**PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON THE PREVALENCE AND CAUSES OF MARITAL INFIDELITY AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN ENUGU NORTH LGA, ENUGU STATE NIGERIA**

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**GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY, UGWUOMU-NIKE, ENUGU STATE**

**JULY, 2018.**

**TITLE PAGE**

**PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON THE PREVALENCE AND CAUSES OF MARITAL INFIDELITY AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN ENUGU NORTH LGA, ENUGU STATE NIGERIA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY,**

**FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,**

**GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY, ENUGU STATE.**

**BY**

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**JULY, 2018**

**DECLARATION**

I, Lauretta Chinenye Idoko (U15/MSS/SOC/023), declare that this project is the result of my own independent work/investigation. It is being submitted for the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) at the Department of Sociology/Psychology, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu. I declare that to the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted for any degree or examination at this or any other university.

------------------------------ ……………………..

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U15/MSS/SOC/023

RESEACHER

**APPROVAL PAGE**

This project has been approved as having met the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc) in the Department of Sociology/Psychology, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu State.

By

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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT SIGNATURE

……………. …………

EXTERNAL EXAMINER SIGNATURE DATE

**DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty who in his infinite mercies has made this project a success. All glory goes to him.

And

To all married women in Enugu North LGA.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I owe great honour and immense thanks to God Almighty for his mercy, wisdom and understanding to complete this programme. With joy in my heart, I must appreciate God for giving me awesome and wonderful parents, Chief and Mrs. John Idoko. They have been a source of support and blessing to me. To my ever loving and supportive husband, Engr. Chukwuebuka Nnadi, I lack words to express how grateful I am for all the assistance rendered during the course of this project. You are indeed my better half.

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I also want to acknowledge the efforts of my siblings – Jude, Robert, Desmond, Paul, Chris, Dinma, - may God bless you all handsomely. And to my honourable course mates who made my stay here worthwhile I say thank you. Special thanks also go to the respondents for graciously accepting to participate in this study. And to many whose names are not mentioned here, God in his infinite mercies shall not leave you unrewarded.

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**ABSTRACT**

*Every society has its norms and values about sex in marital relationship. Infidelity in marriage is a social issue various society, religion, and age frown at. Married women are known to be chaste and faithful to their marital vows. This practice is gradually waning. This study examined the prevalence and causes of marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North local government area, Enugu State. The study was conducted between November 2017 and May 2018 based on a survey of 400 respondents through the use of multi-stage sampling technique. The information for this study was obtained from the respondents using questionnaires & in-depth interview. The stated research questions formed the basis for data analysis. The data were collated and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software version 20.*

*The findings, among other things, show that majority of the respondents were aware that married women engage in marital infidelity. 77.6% agreed to sexual infidelity as the most common form of infidelity, and 28.5% agreed to economic support as the major reasons why women engage in infidelity through. Religious opposition and customs were found to have a significant influence on the attitude towards marital infidelity in Enugu North local government area. The researcher therefore suggests a need to educate the people on the health challenges and other problems associated with marital infidelity. This should be accompanied by sanctions for defaulters. Economic empowerment of women would go a long way in discouraging marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.*

**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background of the Study**

Marriage is one of the oldest institutions associated with human society. It is one that has repeatedly been emphasized in every society and constitutes the yardstick for the determination of responsibility in the families. Ofoegbu (2002) defined marriage as an arrangement of social structure which results in the establishment of a relationship of a legal customary or religious bond between a man and his wife for the propagation of the family root through procreation and sharing of various types of other acceptable relationship norms. Marriage of some kind is found virtually in every society. But throughout the centuries, marriage has taken many different forms. Understanding of marriage contrasts greatly from culture to culture, some view the institution as endogamous (men were required to marry within their social group, family, clan or tribe), exogamous (marrying outside the geographical region or social group) or polygamous (allowing people (both men and women) to take more than one partner.

Denga (1990) as cited in Yahaya, Esere, Ogunsanmi & Onye (2008) states that marriage is a partnership contract without escape clauses because it connotes a lifelong arrangement where the couple should permanently survive a multitude of demanding situations such as illness, financial constraints and so on. At any given time in human history, a family comes into existence each time a marriage is successfully contracted. The family is the most important primary group and the smallest social unit in any particular society. Family setting is universal because the human society exists or has existed with some form of family organization. Akubue & Okolo, (2008) referred to family as any group of people who interact and communicate with each other such as husband, wife and children in organizational settings. In the Nigeria context, because of the phenomenon of the extended family system, the family is made up of married people, their off springs and immediate kith and kin and other dependents (Onwuasonya, 2006).

From creation, every society has its traditional practices such as loving one’s spouse, having sex only with ones partner among others, which are pronounced during marriage ceremonies are expected of couples to boost the image and self-esteem of their partners. Some partners deviate from these norms and exhibit it outside their marital homes. This has been a source of marital dispute and instability among couples. The negative outcome of this often times impacts the children psychologically and socially (Fernando, 2013). Contemporary society is bedeviled with marital problems which are not in accordance with the standards, norms and values of traditional society.

Marital fidelity has been known not only to keep a family together but also a generation of individuals that respect the sanctity of marriage. People get married with fidelity in mind but infidelity has always been documented to affect almost 80% of marriage around the world. Infidelity in marriage is a social issue various society, religion and age frown at, and as a result stringent measures are placed to curtail this act. In some societies, the penalty could be as stiff as death. However, infidelity strives leaving the people to wonder why it has taken a form of legacy passed from one generation to the other. (Ejaifo, 2012).

Infidelity in marriage is gradually becoming a norm. Female infidelity is the new trend because extra marital sex by men is socially tolerated and in many respects, even socially rewarded. The prevalence of married men’s participation in extra marital sex in Nigeria is well documented (Karanja, 1987; Onusuloye, Caldwell & Caldwell, 1997; Lawoyin & Larsen, 2002; Mitsunaga, Powell, Antonia, Heard, Nathan, Larsen., 2005). A report out of the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University found that for the first time in modern history, women are cheating at nearly the same rate as men. Another study, published in the National Opinion Research center’s 2013 General Social Survey, found that while the percentage of men who admitted to infidelity has held constant over the last two decades, the percentage of wives who reported having affairs rose almost 40 percent.

Before the advent of civilization, married women, no matter the conditions they found themselves never became promiscuous; they remained chaste and faithful to their vows. Cheating among Nigerian women is the new trend, which is abstract and very different to what was in existence two decades ago, when women were faithful, patient and more tolerating (Ejaifo, 2012).

Against this background, this study is aimed at investigating the causes of marital infidelity among women in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

**1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Marital infidelity among women which was a rare phenomenon has apparently become common place today in the Nigerian society. According to a new report by Durex, a condom manufacturing company in 2012, Nigerian women are ranked the most unfaithful in the world with 62 percent.

Infidelity impacts strongly on the functionality and stability of relationship (Drigotas, Safstrom, & Gontlia, 1999; Whisman, Dixon & Johnson, 1997).

John Kester, a sociologist at the University of Lagos reports that infidelity not only hurts the relationship but has an adverse impact on family life, particularly if children are involved. When a mother is having an affair there is a different reaction in children, this is because the mother is still most often considered the focus of the family and of course when the child learns of an affair, he or she is in danger of testing confidence in the inability of marriage and family.

Research on marital infidelity shows that it leads to marital strife leading to divorce, wife battering, prostitution in urban areas, children born of different fathers and the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (National Aids Control Council (NACC), 2007). Marital infidelity has been associated with increased risk of mental health problems, including depression and anxiety (Cano & O’ Leary, 2000).

Marital Infidelity by impacts negatively on the development in any given area due to its effect on people involved. Resources that are made for the development of the family are deviated to cater for extra-marital affairs and the treatment of HIV/AIDS (Kenya Forum, 2013). Infidelity by women could also enhance the spread of sexually transmitted disease (STD) such as gonorrhea, Chlamydia, syphilis, and many others. Reproductive health of the women are most times usually affected, thus resulting to loss of lives by the women or mothers, thereby making their children become orphans, or even school dropouts, thus becoming touts and juvenile deliquents.

Despite its negative effects on the health of their family members and the society at large, it is worrisome to observe that married women still indulge in extramarital affairs. What could be behind this rise? Could it be that married women are lacking some fundamental needs in family relationship which they seek to satisfy from external sources?

