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EDITORIAL SUIT

Uniuyo Journal of Gender Studies (UJGS) has served as a reservoir of concrete information in regards to gender based academic issues. Though this is the fourth edition, the expectation of it was also of a very high note. Therefore, it is with much pleasure and relief, that we announce the successful release of this edition. Considering the contents of this edition, the wait was really a necessity, given the need to explore the intricacies inherent in education and gathering of information well tailored to ensure accurate presentation of gender related articles. Without mincing words, we can say that this edition is one of its kind.

It is worthy of note that this journal, (UJGS) is a publication of Centre for Gender Studies, University of Uyo in collaboration with International Association of Asia-Africa Research (IAPAAR). It is a yearly peer-to-peer reviewed journal that offers researchers one of the best avenues to present their work to the academic world, and to the entire society. The journal covers broadly the topical issues of gender as well as psychological and sociological factors influencing it in Education.

This edition has been pervaded with ample and relevant information that will not only incite careers in Gender Studies, but will also bring about educational advancement for a better society. It encapsulates concerns such as Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, Family Finance Control among couples, Urbanization influences on students learning motivation, Influence of modern mate selection processes, Women and Technology, Digital parenting and many other paradigm-shifting articles. As stated earlier, this edition is super loaded indeed.

Our aim has been to ensure that proper education of individuals and the entire public on gender related issues is done accurately thereby, creating the awareness for smooth interrelationship between and amongst individuals of opposite gender. With a proper implementation and adaptation of all the submissions embedded in this edition, we are sure to be a step closer to achieving our goal as a body. A big thank you to the editorial team and the contributors whose works and inputs have brought about this uniformed front. We wish our readers a happy reading and success in their pursuit of knowledge.

Uyai Akpanobong, PhD

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The Centre for Gender Studies, University of Uyo calls for submission of paper for publication in the fifth volume of UNIUYO Journal of Gender Studies (UJGS). All papers should be submitted in Microsoft word format. The Editorial Board will only consider papers which are well researched and are in conformity with the following guidelines.

1. Title page should contain only the title of the paper, name of the author(s), institutional details, telephone number and email address.

2. Papers must not have been published or submitted for publication in any other Journal.

3. Referencing:

   a. For Books: Author(s) last name, initials (year). Book title. City of publication, Counter/State. Publisher. Page number. e.g: Essien, E. E. (2012). General Principles of Nigerian Law, (4th ed.). Toplaw Publishment Ltd, Lagos, 207p.However, other countries format may be accepted.

   b. For Journal Articles: Author(s) Last name, initials (year). Title of the article, Journal title (in italics) volume of the Journal (in italics) issue number in round brackets (no italics), page range of the article, DOI or URL e.g: Ruxton, C. (2016). Tea: Hydration and other health benefits, *Primary Health Care, 26*(8), 34-42. https://doi.org/10.7748/phc.2016.e1162

   c. For Web Page: Web citation should follow the conventions above for either book or Journal articles, however the web address, date on which the material was accessed and page number should be included.

4. Paper length: Not more than 14 A4 pages, font size – 12 point, double line spacing on one side of the paper. Papers for publication should be submitted to uyaiakpanobong@gmail.com or **Email:** cgs@uniuyo.edu.ng

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GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA: THE JOURNEY FROM MDG 3 TO SDG 5

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Abstract

Indian society is basically a patriarchal society from ancient period. It is also a matter of fact that in the Vedic age women enjoyed good amount of freedom and equality. Women use to participate in all sphere of social life like male, but during the later Vedic period (1000BC to 500 BC) women began to lose their position in the society. The males began to dominate and impose different restrictions on women. Many restrictions are present even today but the form and pattern is different. India has a long history of women's movement. During the British colonial rule and post-independence period feminist movement took a new height. In the global scenario United Nation with its member states in the year September, 2000 set eight goals to achieve for the betterment of the society. Among the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000) one goal is to empower women and promote gender equality. In 2015 UN found that throughout the world the achievement was not remarkable. Then the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 at UN Summit, officially came into force on 1st January 2016. Hear SDG 5 is to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' by 2030. Now we are in the middle of 2022, it is time to have a look at our society about the progress of our goals. For this reason, an attempt has been made in this research article to find out the status of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in India in the Context of MDG 3 and SDG 5.

