

Influence Of Family Background On Prostitution Tendency Among Female Undergraduate Students In Some Universities In South-South Nigeria

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Abstract: This study investigated the influence of family background on prostitution tendency among 1040 female undergraduate students in three (3) universities located in the South-South geopolitical region of Nigeria. The study was carried out during the 2004/2005 academic session of three universities. The total male population was 22, 976 against female population of 20,829 bringing the grand total population to be 42,905 students. From a target population of 20,829 female undergraduates a sampling technique of stratified random sampling was used in a sample size of 1,040 (one thousand and forty students). Research instrument used was female students opinion questionnaire (FSOQ) designed by Ibu (2010). The instrument had four parts Likert-type scale measuring 1,2,3,4. Two hypotheses (the null and alternate hypotheses) were tested for influence of family background on female prostitution which was done on a four scale point 1 to 4. The results were analyzed using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with SPSS statistical package. A post hoc comparison of multiple groups data was carried out using Fisher's Least significant difference (LSD) multiple comparison analysis. Differences were accepted as significant when $P < 0.05$. The results indicate that family structure significantly affects the prostitution tendency.

Keywords: Prostitution tendency, family background.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is now known that deviant behavior and other social vices are rampant in many Nigerian Universities. Some of these social vices such as drug abuse, indecent dressing, sexual immorality have even gone down to our secondary schools (Terhile and Pinga, 2017). They maintained that indecent dressing and other social vices are noticed among both male and female students in Nigeria. Infact, Chikwature et al (2016) condemned some of these vices as unacceptable. Ibu (2010) recommended some measures to curb the menace of Adolescent deviant behavior in Nigerian Universities with particular emphasis on female undergraduate prostitution tendencies. Terzungwe et al (2017) stated that an estimated 5,000 students have lost their lives due to cultism and other antisocial behaviors while they were in Nigerian universities.

Parental influence is important in the family background. Parental care especially from tender age was said to be very necessary, Kayode and Adeyinka (2009).

In earlier studies Lien 1945 and Safir (1949) indicate that sexual promiscuity of the adolescents are related to personality deficiencies and these in turn are related to homes characterized by disorganization, weak or broken emotional ties or broken families. Ibu (2010) stated that mother's absence in a family produces structural distortion in the communications between the growing child and the parents or adult world and since such communications are veritable for the overall development of the child, the child's personality development would be distorted as a result. Such distortion may lead to prostitution tendencies.

The present study will lend credence to the views of the last three authors cited above.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research method of Denga and Ali (1998) was adopted in this study. It is a method useful in collecting data from large and small populations. This study was also adopted by Isangedighi et al (2004). It is a non-experimental design in which the study employed questionnaire for collection of imperial data rather than laboratory experimental design.

B. AREA OF STUDY AND POPULATION SAMPLED

The area covered by this study is Cross River and Akwa Ibom States in the South-South geopolitical region of Nigeria.

The population sampled was from three universities based in this region. The sampled population comprised of female undergraduates in the three universities as follows:

University A =9,863 samples

University B =8,668 samples

University C =2,298 samples

The total in the three universities was 20,829 (twenty thousand, eight hundred and twenty nine) female students.

C. SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

From a target population of 20,829 female undergraduate students as stated above, 1,040 students were sampled using stratified random sampling techniques. Out of the 1,040 students, 433 students were from University A, 493 students from University B and 115 from University C (as representing 5% of female population in each of the universities). The numbers from each university was subdivided into eight faculties used for the study. These were the faculties common to the three universities. At the faculty level, the population was further divided into departments using simple random sampling techniques. This process was adopted to ensure adequate representative sample was obtained from each department of study.

D. SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of 1,040 undergraduate female students was employed as stated in section 3 above.

E. INSTRUMENTATION

The research instrument used in this study is that developed by Ibu (2010) as guided by experts in Educational Tests and Measurement and Educational Psychology at the Faculty of Education, University of Calabar, Nigeria. The instrument was the female students opinion questionnaire (FSOQ), which consisted of three independent variables about parents of the students.

- ✓ Married and living together
- ✓ Separated or divorced
- ✓ One or both parents deceased

The dependent variable is prostitution tendency among female undergraduates. The results were subjected to

statistical analysis using SPSS statistical package. Group means and standard deviation as well as Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were deployed. Group differences were compared using Fisher's least significant difference (LSD).

