic performance. | 3.00 | 1.10 | High Extent | 2.94 | 0.82 | High Extent |
| Grand Mean | | 3.18 | 0.95 | | 3.15 | 0.87 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 3 presents that items 6 to 10 have means of 3.21, 3.29, 3.12, 3.27, 3.00 for in-laws with standard deviations ranging from 0.85 to 1.10; and means of 3.19, 3.28, 3.10, 3.25, 2.94 for academic performance with standard deviations ranging from 0.71 to 1.10 which indicate "High Extent" on how external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. Also, the grand means for external pressure from in-laws and academic performance students are 3.18 and 3.15 respectively, further confirming a "High Extent" on how

external pressure from in-laws has effects on the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. Thus, it is found that external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State to a "High Extent".

Research Question 3: To what extent does financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State?

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics on the Extent Financial Problem Influence Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| S/No. | Statement | Male = 126 | | | Female = 216 | | |
|-------|---|------------|------|-------------|--------------|------|-------------|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | D | \bar{X} | SD | D |
| 11 | One of the factors that hinder married students is lack of fiancé which affects their academic performance. | 3.12 | 1.01 | High Extent | 3.08 | 0.93 | High Extent |
| 12 | Married undergraduate students lose their interest in academic due to financial problem thereby affecting their academic performance. | 3.04 | 0.81 | High Extent | 3.11 | 1.04 | High Extent |
| 13 | Financial constrain makes married undergraduate students to withdraw from their study thereby affecting their academic performance. | 2.96 | 0.73 | High Extent | 3.10 | 0.91 | High Extent |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|------|------|-------------|------|------|-------------|
| 14 | Lack of finance leads to series of interruptions of academic activities due to the students trying to do a lot of part time job to raise fund hence affecting their academic performance. | 3.25 | 0.67 | High Extent | 3.17 | 0.73 | High Extent |
| 15 | Married undergraduate students engage in several businesses to meet up the financial demand of the family and school hence affecting their academic performance. | 2.89 | 1.12 | High Extent | 2.90 | 0.82 | High Extent |
| Grand Mean | | 3.05 | 0.87 | | 3.07 | 0.87 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 4 presents that items 11 to 15 have means of 3.12, 3.04, 2.96, 3.25, 2.89 for financial problem with standard deviations ranging from 0.67 to 1.12; and means of 3.08, 3.11, 3.10, 3.17, 2.90 for academic performance with standard deviations ranging from 0.73 to 1.04 which indicate “High Extent” on how financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. Also, the grand means for financial problem and academic performance are 3.05 and 3.07 respectively, further confirming a “High Extent” on how financial problem influence academic, performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. Thus, it is found that financial problem influences academic, performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State to a “High Extent”.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Table 5: z-test Analysis of the Extent Physical Abuse Influence Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| Respondents | N | Mean | SD | Df | Los | z-cal | z-test | p-value | remark |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-------|--------|---------|----------|
| male | 126 | 2.96 | 0.90 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 340 | 0.05 | 0.50 | 1.96 | 0.621 | accepted |
| female | 216 | 2.91 | 0.88 | | | | | | |

The information in table 5 shows that equal variances assumed has $z = 0.50$, $df = 798$, and 2-tailed $p = 0.621$. Thus, the null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female married undergraduates on the extent physical abuse influence the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State is not rejected as $z(340) = 0.50$, 2-tailed $p = 0.621 > \alpha = 0.05$. This implies that male and female married undergraduates are in a consensus that physical abuse has influence on the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Table 6: z-test Analysis of the Extent External Pressure from In-laws Influence Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| Respondents | N | Mean | SD | Df | LOS | z-cal | z-tab | Remark |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-------|-------|----------|
| Male | 126 | 3.18 | 0.95 | | | | | |
| | | | | 340 | 0.05 | 0.30 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Female | 216 | 3.15 | 0.87 | | | | | |

Table 6 presents that equal variance assumed has $z = 0.30$, $df = 340$, and 2-tailed $p = 0.124$. Therefore, the null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female married undergraduates on the extent external pressure from in-laws influence the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State” is not rejected as $t(340) = 0.30$, 2-tailed $p = 0.124 > \alpha = 0.05$. Thus, male and female students are in accordance that external pressure from in-laws influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between male and female married undergraduates on the extent financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State.