Keywords: Indian Society, Patriarchy, Women empowerment, MDG, SDG.

Introduction

On 5th June, 2022, a man cut his wife's hand when he came to know that his wife named Renu Khatun got a government job as a nurse. The incident took place in West Bengal, one of the state of India. The incident is not an isolated incident. The action is the reflection of patriarchal thought where male ego cannot tolerate that his wife's income is more than him. Economic

independence is one of the major indicators of women empowerment and for thousands of years women are denied this economic independence in almost every part of the world. The entire world is well aware about domestic, economic, psychological, emotional, physical, sexual and digital violence, others includes femicide, honor killing, rape, sexting, female trafficking, female genital mutilation and so on.

The civilized population of the world wants to stop all these violence. Sadly, it has not been stopped. In fact, in many parts of the world it has increased. These crimes against women can only be reduced through equality and women empowerment. Throughout the ages women have been deprived of their human rights. It is also true that throughout the ages there were people and organizations that fought for women's rights and against gender discrimination. In modern days United Nation is one of such organization that is working hard to achieve gender equality and women empowerment globally. In this direction, both MDGs and SDGs are very important steps taken by UN.

Methodology

The present research article is a qualitative in nature. Data has been collected through observation and different government and non government reports, blogs, journal articles and different official documents.

Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations Millennium Declaration that was signed in the month of September 2000, the world leaders committed themselves to fight against poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. This is also known as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There are total of eight goals, the world leaders have pledged to achieved year by 2015. These are: To eliminate extreme poverty and hunger to achieve global primary education, to empower women and promote gender equality, to reduce child mortality, to promote mental health, to fight malaria, HIV/AIDS and other disease, to promote environmental sustainability and to develop a universal partnership for development.

This article focuses on gender equality and women empowerment as in MDG 3 -To empower women and promote gender equality. Target was to ensure that, by 2015, every boy and girls will be able to complete primary schooling. Another target was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education not later than 2015.

Unfortunately, as per 2011 census report, literacy rate in India was 82.14% for males and 65.46% for females. The gap in male-female literacy rate was **16.68**%. The census report of 2001 showed that the literacy rate for male was 75.85 % and for female was 54.16 %. The gap in male-female literacy rate was **21.69**%. The comparative study clearly shows that the achievement is very low and we are far behind the target. In the month of May 2013, the Ministry for Women and Child Development, Govt. of India, based on the recommendation of the Committee of Governors constituted by the President of India, established a High Level Committee to see the Status of Women in India. In their report (2015) it has been said that 'only 25 % of Indian women are working'. 15.5% of women in urban India are in the labor force compared to 30% of women in rural India. Again only 4% of total women employed in India are in the organized sector and they enjoy formal job security and benefits. Most of the Indian women depend on their partner regarding financial matters. From the report it is clear that the status of gender equality in job sector is far from the target.

Talking about violence against women, National Crime Record Bureau data shows that from 2005 to 2015 crime against women have increased. Crime like rape and sexual assault, kidnapping and abduction of women, dowry deaths, and insult to the modesty of women, cruelty by husband or his relatives are included in the list.
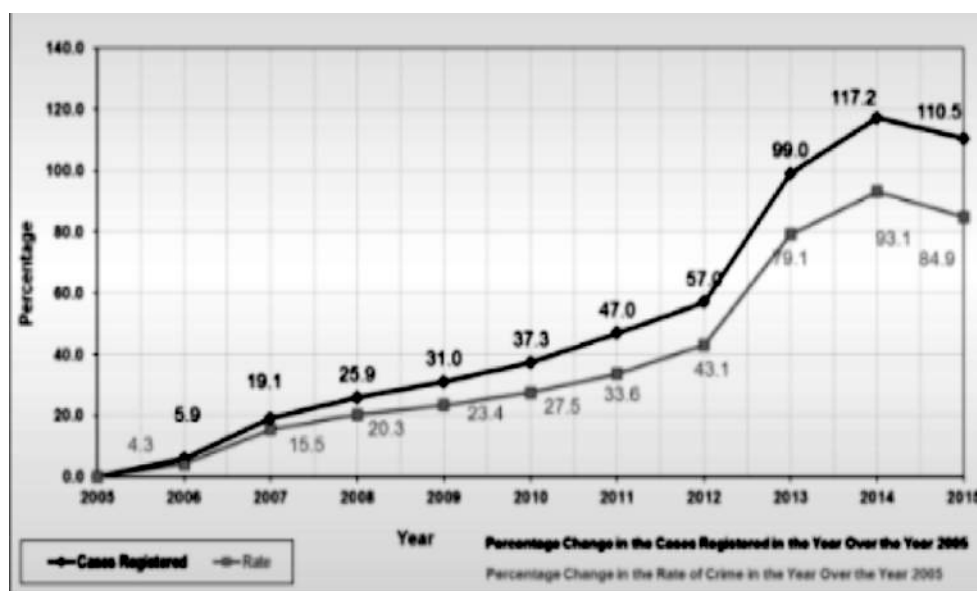
Figure 1: Percentage change in cases Registered and rate of Crime against Women during the year Over 2005 Crime in India-2015 (ncrb.gov.in)