III. RESULTS

The results were presented to test the null hypothesis and the alternate hypothesis.

NULL HYPOTHESIS

Family background does not significantly influence prostitution tendency among female undergraduate students.

ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS

Family background significantly influences prostitution tendency among female graduate students.

Data collected from the Academic Planning Director's office of each of the three universities studied showed the student population in each of the three universities total population are shown in figure 1.

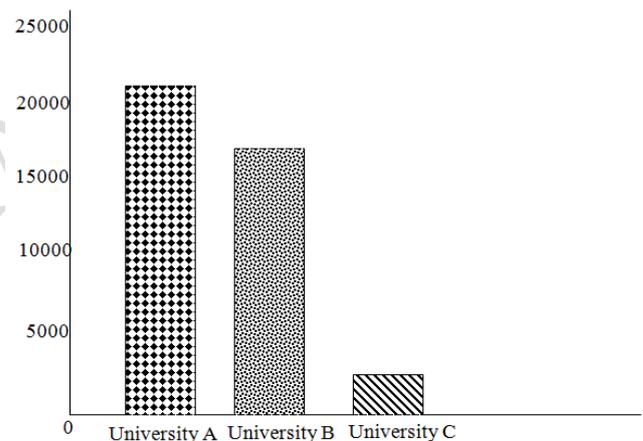


Figure 1: Total student population in the three universities (A, B, & C) studied

Student population (both male and female) was 42,905. Out of this the males were 22,076 as against female 20,829 presented from the same source of data. The male and female student distribution is shown here in figure 2.

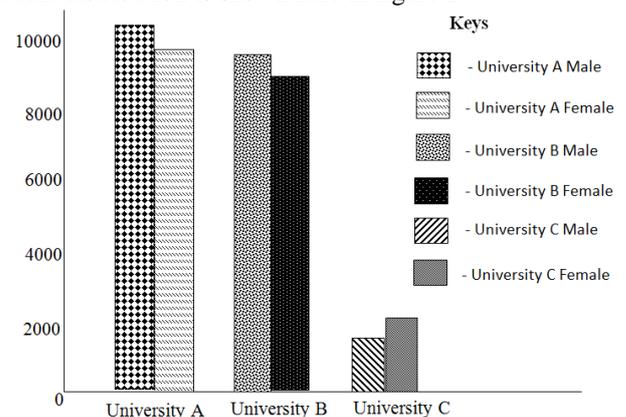


Figure 2: Distribution of students population by gender (male and female)

Table 1: Shows the female student population sampled (5%) in this study by universities A, B, and C (433, 493, and 115 respectively) out of female population of 9,863, 8,668 and 115 respectively.

S/N	Institutions	Female Population	5% of Population
1	University A	9,863	433
2	University B	8,668	493
3	University C	2,298	115
	Total	20,829	1041

Table 1: sampled (5%) of female student sampled.

The demographic study of the female undergraduates sampled according to their year of study was presented as table 2

Variable	Group	F
Year of study	Year 1	85
	Year 2	107
	Year 3	249
	Year 4 and above	599
	Total	1040

Table 2: frequency (F) of student population according to the year of study in the universities

The pie graph in fig 3 shows the percentage distribution of sampled female undergraduates students according to the year of study.

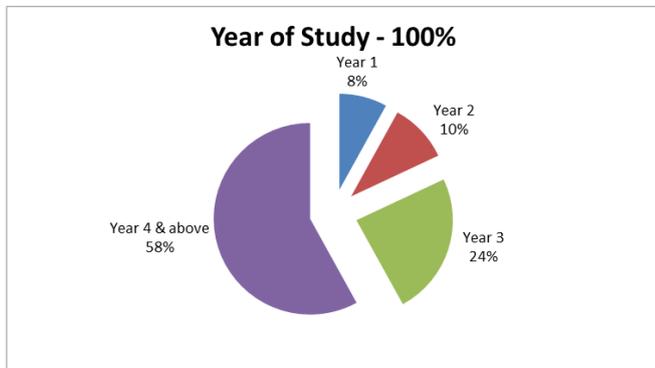


Figure 3: Pie chart showing percentage distribution by the year of study by the female student

The demographic study of this group by age brackets is shown in the histogram in figure 4.