It is in view of these concerns that this study is being carried out to find out the prevalence and causes of marital infidelity by women in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

**1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions were put forward to guide the study:

1. What are the patterns of marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L.G.A. of Enugu state?
2. What are the attitudes of people towards marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A. of Enugu State?
3. What are the factors responsible for marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A. of Enugu State?
4. What are the challenges resulting from marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A. of Enugu State?
5. What strategies can be put in place to reduce or address the prevalence of marital infidelity among women in Enugu North L.G.A, of Enugu State?

**1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study was to ascertain the causes of marital infidelity among women in Enugu North L. G. A. of Enugu State.

The specific objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To find out the patterns of marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A, of Enugu State.
2. To identify the attitude of people towards marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A of Enugu State.
3. To ascertain the factors responsible for marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A, of Enugu State.
4. To investigate the challenges resulting from infidelity among married women in Enugu North L. G. A of Enugu State.
5. To proffer plausible solutions/strategies that will help curtail the prevalence of marital infidelity among women in Enugu North L. G. A, of Enugu State.

**1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study has both practical and theoretical significance.

Practically, the study will help to resuscitate marriage and improve marriage relationship by helping married people to keep to their marital vows and have healthy spousal relationships. It will help to create societal awareness on the damages and harm of infidelity, if not properly curbed.

Theoretically, the findings will give first-hand information to religious leaders, marriage counselors, women organizations on the prevalence and causes of marital infidelity among women, with a view to give proper counseling to spouses either before or during the marriage sessions. With the knowledge, the curriculum planners would include issues that bother on family and procreation into subjects like, Sociology, Civic Education, Sexuality Education and Social Studies. Findings of the study will also add to existing knowledge and literature that have addressed the issue of marital infidelity among married women in Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu State and Nigeria at large.

**1.6 Definition of terms**

**Attitude:** It refers to the way we think or view someone or something.

**Couple:** This refers to two people who are married, are living together or having an intimate relationship, as socially approved.

**Divorce:** It is the legal ending of marriage between couples so that husband and wife are free to remarry again.

**Early marriage:** Early marriage is a marriage that occurs before a person reaches the age of consent (18 years). It is also known as child marriage.

**Gender:** It refers to culturally and historically specific concepts of femininity and masculinity. It reflects the power relations between men and women; social construction of sex roles between men and women.

**Infidelity:** It is referred to as cheating or adultery when married. It is a violation of a couple’s assumed or stated contract regarding emotional and or sexual exclusivity.

**Marriage:** In the context of this study, marriage can be seen as the legalizing of a special relationship between a man and a woman to which the society gives its approval. It places each partner under legal and social obligations to the other and to the society.

**Pattern:** A particular way in which something is done, or been organized or happens.

**Prevalence:** It is a term which means being widespread. It tells us about the number of particular events in the community.

**Socio-Economic Factors:** These are conditions that necessitate and sustain the status of individuals in family and community in terms of formal education, occupation, income, health and cultural freedom.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 Review of Relevant Literature**

The review of literature for this study was done under the following sub-headings:

1. Overview of marital infidelity
2. Causes of marital infidelity in Nigeria.
3. Consequences of marital infidelity in Nigeria.
4. Strategies used by society to curb the incidence of marital infidelity.

**2.1.1. An Overview of Marital Infidelity.**

Marital infidelity is defined as sexual behavior outside marriage. Lee (2013) perceives extramarital affair as the violation of rules and relationship norms by one partner, resulting to jealousy and rivalry action which can be sexual or emotional. Glass (2012) furthermore describes extramarital affair as any emotional or sexual intimacy that violates trust. Samel (2012) describes marital infidelity as a state of being unfaithful to a covenant, to an agreement, or to a bond such as marriage. Swenson (2009) explains that infidelity occurs whenever couples engage in sexual relationship with another that violates that sanctity of marriage.

It is pertinent to say that extramarital affair is as old as creation (Fernado, 2008). Bonewell (2012) found out that 41% of spouse who cheat submit to the affair. Extramarital affair is perceived to be a global phenomenon. Hunter (2013) ranked Washington DC first in extramarital affairs in two years for the second time in 2012 with 34,157 people signing up as top faithful Americans. With this data, the Washington DC residents see ‘adultery as a way of life’. In Nigeria, Osewa (2013) reported that second wife syndrome is obsolete but extramarital affair with ‘Aristo’, ‘sugar daddy’, ‘daddy and mama syndrome’ is in vogue. This results in fathering and mothering children from multiple partners. Butcher & Trotter (2012) posits that extramarital behaviors have been one of the social problems resulting from hazardous lifestyle though it has many forms; it deals with all sexual relations outside marriage in every life endeavor.

Swenson (2012) opined that infidelity indicates that there is no effective communication within the marriage. Many types of affair have been documented in literature. Turner (2013) confirmed that the type of affair one is into is defined by the need it meets. The most often practiced is sex affair which is basically for sexual pleasure and does not end in love affairs. The second type is love affairs. This obviously threatens the peace and stability of marriage. Turner (2013) further explains that love affair is an intimate relationship between a married person and someone who is not his or her spouse. Also, cyber affair is an intimate or sexual communication between a married person and someone who is not his or her spouse on the computer and through the internet. It is becoming increasingly prevalent (HenlineLamine, & Howard, 2007).

In Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria, Akinade and Dulaman (2002), as cited in Nwadike (2014) investigated on how sexual contacts outside marriage take place in exchange for money and other material compensation. The research design adapted was descriptive survey. Structured questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. A total of 308 married respondents were interviewed. The result was that many married people have sex outside marriage in exchange for what they don’t have, like getting job and promotion among others.

Voughan (2012) identified one most common form of extramarital affair as office affair. It is a major type of affair because more women are now in the work force and they spend more hours at work with co-workers and even travel on the job. This allows close relationship with the opposite sex. There have also been instances of female lovers having affairs with office men, company driver, house help, gateman or men who are lower in academic attainment. These categories of men can in no way be placed side by side with the husband at home. This also applies to men who develop interest in office cleaner, messenger, secretary, and female office colleague among others.

Both men and women are involved in extramarital affairs. It is believed to be a taboo for women to have extra marital affair in some part of the country in Nigeria. Adebayo (2012) further reported that one third of men and a quarter of women in a study in America have had an extramarital affair.

Extramarital affair takes place in different locations. Rani (2011), Whitbourne & Turner (2013) in separate submissions affirmed that extramarital affairs take place in woman’s home, the man’s home and hotels. Hotel is said to be used as primary meeting place by 80%. Other places include friend’s home, a boat, car park, inside the car, offices, eateries, including restaurants.

Western culture reflects and reinforces the view that love, sex and commitments are strongly related in romantic relationships and sexual exclusively is one of the norms considered integral to relationships encompassing these elements ( Campbell & wright, 2010). This appears to be especially true of marriage. Physical intimacy outside this partnership is viewed as unacceptable by the cultural majority around the world including African cultures, yet research confirms that the occurrences of this behavior are in fact widespread (Allen, Atkins, Baucom, Snyder, Gordon, & Glass, 2005).

Adebayo (2012) frowns at marital infidelity and he is of the opinion that marriage institution is no longer held in high esteem in the contemporary Nigeria society and that infidelity attracts penalties of confessing and dying afterwards. It is in this regard that Hughes (2009) however posits that couples who engage in extramarital affair should be charged to court for adultery. They could be sued by the jilted spouse or stand as correspondents in divorce proceeding.

**2.1.2. Causes of Marital Infidelity in Nigeria**

There are many reasons associated with the decision to be involved in marital infidelity. Among such are the seven reasons pointed out by Huizenga in (2011). These are as follows:

* My marriage made me do it
* I can’t say no to any man.
* I don’t want to say ‘no’ to his or her advances.
* I fell out of love and just love being in love.
* I meant to get back at him or her.
* I need to prove my desirability.
* I don’t want to be close to someone meaning; i can’t stand intimacy with anyone.

Aghoghovia (2011) views extramarital affair as that which is caused by greed, covetousness, indecision, lack of home training, lack of love, inability to tolerate difficult situation, and abject poverty. In the same vein, Direnfeld (2013), affirms that couples enter into marital infidelity due to poverty in marriage.