Participation in politics and decision making ability is another indicator of women empowerment. Women's participation in politics is not very high. There is a huge gap between men and women in political activities. For this reason 33% reservation for women is ensured through Constitutional Amendments, because of the reservation policy today many women are taking part in politics but once they sit on the chair, the male member of the family or party takes the decision on their behalf. 'The decision making positions of the parties have negligible presence of women. Even senior women with large experience are sidelined when it comes to allocating positions of responsibility within the parties' (Status on Women, 2015). Base on the above discussion it is quite clear that even after MDGs presence; from 2000 to 2015 the progress was very slow in terms of gender equality and women empowerment. The situation was quite more or less same in most of the countries. But it is also true that for the first time MDGs provided a common vision to the world leaders that every nation should work hard to make this planet a better place.

On 20th to 22nd June 2012, The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Member States decided to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was build on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These SDGs become the post 2015 development agenda. It was a massive collaborative effort. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Among those goals, Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, is the topic of discussion in this article. Under Goal 5, each target is discussed carefully.

The major objectives of this goal are:
1. To end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
2. To eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
3. To eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
4. To recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
5. To ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

6.   To ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

7.   To undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

8.   To enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

9.   To adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels'

Seven years have passed since world leaders have agreed to SDGs. Now let's have a look at the status of gender equality and women empowerment as prescribed in SDG 5, in present Indian scenario.

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
        Every child deserves to reach her or his full potential, but gender inequalities in their lives and in the lives of those who care for them hinder this reality'. (unicef.org). Indian constitution provided equal rights and privileges to both male and female, but unfortunately most of the women can't enjoy their rights which were guaranteed to them. Government of India has taken lot of steps to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Unfortunately patriarchal thoughts are still there among huge number of people. Discrimination is visible in the social life as well as family life. In many family boys enjoy special status and treatment. Compared to their sisters, the boy gets better schooling, better food, more love and affection and so on. Many Indian parents don't want female child. Even today many educated parents prefer male child. Males usually get extra privilege. As per census 2011, there were 940 women for every 1,000 men and the child sex ratio is 918 girls for 1,000 boys, which is quite alarming. In spite of the government and many organizations's effort illegal female infanticide has not stopped fully. Discrimination begins when the child is in the womb. Things are changing slowly. Gender sensitization program, law and education are making people more sensitive towards female infanticide. India's GDI value in 2000 was .736, in 2015 was .809 and in 2019 was .820 which clearly shows a positive change.

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

With the increase of population Violence against women is also increasing in Indian society. Year 2021 witnessed more crime against women than year 2020. Domestic violence is a major problem in Indian society. Many women believe that it is the right of the husband to assault their wife. Poverty and lack of education is mainly responsible for violence against women and also women trafficking.

Human trafficking is another problem. Figure 2 shows that it is increasing.