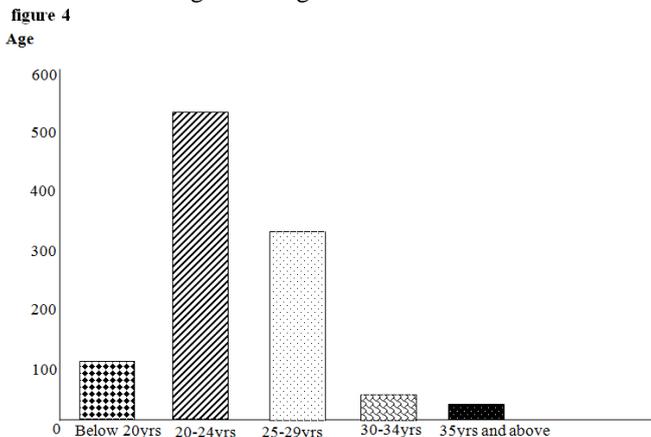


Figure 4: demographic study of female student by age groups.

The corresponding pie chart as percentage distribution by age group is shown in Figure. 5

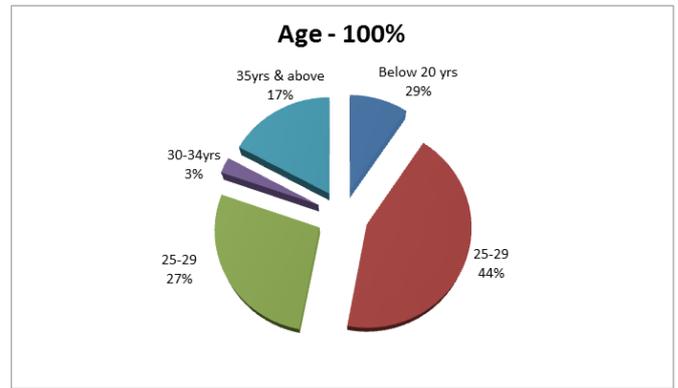


Figure 5: pie chart showing percentage distribution by age groups

Table 3 shows the marital status of the parents of the sampled female undergraduate students and percentage represented by married and living together (74%), separated or divorced (11%). One or both parents deceased (15%).

Variable	Group	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Marital status of parents	Married and living together	773	74
	Separated / divorced	111	11
	One/two parents deceased	156	15
	Total	1040	100

Table 3: Marital status and types of family in the female undergraduate dependence