Amebekar (2009) in another submission said marital infidelity starts when there is a problem between couples. He further explains that it occurs when there is a crack in the wall of marriage, and communication gap is created between couples. Swenson (2012) opined that marital infidelity occurs when there is no effective way to communicate disaffection within the marriage. Cohen (2012) also stated that infidelity in marriage occurs when there is lack of emotional connection between couples due to negative interactions in a relationship.

Certain developmental stages in a marriage, including pregnancy and the months following the birth of a child, are also high risk times for infidelity among couples (Allen &Baucom, 2004; Brown, 1991; Whisman Snyder DK, 2007). Whisman & Synder (2007) suggests that the probability of sexual infidelity was also greater for women who had been sexually abused as children perhaps because childhood sexual abuse is often related to sexual dissatisfaction and sexual difficulties (Finkelhan, Lewis, Smith, 1989; Rumstem, MC Kean &Hons 2001.Beach, Jouriles, &O’leary, (1985) observes that excessive alcohol consumption in men was related to a greater prevalence of marital infidelity involvement, and individuals with higher rates of depression we more likely to engage in extramarital sex. Lung, Waimar, Andrew, Adebayo &Ahonsi, (2008) affirms that extramarital affair among men is also associated with alcohol consumption.

The likelihood of marital infidelity involvement is also related to the degree to which an individual’s job involves touching clients, discussing personal concerns with colleagues or clients, or working alone with co-workers (Treas & Giesen, 2000). Blow & Hartnett, (2007) stated that marital problems and being too older than one’s spouse are also other factors that cause and affect the likelihood of one being involved in marital infidelity.

According to Platt & colleagues (2008), adult children who knew about their father’s infidelity were about also more likely to engage in philandering.

Onwusanya (2006) states that age at marriage, educational level of couples, religious affliction, income, types of marriage contracts, fertility status, and types of family practiced, communication, cultural background, lack of trust, sexual incompatibility, and problems of in-laws, have direct bearing on marital disharmony. Thus often times leading to marital infidelity among couples. In support of the above, Ayanwu & Ofordile (2012) identified materialism, loss of communication, childlessness, sexual intercourse, distance, peer pressure, loss of attraction as responsible for marital infidelity. He went further to explain that when material acquisition and wealth takes precedence in a marriage, it hampers the success of such a relationship. In a similar way, some, people make their choice of a partner on the basis of how much he or she has acquired. The absence of these things might affect a relationship and make a partner unfaithful.

He acknowledges that the birth of children into homes brings pleasure and fulfillment to the couple. It also helps to strengthen the marriage tie; it is the major source of extramarital behavior especially when the couples fail to have children. Whyle (2008) posits that sexual disorder either on the part of the man/woman may lead to marital infidelity. Sexual disorder on the part of the man may be impotence, a situation where he cannot reach erections fully to satisfy his wife’s sexual needs. The woman may be frigid in which the man finds it difficult to penetrate and usually gets away annoyed. With the above, this may lead him or her to engage in marital infidelity. In support of the above, a nine month survey carried out by Kenya Medical Research Institute Scientist Zachary Kwena (2011-2012) on the predictors of extramarital partnership among women, identified that women whose husbands denied them their preferred sex position were more likely to look for satisfaction outside marriage, as were those whose husbands failed to satisfy them.

Also, a situation where the husband or wife is no more physically attracted to each other, the feeling of guilt sets in, thereby making either of the partners to be unfaithful.

According to Gagnon (2001), living apart from each other among married people sometimes lead to marital infidelity. For instance a married man or woman, who lives far away from their spouse as a result of the nature of their jobs, may tend to look around for closer affection. He also identified peer pressure can make one to indulge in marital infidelity, where the man or woman is being pressurized by colleagues or friends into engaging in sexual affairs.

Infidelity could be culturally determined. In the opinion of Weeks, Gambescia & Jenkins (2003) most cultures perceive sex in marriage as sacred and sex outside marriage as a breach of contract and betrayal of spouse. For instance, Americans have equality in sex matters and marital infidelity can lead to divorce. Their culture influences their sexuality (Benokraits, 2005). In Africa, sex is considered sacred and used for the purpose of procreation (Kirwen, 2005). Therefore, infidelity is not tolerated.

**2.1.3. Consequences of Marital Infidelity in Nigeria.**

Research has shown that marital infidelity is not without consequence. One of them is the effect it has on reproductive health of the people involved in it. Meyers (2006) affirms that marital infidelity has deleterious effects on the reproductive health (fertility or conception of children) and consequently, marriages. This is because unsafe sexual liaisons put the involved individuals at risk of HIV/STD and other infectious diseases. Smith (2007) found out that men acquire HIV through having affairs outside marriage and thereby infecting their wives. Those involved in multiple sex partnership hardly care to use condom without the fear of HIV and AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases, once their basic needs are met. A demographic survey conducted in 2014 by the Nigeria National Agency for the Control of AIDS, affirmed that Heterosexual intercourse is the major routes for HIV transmission in Nigeria accounting for over 80% of the infections.

Ogungbadejo (2013) affirms that marital infidelity causes significant damage to the spouse’s image, personal confidence and socio-economic condition at the home front having a deep impact on the attitudes of the family members. In the same vein Schensul, Mekki-Berrada, Natstasi, Singh, Buracasor and Bojko (2000) found out that marital infidelity have impact on peoples personal relationship and also put the other members of the family at risk. The quality of couple relationship is diminished creating difficulties in people’s sexuality and violence that may further exacerbate marital infidelity and risk of infection.

Marital infidelity is a leading cause of divorce which undermines relationship foundation with devastating effects. It is the reason for relationship crisis around the world (Rastogi (2013) &Whisman et al., 2007). Marital infidelity causes unbearable emotional pain and trauma, a blow to self-esteem and breaking of trust. It affects the social life of the people, changes victims’ perception of reality and about everything. Amato and Previti (2003) found out that marital infidelity is the most commonly reported reason for marital instability and divorce as well as the single strongest proximal determinant of divorce. In support of the above, Barr (2013) corroborated this fact that marital infidelity affects both the immediate and extended families. When marital infidelity results to divorce, the divorced spouse may be blamed for the demise of the other spouse and the damage of the children. Perhaps this is the reason why Quatanani (2013) opined that an extramarital affair is not acceptable for both male and female because it is a shameful act. It destroys the family, breaks the bond of relationship and destabilizes the home.

According to Mbiti (2008) the consequences of marital infidelity include family instability, which is a delicate issue in marital relationship. It is delicate in the sense that couples no longer live together as one. The marriage may be dissolved for life if not properly taken care of and this usually poses a lot of problems for both the couple and their children. When a married man or woman indulges in marital infidelity, responsibilities meant for two people are now taken over by one resulting to poor children upbringing. In a similar way, Motherstil (2005) opines that extramarital affairs break up marriages and rubs children of quality life because of financial resources. This also affects family finances because the money meant for the whole family is squandered on the woman or the man outside as the case may be.

Delvling (2013) affirmed that the psychological effect of extramarital affair are intense guilt or depression, deep distress in the betrayed partner, violence, break-up in marriage and unhappiness for the children of the people involved. Horniz (2001), Cano &O’leary (2000), Bird, Butler & Fife (2007) viewed that marital infidelity has increased the risk of a major depressive illness episode; a period characterized by the symptoms of major depressive disorder for a longer period of time, when discovered. This is a condition very common in psychiatric wards, clinics, and health, social work settings. Huizenga (2005) nevertheless explains that marital infidelity is powerful and costly as it affects families, friends, colleagues, and employers. It may also be an opportunity to design one’s life and love relationship in ways that creates honor, joy, and true intimacy.

**2.1.4. Strategies that may be used by the Society to curb the Incidence of Marital Infidelity.**

Infidelity just like any form of behavior is a problem that can be mitigated. One group of studies on infidelity refers to treatments as a way of helping individuals stop their extramarital affairs. From a clinical stand point, Atkins, Yi, & Baucom (2005) observed that it may be helpful for couples to understand betrayal during a treatment process not in one time event. They found that unfaithful couples show improvement during treatment more than faithful couples. According to Bahareh (2011) treatment model of infidelity is based on a multi-dimensional process of apology and forgiveness in which spouse work towards regaining trust through specific tasks. The larger goals of treatment include establishing a safe therapeutic environment, understanding the meaning of infidelity, creating goodwill/ hope and deciding whether to stay married or separate (Gordon & Baucom 1999; Glass, 2002). This is because therapy provides an opportunity for clients to express their thoughts and feelings about the affair in a constructive way, with an emphasis on active listening and empathic understanding. Therapy generally facilitates communication between partners and research has shown that couples who are able to discuss the infidelity in depth are less likely to separate or divorce (Vaughan, 2002).