Sl. No	Crime Head	Year					Percentage Variation in 2015 Over 2014
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366-A IPC)	862	809	1,224	2,020	3,087	52.8
2	Importation of Girls from Foreign Country (Sec.366B IPC)	80	59	31	13	6	-53.8
3	Selling of Minors for Prostitution (Sec. 372 IPC)#	113	108	100	82	111	35.4
4	Buying of Minor for Prostitution (Sec. 373 IPC)#	27	15	6	14	11	-21.4
5	Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956	2,435	2,563	2,579	2,617	2,641	0.9
6	Human Trafficking (Sec. 370 & 370 A IPC) *	-	-	-	720	1,021	41.8
	Total Cases of Human Trafficking	**3,517**	**3,554**	**3,940**	**5,466**	**6,877**	**25.8**

Figure 2: Crime Head-wise Incidence of Various Crimes under Human Trafficking during 2011 - 2015 and Percentage Variation in 2015 over 2014. (ncrb.gov.in)

There is a section of working women those who are exploited by their family members. Though they work hard, but when they get salary, their family members use to take all the money. The woman don't have the right to take any decision, she don't have any right over her hard earned money. In this digital society women becomes prey. Almost in every 10 minutes one woman becomes a victim of cyber abuse. Government of India has set up National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to reduce cyber crime.

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Nowadays, it has been noted that people are raising their voices against early child and forced marriage. Many times it had been seen that even the minors have approached the police and administration to complain against their relatives or parents. Female genital mutilation is not common in India. Very few people practice this inhuman act. Those who have faced it, raised their voices and there is hope that this practice will end soon.

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

In a male dominated society the work of a house wife is totally neglected. In Indian society, the house wives do not get proper recognition. One must take a day's leave and simply watch their house wives or female members of the family from morning till night. Apart from family, it has been observed that females are under paid. Government of India have introduced a new labor law in 2020 (New Labour Code For New India) where the government made the provision of equal remuneration to male and female workers, increased the paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks and many more things to value the women workforce.

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Women's participation in political, economic and public life was very low even few years back. As government of India reserved 33% seats for women, today many women are participating in politics, economic and public life. From this point of view Indian society is going through a drastic change. Even few years back, there was handful of women those who use to participate in political, economic and public life. Now even in the grass root level there are many women very much active in politics, many women working in corporate and government sector, there are also many successful business women. Few years back maximum women in chair did not have the right to take any decision. In most of the cases their male partner or male party members use to take decision on their behalf. Now things are changing. Women are taking their own decision in office. It has been also observed that the male members are not happy every time. Many time the women struggles against the male counterpart to establish their existence in the office and public life. Good sign is that today the women are fighting back.

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

In 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, sexual health was mention as an aspect of sexuality, over which women's autonomy was recognized thus: "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion,

discrimination and violence." WHO defines sexual health as:"...a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled." From all this point of view, Indian women are far away from achieving their right. The government spending on health care in India is only 1.2 per cent of GDP, or about Rs. 1,300 per capita (2016– 17). India was one of the first countries in the world who developed legal and policy framework related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. But Indian girls and women cannot enjoy their rights because of poor quality health service. One another important reason is that women do not have the decision taking authority in family life.

In Indian family generally, it is the husband who takes the decision of sexual life. Even the women have very less view on when to have a child, how many children to have and so on.

The attitude of the people needs to renovate. The government has introduced Life Skill Education to spread awareness among the students regarding sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Government of India have made all the necessary laws that women gets equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership, control over land, and other forms of property. Financial services, inheritance and natural resources. The new labour code 'Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2020' is the latest law made by the Government of India to ensure equal wages and opportunity. However, in social settings problems are still there. Generally the male members do not want to share their parental property with their married sisters. As a married women, they do not have firm right on husband's or in-laws property. In most of the cases women are treated as second class citizen in the family.

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

India is a huge country with 28 states. Status of women in all states is not

same. In states like West Bengal women enjoy more rights than women in Rajasthan. In general, in most of the states based on financial condition and education most girls and women can use information and communication technology. Many women have started online business using information and communication technology. Women and girls also get education and knowledge from ICT, which helps them to empower themselves. Statistics says that 'there is a clear gender disparity when it comes to internet usage in India. There is less number of female internet users in India as compared to male users. Among states, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have a higher proportion of female Internet users, while the male and female break up at the all-India level stands at 67% and 33%, respectively, the breakup in urban areas is 62% and 38% respectively. In rural areas, the gap is wider with men accounting for almost two-thirds of the internet users at 72%, while women account for 28%'. (financialexpress.com, 2019).