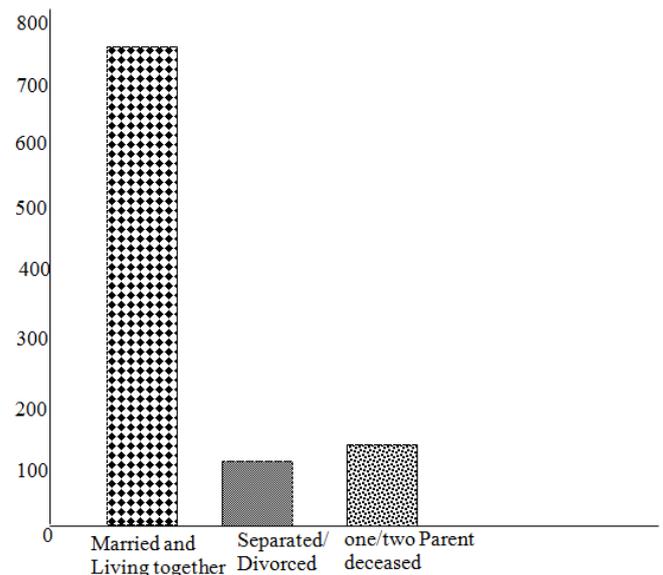


Figure 6: Bar chart of marital setup of parents of female student

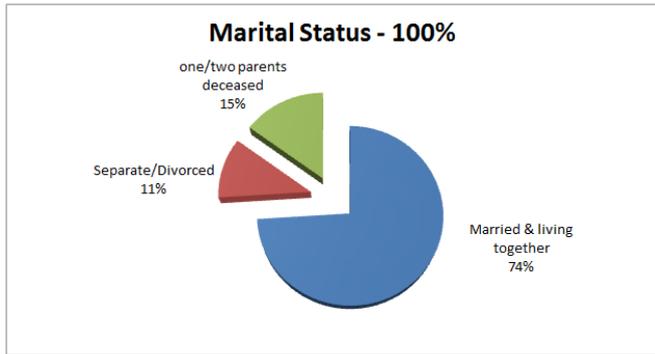


Figure 7: pie chart of marital status of parents of the female student studied

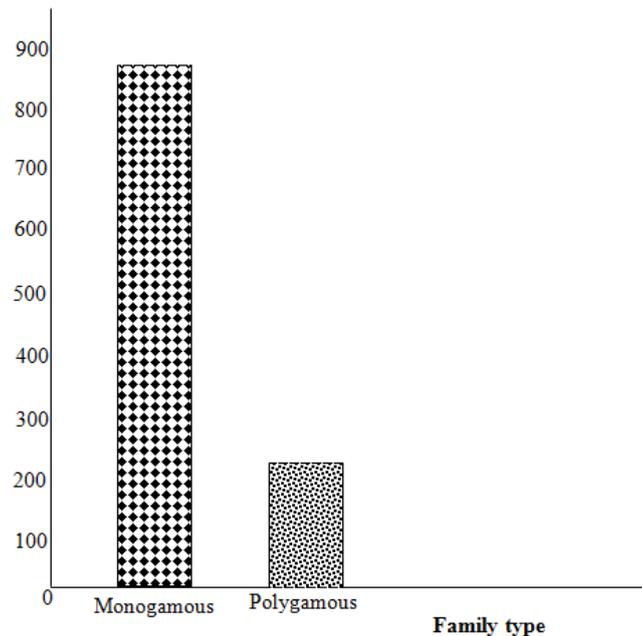


Figure 8: family types of parents of female students in this study

Variable	Group	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Family types	Monogamous	827	80
	Polygamous	213	20
	Total	1040	100

Table 4: Shows the type of family structure (monogamous 80% or polygamous, 20%, of parents of the undergraduate females studied

Figure 9: Pie chart depicting family type distribution by percentage

Overall	Group 1 (MLT)	34.50 ^a	-4.98 ^b	-4.24
Prostitution	Group 2 (S/D)	-10.18 ^{*c}	39.48	0.73
Tendency	Group 3 (PD)	-10.03	1.22	38.74
		MSW = 23.22		

a - Group means are placed along the diagonals

b - Differences between group means are placed above the diagonal

c - Fisher's t-value are placed below the diagonal

* - Significant at .05 level (critical $t = 1.96$)

MLT - Married and living together

S/D - Single/Divorced

PD - Parents deceased

MSW - Married, Single, Widowed

Table 5: describes overall prostitution tendency among the undergraduate student studied

Prostitution tendency	Group (family structure)	N	Mean	SD
Overall prostitution tendency	1. Married and living together)	773	34.50	4.63
	2. Separated /divorced	111	39.48	5.88
	3. Parents deceased	156	38.74	4.90
	Total	1040	35.67	5.21

Table 6: shows statistical data for overall prostitution tendency of student in relation to students' family status

Prostitution tendency	Source of variance	Sum of squares	df	MS	F-ratio
Overa Prostitution tendency	Between groups	4142.20	2	2071.10	
	Within groups	24080.69	1037	23.22	89.18*
	Total	28222.89	1039		

*significant at 0.05 level, critical $F_{2,1037} = 3.00$

Table 7: analysis of variance (ANOVA): influence of family structure on prostitution tendency among female undergraduate

As presented in tables 6 and 7 the calculated F-value of 89.18 is greater than the critical F-value of 3.00 for the influence of family structure on the overall tendency of the students towards prostitution. By implication, the null hypothesis that family structure does not significantly influence prostitution is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. In other word, family structure has a significant influences on the overall tendency towards prostitution. Further examination of the table shows that the calculated F-values are greater than the critical F-values in respect of the influence of family structure on tendency towards prostitution.

In order to understand the pattern of the significant influence (i.e. which pairs of groups were significantly different) a post hoc comparison was carried out using fisher's least significant difference presented in table 5.