Sex is identified as one of the causes of marital infidelity in the Nigerian society. Taking each other for granted is a major mistake married people often make. Nothing is more potent and distortive than sex in marriage. It is in this regard that Omartaan (2007) advises that couples should work on building a healthy sexual life together. Klang (2003) affirmed that when it comes to indulging in different sex positions, the wife or husband should not hesitate and be ready to experiment and make each other feel happy. They also opined that married people should use fantasy to help each other revitalize their sex life by reviewing their past activities together, reading sex stories and watching sex videos that increases stimulation and many lead to satisfaction.

Ibeh, Obidoa & Okene (2013) in their study identified the use of family counselors, listening carefully and speaking tactfully to spouse and funds management among others as resolution for resolving marital disharmony, which often could lead to marital infidelity. Similarly, Taiwo, Okon & Eze (2006) recommended funds management technique that would be taught to the couples to enable them develop positive trust towards each other in terms of how to manage funds without problems. Makinde (2004) had earlier advocated for adequate planning and budgeting of family by the couples.

According to Agbe (1998) counseling for marriage and in marriage should be given to couples to avoid marital problems such as love, genotype, sex and communication among others. Also, Abdul & Yusuf (2013) in their study identified effective communication, resourcefulness of family members and marital counseling as the most appropriate strategies for resolution of marital stability.

According to D’souza (2011) healthy arguments are good, but it should not end up in calling the neighbors. If any doubt lingers in one’s mind, it should be brought to each other’s notice and rectified with new dimension. To him, mistakes or doubts should not be repeated for unworthy reasons. Couples should not bring up marital matters to the notice of parents, neighbors or friends. They should try to solve any big problems with love and understanding.

Butler & Gardner (2003); Davis & Butler (2004) suggest therapist- coached couple interactions as a strategy to curbing marital infidelity. This is the process of sharing emotions in non- attacking and non- accusatory language, accompanied by empathic listening and reflecting, often results in mutual softening and increased intimacy between partners safety and intimacy can also be enhanced through the use of Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) for couples (Johnson, 2004; Johnson & Green man, 2006). EFT provides therapists with guidelines and effective interventions to help clients learn to identify and express their primary emotions (e.g. hurt, sadness, fear, etc.) rather than secondary emotions such as anger or resentment, feeling of safety and security in the relationship may grow as couples are encouraged to share vulnerable primary emotions with each other, rather than hostile secondary emotions that tend to create emotional distance.

**2.2. Review of Related Theories.**

**2.2.1. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory**

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is a theory proposed by Abraham Maslow in the year 1943. Maslow stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs and that some needs take precedence over others. The most basic need is for physical survival. Until this need is met, the next level of need is activated (Newman & Newman 2012). Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is often portrayed in the shape of a pyramid with the largest, most fundamental needs at the bottom and the need for self-actualization and self-transcendence at the top. Maslow identified five types of needs: physiological, safety, belongingness, love, esteem, and self- actualization needs to describe the patterns that human needs generally move through.

Maslow identified the physiological needs as the basic need for human survival. These needs are food, water, sleep and sex among others. They are thought to be the most important, they should be met first. When these basic needs are lacked in a marriage, it usually leads to women looking for those things outside her home. For instance sex, in every marital union, is highly important, but when deprived women are forced to seek solution elsewhere.

**Safety needs**- in the family, safety and security has to be taken care of, this involves elimination of factors that threaten the body or life such as personal security, financial security, health and well-being and safety not only against accident, but illness and their adverse impact. When these safety and security needs are not reached, there is bound to be marital infidelity.

**Love and belonging**- After physiological and safety needs are fulfilled; the third level of human needs is interpersonal. In this, married people should have feelings for themselves and children for smooth running of the family.

**Esteem**- All humans have a need to feel respected and recognized. When married people respect each other, it creates a feeling of love and security. Where this is lacking, the one concerned will move outside where he or she will be respected.

**Self- actualization**- This Level of need refers to what a person’s full potential is and the realization of that potential. Maslow describes this level as the desire to accomplish everything that can be achieved. In this way, married people ought to work hard so as to see that all the full potentials expected in their marriage are realized.

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs has five layers of the pyramid. When these needs are not met in marriage, marital infidelity sets in. Maslow’s theory suggests that the most basic needs must be met before the individual will strongly desire the secondary or higher level needs.

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs theory does not account for differences in the cultural needs of societies and their unique social and intellectual needs as a factor responsible for marital infidelity. People have different cultural backgrounds and thus their needs or ideas differ. Societal needs at a particular time as well, factors such as recession and war could also trigger infidelity. Maslow failed to envisage that the ranking of needs varies with age and does not appear to be the same across all age groups.

**2.2.2. Differential Association Theory**

Differential Association Theory was propounded by Edwin Sutherland (1947). The fundamental assumption of this theory is that deviant behaviours are learned in the same way religion, politics and social behaviours are learned. He proposes that through interaction with others, individuals learn the values, attitudes, techniques, and motives for criminal behavior. People show deviant behaviors because the number of their deviant contacts is more than their non-deviant contacts.

His theory postulates that marital infidelity occurs in marriage in many homes simply because of frequent contacts with people who indulge in such act. The answer to marital infidelity is found by looking at those closest to us - Our families or close friends etc. If our families or close friends do not indulge in bad behaviors, then we are likely to be the same; on the other hand, if our families participate in bad activities, then we are likely to follow the lead. Edwin Sutherland emphasizes that the primary reference group is that of the nuclear family, which the individual lives and grows up with. It is believed that these interactions formulate the individuals understanding of societal norms and values.

The major supposition of this approach is that marital infidelity could be avoided if couples watch out for the kind of people they associate and interact with. Bad associates such as friends who are addicted to extramarital behaviors, alcoholism, and other anti-social behaviours should be completely cut off to avoid been influenced. This theory further states that priority and intensity are factors that intensify this process. That is, if one is exposed at an early age to attitude and values (which he called definition) favourable to deviant behavior, the greater the likelihood that the person will become deviant. Impliedly, married women who were exposed to sexual permissiveness and promiscuity at youthful age are more likely to indulge in marital infidelity having seen and accepted it as a norm.

However, this theory has been criticized on the basis of its failure to consider individual free will and differences. That is, not all marital infidelity results from the influence of bad associations, as individuals have freedom to choose what they believe is best for them to do, differently from what others might be doing. People can be independent, rational and individually motivated. Nettler (1974) also stated that Sutherland’s theory fails to accounts for the origin of indiscriminate sexual behavior (infidelity) among married couples.

**2.2.3 Structural Functionalism Theory**

The functionalist theory is based largely on the works of Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton. This perspective equates the society to an organism with different parts, each part performing different functions to maintain the effective functioning of the whole system. It also assumes that society has needs which must be achieved before the society can function effectively (Haralambos & Holborn, 2013). The theory thus, perceives the family aspect of a society as a system of interconnected parts that work together in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole.

Marital infidelity among women serves an important purpose in the family. This is because most women engage in such behaviors for the purpose of helping to maintain stability and solidarity in the family. Most women engage in infidelity as a cover up for the problems or lapses they experience in their homes. After marriage some women discover that their husbands are impotent or have weak erections. In order to preserve their marital vows and also not to subject their husbands to humiliations by the society they indulge into such acts, even with the consent of their husbands.

A marriage without children is usually looked down upon or disregarded. Children are birthed for the sake of posterity, when a woman realizes he cannot father a child or cannot satisfy a woman, with or without his consent, even in pain, just for the sake of stability and peace he has no option but to let go and tolerate the woman’s infidelity. Reasons for infidelity among women could also be seen in the aspect of financial crisis in the home. Some women go as far as trading their bodies for money so as to put food on the tables of her family members in order to bring harmony in the home. In other words, functionalists consider infidelity among married women necessary, to maintain a state of equilibrium and stability in the home.

A criticism of this theory is that not all homes or marriages experience impotency or financial crisis, yet some women still engage in marital infidelity.