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Indian Constitution and Government of India have adopted many policies and law to ensure gender equality and empowerment at all levels. In spite of that India is far away from the target. The main reason behind this present failure is attitude towards women as a whole. Patriarchal mentality is the major barrier to gender equality. Government should organize more awareness programme to spread awareness and importance of women empowerment.

Proper education can only change the scenario. Teachers and classrooms should take more responsibility to achieve gender equality. Fortunately the youths of today are more conscious than previous generation. They are less sensitive to the traditional attitude towards women. They are modern and they believe in equality. With this population, India will achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels quickly.

Major Constitutional Provisions, policies, law and schemes on women empowerment in India:

After independence, government of India is trying hard to reduce gender inequalities and promote women empowerment. For this, government has introduced many policies, law and schemes. Apart from that, Indian constitution has made provisions to empower women and make the country a gender neutral country.

Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

The Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women came into force in 1986. This scheme was established to provide employment opportunities for women, and also the skill and training needed to become self-employed. Other objectives of this scheme include: To provide training to develop various skills, for 5 years. Helping various women groups to set up employment programmes of their own. Providing access to health care, literacy, and legal knowledge. The various sectors covered by this scheme are agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, sericulture, fisheries, handlooms. It also includes other skills like learning English, hospitality, travel, and tourism and so on.

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001

The main objectives are the up liftment and well-being of Indian women. Some of the other principles of this policy are: To create an environment where women realize their full potential. To provide equal participation and opportunities to women, and also provide them with decision-making powers. To give equal access to health services, quality education and training, equal pay and remuneration, all the necessary guidance required. To incorporate effective courts and legal systems, to protect women against discrimination.

The National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women was set up in 1992. It was implemented to protect the legal rights of women. The main objectives of the commission were: To keep a check on the legal protections that are available to women. To recommend legal measures. To solve the grievances and issues of women. To help the government in implementing various policies for women. The commission consists of the Chairman, five members nominated by the Central Government, including one member from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and a member-secretary. Others empowerment policies are: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Scheme (2016), and Kanyashree Prakalpa

Conclusion

Awareness and sensitivity are two very important factors to achieve gender equality and women empowerment in the society. Different international organizations like United Nation and governments of all countries can set up different goals and different laws, but if common people do not have awareness and sensitivity towards women then it will be very difficult to achieve SDG5. Local government, NGOs, educational institutes in all levels, different political parties, clubs, corporate organizations should

organize gender sensitization and gender awareness program repeatedly to spread awareness and sensitivity among the common people. School education, higher education and above all the teaching community should be more gender sensitive. Teacher training institutes must be more gender sensitive. This will help in producing gender balance in the country. The society must encourage the girls to speak, let the women realize that they are not voiceless, they also have a voice. Let the women of our country and the world develops self confidence. 2030 is not very far. All must work hard. Otherwise United Nation will have to set another goal with new time limit.

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FAMILY FINANCE CONTROL AMONG COUPLES IN UMUDIKE COMMUNITY, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined family finance control among couples in Umudike community, Abia State. The study design was survey. The population for the study comprised all the married couples residing in Umudike community, namely 60 in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Staff quarters, 60 in Umudike village residents and 80 in National Root Crops Research Institute, quarters as at the time of this study. A total population of 200 couples. The population was stratified into three main blocks. 50% of the population in each block was determined and sampled using simple random techniques. A total sample size of 100 subjects. The data collected were organized using frequencies and analyzed using percentages. The major findings of the study revealed that eighty-seven (87%) of the subjects married monogamously while thirteen (13%) married polygamously. Sources of family finances include the husband, wife, children and extended family relations. Method of budgeting varies among families but majority budget monthly. Method of finance control also differs among families. In some homes the wife keeps only feeding money while the husband keeps money for other expenses and savings. Some husbands allow their wives to take custody of all money except savings. In some polygamous homes, the husbands keep the feeding money for fear of generating trouble among the wives while some make the first wife the finance controller and subsequent wives made her subordinates. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommends among others were made: house wives should be allowed to control at least money for feeding the family. This is more economical and makes the house wives feel belonging and participating in the affair of the family. In polygamous homes, the husbands should create an atmosphere where each wife controls some part of the family finance especially that meant for feeding.