Table 7 presents the analysis of variance influence of family structure on prostitution tendency among female undergraduates studied.

From the above table five (5) shows that overall prostitution tendency of student whose parents are separated or divorced (Group 2) and those students whose parents are deceased (Group 3) are each significantly higher than the prostitution tendency of students whose parents are still married and living together (Group 1) - $t = -10.18, p < 0.05$, and $t = -10.03, p < 0.05$ respectively.

On the whole, the results of the data analysis show that family background influences the tendency towards prostitution and that the most vulnerable group are females from separated or divorced homes followed by those whose

parents are deceased. So the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate hypothesis was accepted. The least inclined to prostitution tendency are females in the intact homes where the parents are alive and are living together.

Prostitution Tendency	Family Structure	Group 1 (N=773)	Group 2 (N=111)	Group 3 (N=156)
Overall Prostitution Tendency	Group 1(MLT)	34.50a	-4.98b	-4.24
	Group 2 (S/D)	-10.18*c	39.48	0.73
	Group 3 (PD)	-10.03*	1.22	38.74
	MSW =23.22			

a - Group means are placed along the diagonals

b - Differences between group means are placed above the diagonal

c - Fisher's t-value are placed below the diagonal

* - Significant at .05 level (critical t = 1.96)

MSW – Married, Single, Widowed

Table 8: Showing Fisher's post-hoc multiple comparison analysis of significant influence of family structure on female undergraduates' prostitution tendency

IV. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For Prostitution Tendency in all aspects, the Prostitution Tendency of students in Group 2 (parents are separated/divorced and that of students in Group 3 (one or both parents are deceased) are each significantly higher than the Prostitution Tendency of students in Group 1 (parents are living together) ($t = -2.48$; $P < .05$ and $t = -2.94$; $P < .05$ respectively). Also, the Prostitution Tendency of students in group 2 is significantly higher than that of students in Group 1 ($t = -18.74$; $P < .05$).

The result of this study shows that family structure has a significant influence on female undergraduate students' tendency towards prostitution. Female undergraduates who grew up in intact family where both parents live together are less vulnerable to prostitution tendency. These findings are in line with the result of studies carried out by Cirouel (1976) and Umo (1984) in which they reported that disorganised or distorted or broken homes have adverse effect on personality and character development and could lead adolescent girls to permissive sexual behaviour—a prelude to prostitution.

Similarly, Lere and O'Brien, (1995) and Snall (1995) in their separate studies agreed that broken homes produce adolescents where sexual behaviours deviate remarkably from social norms. Also Monaham (1957) in a review of other research works concluded that there is a definite relationship between the "social broken home" and deviancy. Ogunade's (1988) study concluded that broken homes are more likely to produce children with deviant behaviours since in such homes, there is lack of joint control of both parents. He maintained that single parents which in many cases are women always attempt to cope with the stress of raising children alone. Ogunade (1988) stressed the fact that such parents sometimes get fed up with a child's naughtiness and decide to "fold their

arms" in order to avoid emotional stress usually too much for one parent to bear.

The results of the study also showed that family type has a significant influence on prostitution tendencies with females from polygamous families being most vulnerable. From the available literature, people from polygamous families are more permissive in child rearing style than monogamous family type. This permissiveness could make room for the adolescents in such families to look outside the family for the satisfaction of their needs. Also, in polygamous families, parent-siblings relationship is not warm. The findings of this study is in line with Duvall (1964) who posits that when adolescence is estranged from the family, they may attach themselves to a member of the opposite sex to satisfy their emotional hunger. Thus, adolescent from polygamous homes tends to get involved in premarital sexuality and full blown prostitution. In line with Duvall's writing, Scott (1993) states that negative daughter-mother relationship foster earlier pregnancies. A study by Reiss (1967) on group difference in marital attitude also shows the importance of basic settings of adult institutions especially the family. He further states that parental acceptance of the courtship system promote acceptance of premarital coitus.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ It is important in society for married couples to avoid break up of marriage in the interest of their growing children' upbringing particularly upbringing of the girl child.
- ✓ Universities should establish "Guidance and Counselling Unit" as recommended by the National Universities Commission (NUC) of Nigeria.
- ✓ Lecturers should try and mentor their students as if they are the parents.

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