**2.2.4 Social Conflict Theory**

Karl Marx is a major proponent of the conflict theory. The conflict perspectives assumes that social behavior is best understood in terms of tension between groups over power or the allocation of resources including money and access to other services (Haralambos & Holborn, 2013).

Conflict theorists view marriage as a class in society, with one of the group oppressing the other. Conflict theorists view the rising rate of infidelity among women as resulting from conflict between husband and wives. This could be traced to women finally gaining access to jobs and money that were formerly granted to men for almost ever, men have dominated women, and women had little alternatives other than to accept their exploitations- such as limited access to finance, emotional and psychological trauma and many others.

As the world became more industrialized, women became educated and started earning. Most often their jobs take them away from their home daily, weekly, or even monthly. During this period they come in contact with so many opposite admirers, who provide respect, love, care and even money that they have been longing for, thud bringing about marital infidelity. The theorist therefore assumed that the source of infidelity among women in the society is the scarcity of the resources people requires e.g. prestige, power, wealth etc.

The conflict theorists did not consider the fact that not all homes or marriages experience a lot of conflicts because of the advancement of women and not all women are fighting to gain power. It also fails to recognize the power of love or bonding. It also assumes that all differences in marriage lead to conflict.

**2.3 Theoretical Framework**

Maslow’s hierarchy of Needs theory and functionalist theory are adopted as the theoretical framework for this study.

Maslow’s theory of needs portrays the hierarchy of needs, ranging from physiological at the base of the pyramid to self-need at the apex (peak). Marriage structure is built on needs which ought to be fulfilled for the family to function properly. When men fail to provide the basic necessities of life for their wives, or fail to show them love and sense of belonging, or defend them from attacks of in-law and the like, this pushes the women outside, into the hands of other men where they will find fulfillment, pleasure and safety.

The structural functionalism theory centers on the function, values, institution and togetherness of the parts of a system in achieving their desired goals. The family as a social institution has been assigned the role of bearing and raising children for the continuity of the society, (sex allows all species to reproduce). Whereby the husband in a marriage lacks the biological capacity of making his wife pregnant, due to impotency, marital infidelity on the part of the wife helps the woman to bear and raise children in the name of the man as expected of them by the society, thereby achieving the desired goals of having new members of the society (Nwadike, 2014). Thus, marital infidelity helps to cover the shame of the man (husband) in the eyes of the wider society, as the family continues to fulfill its reproductive function.

**2.4 Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses are raised for the study;

1. HI: Women who marry early are more likely to engage in marital

infidelity than women who did not marry early.

2. HI: Women who engage in distant relationship are more likely to engage in marital infidelity than who did not.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 Research Design**

The research design used in this study is the cross sectional survey.

**3.2 Area of the Study**

This study was conducted in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. The local government area is made up of seven wards which include:

1. Iva-Valley ward
2. G.R.A Ward
3. New Haven Ward
4. Asata Township Ward
5. Ogbete Ward
6. Ogui New Layout Ward
7. Independence Layout Ward

It is one of the federally recognized local government areas in Enugu state. Its heads quarter is in the city of Enugu. It is nearby to Enugu and Uwani and has an elevation 0f 165 meters and also an area of 106km2. The Local Government Area is an Agrarian community where majority of its inhabitants are dependent on both subsistence and commercial agriculture. Their agricultural produce include: yam, cassava, green vegetables, orange, mangoes, avocado, corn, cucumber etc. There are also many people in other works of life such as those in private sector, business, civil servants etc.

The population is characterized by both single and married persons. The researcher chose this area because it possess all the characteristics of different family settings and is not spared from the predicament of marital infidelity which is also on a high increase in the area and also because she has been part of this community and as such more conversant with the terrains and social structure.

**3.3 Scope of the Study**

The scope of the research was limited to women who are legally married and persons residing in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

**3.4 Population of the Study**

The population of this study is 321, 510. This is the projected population of Enugu North Local Government Area as at 2015 (National Population Commission, Enugu State (2015).

**3.5 Sample Size**

In this study Yamane (1967) formula was used to determine the sample size of the study. The formula is expressed thus:

n = 

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Population

e = Level of Precision

Thus N = 321,510

e = 0.05

I = Unity (Constant).

n = 

n = 

n = 399.5 or approximately

n = 400

Thus, the sample size is 400

**3.6 Sampling Techniques**

This multi-stage sampling was adopted for this study. First the use of slips of paper of random sampling with replacement was used to select five (5) out of the seven council wards. They are Iva-valley ward, G.R.A ward, Asata ward, Ogbete ward and Ogui New Layout ward.

Proportionate stratified random sampling method was adopted to sample eighty (80) persons from each of the five council wards selected. A total sample of 400 respondents was drawn. This sampling procedure was adopted by the researcher because it allows greater representation as elements are drawn randomly from each structure in such a way that reflect the relative proportion of the strata(Ndagi 1999).

**Wards Population**

Iva-Valley 19, 510

G.R.A 43, 061

Asata 47,957

Ogbete 57,110

Ogui 90, 599

Total 258, 260

Sample size of each Ward

x sum of sample

Iva-Valley = x 400 = 30

G.R.A = x = 67

Asata =  = 74

Ogbete = 57,110 × 400 = 88

258,260 1

Ogui = 90,599 × 400

258,260 1 = 140

The researcher thereafter used accidental sampling method to get to the respondents in each chosen area.

**3.7 Instruments for Data Collection**

The instruments used for the collection of data from respondents are the questionnaires and the interview. It is divided into two parts, section ‘A’ and Section ‘B’. The section A deals with the personal data of the respondents and is while section B is concerned with substantive issues of the research.

The researcher also interviewed a marriage counselor and a religious leader who represented the seven wards. It was a face to face interaction and was carried out in sections.

**3.8 Method of Data Collection**

To ensure uniformity in the interpretation of concepts and recording of responses, the questionnaires were administered face-to-face in the morning to the respondents and collected in the evening. The aid of three research assistants was used after giving them proper orientation. These assistants were members of the community so they could assist in the interpretations of the contents in case of language barriers.

The interview was conducted in the evening as scheduled by the interviewees.

**3.9 Method of Data Analysis**

The questionnaire data were computer processed and analyzed using SPSS software programme version 20. Simple statistics were used to describe the main characteristics of the study participants for easy comprehension and clarification. The t-test was used to test the hypotheses.

The qualitative data from the in-depth interview were analyzed using the descriptive method of qualitative data.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**

**4.1 Introduction**

Out of the 400 questionnaires distributed to the respondents, 340(85%) questionnaires were properly filled, while the researcher could not recover 60 (15%) copies due to loss and improper completion of the questionnaires. The researcher had to draw conclusion on the presentation and analysis based on 340 respondents.

**4.2. Socio-demographic Data**

In this section the personal data of respondents are presented.

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents’ according to Sex**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | Male | 144 | 42.7 |
| Female | 195 | 57.4 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Result of table 1 on the distribution of respondents based on sex indicates that out of three hundred and forty (340) respondent that participated in the study, one hundred and forty four (144) were males representing 42.7%, while one hundred and ninety five were females (195) representing 57.4%.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents according to Age of Last Birthday**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age of Respondents** | | **Frequency** | **Percent** |
|  | 16 - 23 | 31 | 9.1 |
| 24 - 31 | 123 | 36.2 |
| 32 - 39 | 67 | 19.7 |
| 40 - 47 | 60 | 17.6 |
| 48 - 55 | 44 | 12.9 |
| 56 - 63 | 11 | 3.2 |
| 64 & above | 4 | 1.2 |
| **Total** | **340** | **100.0** |

Result of table 2 shows that respondent’s ages ranged from 16 to 69 years, with a mean age of 35.41 (appendix). Out of the 340 respondents, respondents with age of 40 (7.9%) were the highest in number followed by respondents with the age of 27 years (6.5%). While respondents with ages 17, 46, 56, 57, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, and 69 years (.3% each) were least in number.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents’ according to Marital Status**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | Single | 114 | 33.5 |
| Married | 197 | 57.9 |
| Divorced | 8 | 2.4 |
| Separated | 8 | 2.4 |
| Wdowed | 13 | 3.8 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Table 3 result indicates that out of the 340 respondents, 114 (33.5%) are single, 197 (57.9%) are married, 8 (2.4%) are divorced, 8 (2.4) are separated andthe rest 13 (3.8%) are widows.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents’ according to Educational Qualification**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Educational Qualification | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | No formal education | 5 | 1.5 |
| primary education | 10 | 2.9 |
| secondary education | 63 | 18.5 |
| tertiary education | 254 | 74.7 |
| others specify | 8 | 2.4 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Table 4 result indicates that out of the 340 respondents, 5 (1.5%) had no education, 10 (2.9%) hold First School Leaving Certificate, 63 (18.5%) hold SSCE, 254 (74.7%) hold tertiary degree, while 8 (2.4%) hold degree.