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Introduction

Finance is the process of raising funds or capital for any kind of expenditure. Finance control is the effective way of handling money with the aim of using it to satisfy human wants, needs or services. It is a process of knowing where you are spending your money today and having a well thought-out plan in place for where you want it to go in future. Finance control among husbands and wives refer to various ways couples handle their financial issues in different families. Porter (2005) stated that managing money for a family is one of the toughest tasks performed by families. Notwithstanding who keeps and controls the finance in a family, there is bound to be at one time or another, family conflicts arising from such financial controls. Reddin (1992) noted that frequently, apparent personality difficulties arise from the absence of known or understood responsibilities and relation, between the husband and wife. Gitman (2008) explained that many cases have been experienced of disagreements, quarrels, fights, stress, separations and divorce by lack of definition of responsibilities in the family roles.

Lack of making concrete decisions in families coupled with enthusiasm and initiative by the husband or wife has often been the main spring of the family conflict (Brech 1995). The conflicts arise because husband and wife have been exercising control in field/area where they are not supposed to. Unfortunately he or she never knew until his or her anger initiative and entrepreneurial flair had given rise to a variety of troubles with the person whose domain has been invaded (Bailard, 2007).

Agrist (2003) stated that some years back it was considered that a woman's place was in the home where her responsibilities were confined to child bearing and looking after domestic affairs. Although she might have enjoyed certain social standing, she had very little legal status. She further explained that nowadays, the role of the wife is changing just as marriage is based on the mutual choice and consent of the couple concerned, decisions which have to be made within the family should generally be made after joint consultation.

Taylor (2003) observed that for most purposes the man is still regarded as the head of the household and many men who may well discuss everything else with their wives continue to keep them ignorant of one very important matter which concern the whole family i. e. how much they earn. However, this is most prominent within literate husbands whose wives are illiterate.

Nwankwo (2004) pointed out that in Nigeria society, people do look down on a husband who shows and hands over his monthly wages to his wife. They feel it is out of order. In some Nigerian villages, all sorts of allegations are being meted out to a woman whose husbands "stoops so low" as to give her his

pay packet. Some may allege that she bewitched her husband while other may think that she has used charm on the husband which has reduced his mentality as a man.

Worse still, if the parents of the husband are around, the mother in-law in particular will not live to see her son's hard earning being controlled by another woman called daughter in-law. She will employ all avenues as far as the extended family systems allows and before the young married couple know what is happening the marriage is almost ended.

Belle (1993) on the other hand pointed out that, women are generally regarded as excellent "squanderers" of money. This is attributed to the fact that some women buy whatever they come across without minding the cost as far as it concerns clothing's, shoes, and cosmetics. They always want to keep up with the trend of fashion and so the more money in a women's control the more she satisfy her needs.

Also most people think women should be the rightful custodian of the family finance since she is the one who stays at home to prepare the meal, mange the house and look after the children. On this regard, she should be in a better position to know the immediate needs of the family. With these problems in mind, the question now is, should the wife control the family finance or should the husband be the finance controller with regards to his position in the family?

The Purpose of the Study
The main purpose of this study is to find out who controls the family finance among husband and wife in Umudike community. Specifically the study identified:
1.   The Sources of Family Finance.
2.   Methods of Family Budgeting and Degree of Adequacy
3.   The Person who should be in control of the family finance (Husbands or Wives?)
4.   Feelings of the couples towards the Finance Controller when more money
         is demanded for supplements.
5.   Evaluation of the performance of the family finance controller.

Research Questions
The following questions guided the study.
1.   What are the sources of family finance?
2.   What are the methods of Family Budgeting and Degree of Adequacy?
3.   Who should be in control of the family money (Husbands/wives?)

4.   How does couples always feel towards the Finance Controller when more money is demanded for Supplement?

5.   How do couples evaluate the family finance controller?

Methodology
Research design
The design of the study is survey.