Table 7: z-test Analysis of the Extent Financial Problem and Academic Performance of Married Undergraduate Students in Abia State

| Respondents | N | Mean | SD | Df | LOS | z-cal | z-tab | Remark |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-------|-------|--------|
| Male | 126 | 3.05 | 0.87 | | | | | |
| | | | | 340 | 0.05 | 0.206 | 1.96 | Rmk |
| Female | 216 | 3.07 | 0.87 | | | | | |

Research Output, 2022

Table 7 presents that equal variance assumed has $z = 0.206$, $df = 340$, and 2-tailed $p = 0.326$. This implies that the null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female students on the extent financial problem influences academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State” is not rejected as. Thus, male and female married undergraduates are in accordance that financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State, to a high extent.

Discussion of Findings

It was also found that physical abuse influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The finding is in collaboration with McCrae and Costa (2018)^[24] who asserted that students or children from domestic abuse homes have low grades at school thereby affecting their academic performance. Students who are exposed to physical abuse suffers low self-esteem and social life, especially self-esteem thereby affecting the academic performance. Steel (2017)^[21] found that learners or students from homes with domestic violence suffer emotional and psychological problem which in turn affects their academic performance. Steel argued that because of the separated parents, children are loose and lack proper attention which affects their academic performance.

The study also found that external pressure from in-laws influences academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The study is in the same view with Kumari (2014)^[22] who state that the pressure of mother-in-law causes tension among couples which affect their academic performance and that married undergraduate

students experience some level of betrayal due to external pressures from in-laws thereby affecting their academic performance. It is also observed that some married undergraduate students experience disappointment as a result of external pressure which affects their learning ability. Poropat (2019) asserts that external pressure from in-laws causes emotional trauma among the married undergraduate students which affect their academic performance and unnecessary pressures from in-laws has psychological trauma on the married undergraduate students thereby affecting their academic performance.

The finding of the student reveals that financial problem influence academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. This finding is in collaboration with (Costa & McCrae, 2018) ^[24] who admitted that married undergraduate students lose their interest in academic due to financial problem thereby affecting their academic performance and that one of the factors that hinder married students is lack of fiancé which affects their academic performance. It also shows that financial constrain makes married undergraduate students to withdraw from their study thereby affecting their academic performance. Costa and McCrae still observed that lack of finance leads to series of interruptions of academic activities due to the students trying to do a lot of part time job to raise fund hence affecting their academic performance and that married undergraduate students engage in several businesses to meet up the financial demand of the family and school hence affecting their academic performance.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that physical abuse, external pressure from in-laws, financial problem and communication problem have effects on the academic performance of married undergraduate students in Abia State. The researcher also concluded that marital conflict has constituted a serious threat to the social and economic stability of Nigeria. The ill has partly been blamed on marriage with biases for wealth, unemployment, and lack of pre-marital counseling and that marital conflict is the dissensions between marital partners over values, beliefs, goals, mores, and behaviors that make up the structure of the nuclear unit.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to ensure that the study meets its objectives:

1. Companies and Non-governmental organizations should consistently organize awareness programmed on the danger of physical abuse/domestic violence for married people. This may possibly decrease the depression and negative consequences following physical abuse.
2. Non-governmental organizations should help to create awareness and educated aged mothers on how to develop cordial relationship with their in-laws, in the face of unforeseen circumstances like childlessness. This may help curb external pressures from in-laws which may help not only in academic but also social performance of married undergraduate students.
3. Government should create employment opportunities for married people so as to help them handle some financial issues in the family. This will enable married undergraduate students to be more focus in academic matters

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