**Table 5: Distribution of Respondents’ according to Religion**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Religious Affiliation | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | Christian | 319 | 93.8 |
| Islam | 13 | 3.8 |
| ATR | 7 | 2.1 |
| Others specify | 1 | .3 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Table 4 result indicates that out of the 340 respondents, 319 (93.8%) of them are Christians, 13 (3.8%) are Muslims; 7 (2.1%) belong to African Traditional Religion, while only 1 (.3%) belong to other religion. The findings from the interview conducted also agreed to Christianity as the dominant religion.

**4.3: Analysis of the Research Questions**

**Research Question 1**

What are the patterns of infidelity among married women in Enugu-North L.G.A? Item 10 in the questionnaire sought to answer this question.

**Table 6: Respondents Responses on patterns of infidelity among married women**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | sexual affair | 264 | 77.6 |
| love affair | 45 | 13.2 |
| office affair | 28 | 8.2 |
| others specify | 3 | .9 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Result of table 6 above shows that out of 340 respondents, 264 respondents representing 77.6% reported that sexual affair is the main pattern of infidelity among married women in Enugu-North LGA. This is followed by 45 (13.2%) who reported that it is love affair. But 28 (8.2%) reported that it is office affair; while 3 (.3%) gave other reasons.

**Research Question 2:** What are the attitudes towards marital infidelity among women in Enugu-North L.G.A?

Item 9 in the questionnaire sought to answer this question

**Table 7: Respondents Responses on attitude towards marital infidelity among women**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | .00 | 62 | 18.2 |
| Extremely Low | 18 | 5.3 |
| Very Low | 44 | 12.9 |
| Moderately Low | 37 | 10.9 |
| A little Low | 39 | 11.5 |
| Low | 33 | 9.7 |
| High | 30 | 8.8 |
| A little High | 22 | 6.5 |
| Moderately High | 29 | 8.5 |
| Very High | 10 | 2.9 |
| Extremely High | 16 | 4.7 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Table 7 result above shows that out of 340 respondents, 18 (5.3%) indicated that attitude towards marital infidelity is extremely low; 44 (12.9%) indicated it is very low; 37 (10.9%) indicated it is moderately low; 39 (11.5%) indicated it is a little low; 33 (9.7%) indicated low. But 16 (4.7%) indicated that attitude towards marital infidelity is extremely high; 10 (2.9%) indicated that it is very high; 29 (8.5%) indicated that it is moderately high; 22 (6.5%) indicated that it is a little high; 30 (8.8%) indicated that is high; while 66 (18.2%) failed to indicate the attitude. This finding implies that marital infidelity truly exists among women in Enugu-North. This was also supported by the findings of the qualitative data, that marital infidelity among married women truly exists and on the increase. One of the interviewees declared that “women who indulge in marital infidelity are not allowed to hold any position in church”.

**Research Question 3:** What are the factors responsible for marital infidelity among women in Enugu-North L.G.A? Item 11 on the questionnaire sought to answer this question

**Table 8: Respondents responses on factors responsible for marital infidelity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | childlessness in marriage | 35 | 10.3 |
| couples living apart because of work | 50 | 14.7 |
| economic support | 97 | 28.5 |
| denial of sex by their spouse | 64 | 18.8 |
| marrying at a very tender age | 21 | 6.2 |
| revenge husband's waywardness | 31 | 9.1 |
| others specify | 42 | 12.4 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Table 8 result above shows that out of 340 respondents, 35 (10.3%) indicated that childlessness is the major factor responsible for marital infidelity; 50 (14.7%) indicated it is couples living part because of work; 97 (28.5%) indicated it is economic support; 64 (18.8%) indicated it is denial of sex by spouse; 21 (6.2%) indicated it is marrying at a very tender age; 31 (9.2%) indicated it is revenge to husband’s waywardness; while 42 (12.4%) indicated other reasons. Therefore, the finding implies that economic support is main cause of marital infidelity among women. The above was also supported by the findings of the qualitative data, the two respondents agreed to economic support as the main cause of marital infidelity. The clergy during the in-depth interview revealed that sex outside marriage by women is caused by economic reasons, including the bid to secure job opportunity, as well as the need to keep body and soul together especially when their spouse is living far apart”.

**Research Question 4:** What are the challenges resulting from marital infidelity among women in Enugu-North L.G.A?

**Table 9: Respondents responses on the challenges resulting from marital infidelity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | separation/divorce | 213 | 62.6 |
| domestic violence | 54 | 15.9 |
| Stigmatization | 41 | 12.1 |
| Death | 22 | 6.5 |
| others specify | 10 | 2.9 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Result of data obtained from the respondents in table 8 above indicates that out of 340 respondents used for the study, 213 (62.6%) indicated that separation/divorce is a challenge resulting from marital infidelity among women; 54 (15.9%) indicated domestic violence as a challenge; 41 (12.1%) indicated stigmatization as a challenge; 22 (6.5%) indicated death as a challenge; while 10 (2.9%) indicated other challenges. Therefore the study implies that divorce or separation is a challenge resulting from marital infidelity among married women. “Marital infidelity leads the husbands to drunkenness, and brings about negligence and waywardness of the children”.

**Research Question 5:** What strategies can be put in place to reduce the prevalence of marital infidelity among women in Enugu-North L.G.A? Item 20 0n the questionnaire sought to answer this question

**Table 10: Respondents responses on strategies to reduce marital infidelity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|  | oath taking/swearing | 169 | 49.7 |
| banishment from community | 38 | 11.2 |
| involvement of elders or chief of the community | 84 | 24.7 |
| others specify | 49 | 14.4 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 |

Result of data obtained from the respondents in table 10 above indicates that out of 340 respondents used for the study, 169 (49.7%) indicated that oath taking/swearing as a strategy for reducing marital infidelity among women; 36 (10.7%) indicated banishment from community as a strategy; 84 (24.7%) indicated involvement of elders or chiefs of the community as a strategy; 49 (14.4%) indicated other challenges; while 2 (.6%) respondents failed to indicate any strategy. According to this finding, oath taking/swearing is a major strategy used to reduce marital infidelity. The findings of the interview conducted, agreed that lack of knowledge was the reason why infidelity is prevalent, and only when information on the dangers of infidelity is spread before it could be reduced.

**4.4 Test of Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis 1:**

**H1:** Women who marry early are more likely to engage in marital infidelity than women who did not marry early.

**Table 11: Respondent responses on relationship between early marriage and infidelity**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
| Women who marry early and women who did not marry early | 340 | 3.7265 | 1.80916 | .09812 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Test** | | | | | | |
|  | Test Value = 0 | | | | | |
| T | Df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| Lower | Upper |
| Women who marry early and women who did not marry early | 37.981 | 339 | .000 | 3.72647 | 3.5335 | 3.9195 |

One sample t test was conducted to test the first hypothesis. Result of the one sample t- test indicated that the sample mean of 3.72 (SD = 1.81) in respondent’s responses was significant, t (339) = 37.98, *p < .001*. The 95% confidence interval ranged from 3.53 to 3.92. The first hypothesis for the study that women who marry early are more likely to engage in marital infidelity than women who did not marry early was therefore accepted. This finding implies that there is a clear significant difference in the rate women who marry early and women who did not marry engage in marital infidelity. Hence, women who marry early tend to engage more in marital infidelity.

**Hypothesis 2:** Women who engage in distant relationship are more likely to engage in marital infidelity than women who did not.