Area of Study
The study was carried out in Umudike Community. The Umudike community is under Ikwuano Local government Areas in Abia State Nigeria. The total land d mass of Ikwuano covers eighteen villages. Isiala Oboro being the headquarter. The Umudike community under study is made up of the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The National Root Crops Research Institute and the Umudike Village which lies to the south west of the Umudike Institute.

Umudike is located eight kilometer south east of Umuahia Ibeku and 138 kilometer North of Port Harcourt, the nearest sea port and airfield. Different categories of people make up the entire Umudike community. The Michael Okpara University of Agriculture is made up of staff, both academic and non-academic. The National Root Crops Research Institute Staff and their wives were also inclusive.

The Umudike village comprises people of varied occupational status which includes farmers, carpenters, civil servants and students. All residence of the village within the period of this study were regarded as part and parcel of the village indigenes.

Population of the Study
The Study comprised three (3) main groups of respondents namely 80 couples residing in National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) quarters, 60 couples residing in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike Quarters and 60 couples residing in Umudike Village as at the time of this study **(Source: Chairman of the house Committee of the two institutions and Umudike Village head)**

Sample and Sampling Techniques
A critical look of the above population distribution of the subjects will discover that they are not evenly distributed. Therefore, the entire Umudike communities were divided into three (3) main blocks on the basis of their residential location as follows:

Block i: Staff of National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike = 80
Block ii: Staff of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike = 60
Block iii: The Umudike Villagers = 60.

Then, 50% of the population in each block were determined, selected and studied i.e. 50% from block (i) 50% of 80 couples residing in National Root Crops Research Institute quarters = 40 ; block (ii) 50% of 60 couples residing in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, quarters =30 couples and 50% of 60 couples residing in block (iii) 50% of 60 couples residing in Umudike Village= 30. A total sample size of 100 couples were made using simple random sampling techniques. 20 married men and 20 married women were randomly selected in block i, 15 married men and 15 married women were randomly selected in block ii. While 15 married men and 15 married women were randomly selected in block iii. In all, the total numbers of husbands and wives selected from the 3 blocks were 100 respondents.

Instrument for Data Collection

A structured questionnaire and oral interview were the instruments used for the data collection. The questionnaires which were developed through extensive review of literature and based on the objectives of the study were validated by two Home Economics lecturers from the department of Home Science, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The inputs of the validates reflected in the final draft of the questionnaire.

Data Collection Techniques

Questionnaires items were administered by hands to the respondents through personal contact by the researcher and three trained research assistants. This is to ensure a high return rate of the questionnaire. Verbal explanation was made to the respondents where necessary. A total of 100 questionnaire distributed were completely filled and returned. This represent 100% return rate.

Data Analysis Techniques

Frequencies was used for organizing the data collected while percentage was used for data analysis.

Findings: These are as presented in the tables below

Table 1: **The Sources of Family Finance: Who cater for the following expenses in the family?**

Sources of Fund Blocks	Feeding Money	Children's Clothing	Personal Clothing	Children's Education	House Rent		Total (%)
I Husband	6	2	2	2		12	12%
Wife	-	2	2	-		8	12%
Grown-up Children	-	-	-	-		-	0%
Relatives	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2%
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26%
II Husband	8	2	4	4	2	-	20	20%
Wife	6	3	2	-	-	-	11	11%
Grown-up Children	-	-	2	1	-	1	4	4%
Relatives	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1%
Total							36%
III Husband	9	2	-	5	3	-	19	19%
Wife Grown-up	3	5	3	1	-	1	13	13%
Children	-	-	4	2	-	-	6	6%
Relatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total							38%

In the above table, Husband contribute a total of 51% of the family financial i. e. 12% in block (i) 20% in block (ii); 19% in block (iii), making a total of 51% in the 3 blocks that make up Umudike community.

The wives contribute 36% to the family finance i.e.12% in block (i); 11% in block (ii); 13% in block (iii) respectively. A total of 13% of family finance come from grown up children and from extended family relatives from the 3 blocks respectively.