**Table 12: Are women who engage in distant relationship more likely to engage in marital infidelity than women who do not?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Statistics** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | N | Mean | | | | Std. Deviation | | | Std. Error Mean | |
| Women who engage in distant relationship and women who did no | 340 | 3.7265 | | | | 1.80916 | | | .09812 | |
| **One-Sample Test** | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | Test Value = 0 | | | | | | | | |
| T | Df | Sig. (2-tailed) | | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | | | |
| Lower | | Upper | |
| Women who engage in distant relationship and women who did not | | | 37.981 | 339 | .000 | | 3.72647 | 3.5335 | | 3.9195 | |

One sample t test was equally conducted to test the second hypothesis for the study. Similar to the result of the first hypothesis, one sample t test result indicated that the sample mean of 3.73 (SD = 1.81) in respondent’s responses was significant, t (339) = 37.98, *p < .001*. The 95% confidence interval ranged from 3.53 to 3.92. The second hypothesis that Women who engage in distant relationship are more likely to engage in marital infidelity than women who did not was therefore accepted. This finding implies that distance is a factor in marriage relationship that could cause marital infidelity; and that women in distant relationship tend to engage in marital infidelity more than women who are not in distant relationship.

**4.5 Discussion of Findings**

This research work revealed a number of findings. First, it sought answers to patterns of marital infidelity married women engage in; it was observed that in Enugu North, there has been a high increase of sexual affair within the population caused by economic challenges. In the bid to take care of the basic necessities of life, women now indulge in extra-marital affairs. This is in support of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory which identified the physiological needs (food, water, shelter) as the basic need for human survival. These needs are to be met for the next level of need to be met. People, including women, go out of their way to have these needs met, of which marital infidelity is one of them.

The study observed that the society still frowns at anyone who indulges in marital infidelity; it was not religiously and socially tolerated. This is because majority of the respondents are Christians and it is against their beliefs and societal norms. Furthermore, the study sought answers to the factors responsible for marital infidelity and was observed that economic support was the major cause and followed by many other factors. This is because of financial challenges faced by women, in order to support and care for the family. This has been explained with the Structural Functionalism theory.

More so, the study revealed the challenges resulting from infidelity. It was discovered that most men indulge in negative behavior such as heavy drinking because of infidelity engaged by married women. This affects the children greatly as most of them suffer negligence in every area of their lives given the absence or unavailability of their mother to attend to their physical, emotional, social, and academic needs. To guide against this challenge, plausible solutions such as swearing to oath were recommended as a strategy as well as mass enlightenment on the health and social challenges of engaging in such act.

Furthermore, it was observed that there is a significant difference between women who marry early and marital infidelity. This implies that the time at which a woman marries does necessarily lead to marital infidelity. Women who married early tend to be more promiscuous and unfaithful to their marital vows given their lack of emotional exposure before marriage.

The study also found a significant difference between women who engage in distant relationship and women who did not engage in it. This is because when couples stay apart as a result of work or any other reason, it becomes practically impossible to satisfy the sexual needs of one’s partner knowing that sex has a strong symbol and influence in the sustenance of marriage. When this occurs, the significant others, around the partner, who indulge in extra-marital affairs may lure and encourage them to satisfy their sexual needs elsewhere. This is in agreement with the Differential Association theory.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 Summary of Research Findings**

The findings in this study are summarized as follows;

i) Marital infidelity is now common among women in Enugu North Local Government Area.

ii) Sexual affair is the most common pattern of infidelity married women engaged in.

iii) Marital infidelity among women is caused by economic challenges, as well as separation of spouses by reason of the man’s work.

iv) Religious beliefs and teachings are against marital infidelity; hence, people criticize such act.

v) The children of the women who engage in marital infidelity are mostly affected because of their negligence towards them.

vi) Marital infidelity among women leads their husbands to negative behaviour such as heavy drinking, late night keeping, and early death.

vii) Marital infidelity among women can be reduced by swearing of oath, and enlightenment of its consequences.

viii) There is a significant difference between women who marry early and marital infidelity. Thus, age at marriage has influence on marital faithfulness.

**5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the above findings, the researcher therefore concludes that married women who engage in infidelity do so because of sexual benefits (satisfying their sexual urge) as well as for economic support. Marital infidelity is not religiously and culturally tolerated in the local government area. Thus, anyone who engages in marital infidelity brings shame and disgrace to herself, spouse, children and the entire family, in addition to other consequences associated with marital infidelity.

**5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

i) Professional counselors through counseling Association of Nigeria should organize enlightenment programs through the mass media on various factors responsible for extramarital affairs so that married couples and youngsters could learn and adjust extensively to sexual obligations and challenges that are attached to marital infidelity.

ii) The government in collaboration with National Agency for the control of AIDS (NACA) should announce regularly through radio, television and newspaper the increasing rate of venereal diseases due to marital infidelity in Enugu North L. G. A.

iii) Local community leaders, NGOs, women group should educate the community members on the negative implication of gender discrimination in Enugu North L. G. A. This would help men and women shun away from the retrogressing primitive cultural practices that demean women, promote infidelity among men and treat women as the weaker sex.

iv) Employment opportunities should be created by government agencies or NGOs for married women to eradicate poverty in the home.

v) Couples should endeavour to live together at all times irrespective of the type of job they do. Where one is a public servant, transfers should be made in consideration of his/her partner.

vi) Families should inculcate in their children the right norms and values – chastity, faithfulness, patience, tolerance, marital stability - even as the adults live it out.

**5.4 Limitations of the Study**

In the course of undertaking this study, the researcher experienced some limitations:

Firstly, because of the size of the population the researcher couldn’t reach out to everyone to get substantive information.

Secondly, on the part of the respondents, many of them were afraid of exposing their marital matters and status because they were not fully convinced that their confidentiality would be maintained. This hindered the collection of sincere opinions from the respondents. Thirdly, some of the respondents could not read nor write, this made the researcher spend more time than expected in the sharing of the questionnaire which hindered the progress of the research. Some of them even refused to collect the questionnaire and this created more work for the researcher to look for more respondents in order to complete the sample size. Despite the challenges the exercise was reasonably successful

.

**5.5 Suggestions for Further Research**

The researcher suggests that further research should be carried out in this area:

Awareness of health risks associated with extra martial behaviors among married people.

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**APPENDIX I**

**INTRODUCTORY LETTER**

Department of Sociology/Psychology,

Godfrey Okoye University,

Ugwuomu- Nike, Enugu,

Enugu state.

April, 2018

Dear Respondent,

I am a final year student of the above mentioned department and institute. I am carrying out a research on “Marital Infidelity among Married Women in Enugu North Local Government Area in Enugu State”.

You have been selected as one of the respondents for the study and would like to obtain your views on the issues indicated in the questionnaire. I will be glad if you would assist in this study by supplying responses to the questions as they apply to you as there is no right or wrong answer.

Please be assured that your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality, and will be used purely for research purpose.

Yours faithfully,

**-------------------------------**

**Idoko Lauretta Chinenye**

**Researcher**

**APPENDIX II**

**QUESTIONNIARE**

**INSTRUCTION**

Please tick ( √ ) where applicable to you.

**SECTION A - PERSONAL DATA**

1. Sex: a. Male b. Female

2. Age at last birthday \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Religious affiliation: a. Christianity b. Islam

c. African Traditional Religion d. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Marital status: a. Single b. Married c. Divorced

d. Separated e. Widowed

5. Occupation: a. Civil servant b. Business owner

c. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Educational status: a. No formal Education b. Primary Education

c. Secondary education d. Tertiary education

e. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B**

7. Marital unfaithfulness is best understood as: a. Having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

b. Admiring and having strong likeness for someone of opposite sex that is not married to you c. Being emotionally close to someone that is not your partner even without sexual intimacy d. Any other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Has there been any woman in your area that is unfaithful to her husband?

1. Yes No

9. On a scale of 10, how would you rate the occurrence of marital unfaithfulness of women in your area? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Which is the most common form of unfaithfulness married women engage in?

1. Sexual affair b. Love affair c. Office affair

d. others (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. What are some of the reasons why married women may have sex with persons who are not their partners? a. Childlessness in marriage b. Couples living apart because of work

c. Economic support d. Denial of sex by their spouse

e. Marrying at a very tender age f. Revenge husband’s waywardness

g. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you support women to cheat on their husbands?

1. Yes b. No

13. Please state your reason(s) for your response in item 12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. How are unfaithful married women treated in your community? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. Is it the same treatment given to married men who cheat on their wives? a. Yes b. No

16. Who is mostly affected in the family when a woman is cheating on her husband? a. The woman b. The Husband c.The Children d.Her Father’s family e. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17. Please, explain how the person is affected, and why. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18. What is the consequence of cheating in marriage by a woman in this present day and time? a. Separation/ divorce b. Domestic Violence c. Stigmatization

d. Death e. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

19. Are there strategies in place to check or reduce the cases of unfaithfulness among women in Enugu North L.G.A? a. Yes b. No

20. What are the cultural strategies that are used to reduce unfaithfulness among women in your community? a. Oath taking / swearing b. Banishment from community c. Involvement of elders or chiefs of the community. d. Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX III**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

Study Location \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In-depth Interview Group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Guide**

1. Introduction and Warm-up
2. Assurance of Confidentiality
3. Permission to record discussion
4. Opening remark

**General Introduction**

1. Tell me about the family setting in this community.
2. What is the predominant religion here?
3. What is the pattern nature of marriage and marriage institution in this community?
4. What is the role of tradition in the people’s life?
5. What is the predominant occupation of adult males and females respectively in this community?

**CULTURE/MARRIAGE INFIDELITY AMONG WOMEN**

1. At work age are men and women expected to get married respectively?
2. What necessitates a female being given out in marriage?
3. When can marital infidelity be said to have taken place?
4. What are some of the reasons for marital infidelity amongst men and women respectively?

**Forms of Infidelity that you know**

1. Is there any form of infidelity that is acceptable? Why?
2. What are the consequences of marital infidelity on
   1. The Perpetrator (women in particular)
   2. The Partner
   3. The Children/family

**How do People react to married person (especially woman) involved in marital infidelity?**

1. Where marital infidelity has occurred and found out, how is it resolved?
2. What can be done to ensure decrease or non-occurrence of marital infidelity?

**APPENDIX IV**

**Frequencies**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statistics** | | | | | | |
|  | | Sex | Age | Religion | Marital\_Status | Edu\_status |
| N | Valid | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 | 340 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Frequency Table**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sex** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 144 | 42.7 | 42.7 | 42.4 |
| Female | 195 | 57.4 | 57.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|  | 16.00 | 2 | .6 | .6 | .9 |
| 17.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | .9 |
| 18.00 | 7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.9 |
| 20.00 | 5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 4.4 |
| 21.00 | 4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 5.6 |
| 22.00 | 7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 7.6 |
| 23.00 | 5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 9.1 |
| 24.00 | 13 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 12.9 |
| 25.00 | 13 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 16.8 |
| 26.00 | 17 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 21.8 |
| 27.00 | 22 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 28.2 |
| 28.00 | 24 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 35.3 |
| 29.00 | 11 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 38.5 |
| 30.00 | 15 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 42.9 |
| 31.00 | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 45.3 |
| 32.00 | 11 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 48.5 |
| 33.00 | 9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 51.2 |
| 34.00 | 7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 53.2 |
| 35.00 | 9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 55.9 |
| 36.00 | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 58.2 |
| 37.00 | 6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 60.0 |
| 38.00 | 9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 62.6 |
| 39.00 | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 65.0 |
| 40.00 | 27 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 72.9 |
| 41.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 73.8 |
| 42.00 | 6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 75.6 |
| 43.00 | 6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 77.4 |
| 44.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 78.2 |
| 45.00 | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 80.6 |
| 46.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 80.9 |
| 47.00 | 6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 82.6 |
| 48.00 | 5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 84.1 |
| 49.00 | 10 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 87.1 |
| 50.00 | 12 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 90.6 |
| 51.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 91.5 |
| 52.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 92.4 |
| 53.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 93.2 |
| 54.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 94.1 |
| 55.00 | 5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 95.6 |
| 56.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 95.9 |
| 57.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 96.2 |
| 58.00 | 2 | .6 | .6 | 96.8 |
| 59.00 | 2 | .6 | .6 | 97.4 |
| 60.00 | 3 | .9 | .9 | 98.2 |
| 61.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 98.5 |
| 62.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 98.8 |
| 64.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 99.1 |
| 65.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 99.4 |
| 66.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 99.7 |
| 69.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Religion** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Christian | 319 | 93.8 | 93.8 | 93.8 |
| Islam | 13 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 97.6 |
| ATR | 7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 99.7 |
| Others specify | 1 | .3 | .3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Marital\_Status** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Single | 114 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33.5 |
| Married | 197 | 57.9 | 57.9 | 91.5 |
| Divorced | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 93.8 |
| separated | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 96.2 |
| Widowed | 13 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Edu\_status** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | No formal education | 5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| primary education | 10 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 4.4 |
| secondary education | 63 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 22.9 |
| tertiary education | 254 | 74.7 | 74.7 | 97.6 |
| others specify | 8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Descriptives**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics** | | | | | |
|  | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| Age | 340 | 16.00 | 69.00 | 35.4059 | 10.84865 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 340 |  |  |  |  |

**Frequency Table**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Res\_qu\_one** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | sexual affair | 264 | 77.6 | 77.6 | 77.6 |
| love affair | 45 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 90.9 |
| office affair | 28 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 99.1 |
| others specify | 3 | .9 | .9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Res\_qu\_two** | | | | |
|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | .00 | 62 | | 18.2 | | 18.2 | | 18.2 | |
| Extremely Low | 18 | | 5.3 | | 5.3 | | 23.5 | |
| Very Low | 43 | | 12.6 | | 12.6 | | 36.2 | |
| 2.50 | 1 | | .3 | | .3 | | 36.5 | |
| Moderately Low | 37 | | 10.9 | | 10.9 | | 47.4 | |
| A little Low | 39 | | 11.5 | | 11.5 | | 58.8 | |
| Low | 33 | | 9.7 | | 9.7 | | 68.5 | |
| High | 30 | | 8.8 | | 8.8 | | 77.4 | |
| A little High | 21 | | 6.2 | | 6.2 | | 83.5 | |
| Moderately High | 29 | | 8.5 | | 8.5 | | 92.1 | |
| Very High | 10 | | 2.9 | | 2.9 | | 95.0 | |
| Extremely High | 16 | | 4.7 | | 4.7 | | 99.7 | |
| 11.00 | 1 | | .3 | | .3 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | 340 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |
| **Res\_qu\_three** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | Frequency | | Percent | | Valid Percent | | Cumulative Percent | |
| Valid | childlessness in marriage | | 35 | | 10.3 | | 10.3 | | 10.3 | |
| couples living apart because of work | | 50 | | 14.7 | | 14.7 | | 25.0 | |
| economic support | | 97 | | 28.5 | | 28.5 | | 53.5 | |
| denial of sex by their spouse | | 64 | | 18.8 | | 18.8 | | 72.4 | |
| marrying at a very tender age | | 21 | | 6.2 | | 6.2 | | 78.5 | |
| revenge husband's waywardness | | 31 | | 9.1 | | 9.1 | | 87.6 | |
| others specify | | 42 | | 12.4 | | 12.4 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | | 340 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Res\_qu\_four** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | separation/divorce | 213 | 62.6 | 62.6 | 62.6 |
| domestic violence | 54 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 78.5 |
| Stigmatization | 41 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 90.6 |
| Death | 22 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 97.1 |
| othrs specify | 10 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 340 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Res\_qu\_five** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | oath taking/swearing | 169 | 49.7 | 50.0 | 50.0 |
| banishment from community | 36 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 60.7 |
| involvement of elders or chief of the community | 84 | 24.7 | 24.9 | 85.5 |
| others specify | 48 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 99.7 |
| 5.00 | 1 | .3 | .3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 338 | 99.4 | 100.0 |  |
| Missing | System | 2 | .6 |  |  |
| Total | | 340 | 100.0 |  |  |

**Hypothesis One**

**T-Test**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
| Res\_qu\_three | 340 | 3.7265 | 1.80916 | .09812 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Test** | | | | | | |
|  | Test Value = 0 | | | | | |
| T | Df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| Lower | Upper |
| Res\_qu\_three | 37.981 | 339 | .000 | 3.72647 | 3.5335 | 3.9195 |

**Hypothesis Two**

**T-Test**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
| Res\_qu\_three | 340 | 3.7265 | 1.80916 | .09812 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One-Sample Test** | | | | | | |
|  | Test Value = 0 | | | | | |
| T | Df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| Lower | Upper |
| Res\_qu\_three | 37.981 | 339 | .000 | 3.72647 | 3.5335 | 3.9195 |