Table 2: Method of Budgeting and Degree of Adequacy

Methods of Budgeting	Block I	Block I1	Block III	Total	%
Daily	1	1	1	3	3%
Week	2	2	2	6	6%
Month	36	39	15	90	90 %
Annual	-	1	-	1	1%
Degree of Adequacy					
Always Adequate	12	13	6	31	31%
Always Inadequate	14	27	28	69	69%

In the above table, 3% of the respondent's budget daily, 6% percent budget weekly, 90% percent budget monthly while 1% budget annually. 69% of people state that their budget amount is always inadequate for the estimated period while 31% of the subjects do not have shortages.

Table 3: Who Should Be In Control of the Family Finance?

Finance Controller	Block I	Block II	Block III	Total	%
Wives control feeding money Husband controls others	10	20	5	35	63%
Wife controls feeding and Others expenses	8	11	3	22	22%
Husband controls money For feeding and others expenses 15%	-	7	8	15	
Performance of budget Controllers (a) Satisfactory	29	32	21	82	82%
(b) Unsatisfactory	6	8	4	18	18%

In the above table, 63% of the respondents stated that the wives control all the money meant for feeding, while the husbands control money for other household expenses.

22% of the respondents said their wives are the sole controllers of both feeding and other household expenses which include items like rent, all bills

due (insurance bills) health care allowances and emergence allowances.
15% of the respondents mainly from Umudike village stated that the husband's control both the feeding and other household allowances and give to their wives in bits as is necessary for a purchase.

When questioned whether they will love a change in the finance controller, 82% of the people state that they were satisfied with the present method of management except that the cost of living is very high while 18% complained that there should be a change. They are mainly women whose husbands control all family finances.

Table 4: **How Do You Always Feel When The Finance Controller Demanded For Money Supplement?**

Feelings About Budget	Block I	Block II	Block III	Total	%
a. Not worried	3	7	4	14	14%
b. Worried but give more money	23	25	20	68	68%
c. Greatly worried and refused to augment the family budget	6	7	5	18	18%

In the above table, 14% were not worried about budget shortage, 68% were worried but give more money to supplement while 18% are greatly worried and refused to augment the family budget.

Table 5: **Evaluation of the Family Controller: Do you think that your presence finance controller is doing well with the finance management?**

Personal Opinion Of Family Finance Control	Block I	Block II	Block III	Total	%
Wife should control family Finance	20	22	11	53	53%
Husband should control family Finance	14	21	12	47	47%
Total					100%

In the above table, 53% of the respondents stated that house wives should generally control the family finances.

Reasons: 20% said it's more economical because if the wives know the available amount of money and the period it should last, they will be careful about their expenditure and will always work their arithmetic to avoid shortage. The other 33% want the wives to control the family finances on the ground that wives are more conversant with the household requirements as such, will make good use of the money

On the other hand, a total of 47% of the respondents candidly said that the husbands should control the family finances.

Reasons: 24% (mainly wives) said that some husbands think that they are favouring the wives by giving them money to control so they will want their husbands to have ideas about the complications of keeping family allowances. 19% of the respondents stated that the budgeted amount given is not adequate as much they will love their husband to keep it and give to them bits whenever the need arises. 4% of the respondents (all males) stated that they are the sole source of the finance and since they are married to more than one wife, they prefer to keep all household allowances for fear of generating trouble.

Summary of the Findings

The following findings were made from the study:-

1. Sources of family finances include the husbands, wives, children and extended family relations.
2. Husbands contribute more to family finance in Umudike community.
3. Methods of budgeting varies with families, majority budget monthly, about ¼ of the people budget weekly while very few budget daily.
4. In some homes the wife keeps only feeding money while the husbands keeps money for other expenses while some people allow the wife to take custody of all money expect savings.
5. Few husbands decide to keep the feeding especially the polygamously married ones.
6. Some people stated that the budgeted amount does not always see them through the required time.

Discussion of the Findings

The discussion is based on the findings of the study. The reactions of the respondents in this research show that no two families are alike. There are differences in the type of marriages people contracted. This confirmed statement of Belle (1993) who stated that each family is uniquely different. From the findings of this study it could be inferred that no two homes are

similar due to the varied family systems in the society.

Angrist (2003) in her discussion of family responsibility stated that the traditional family grouping of wife as home maker, husbands as sole breadwinner will remain dominant. The findings of this study confirmed this statement showing that husbands contributes 51% of family finance, the wives contributed 36% while grown up children and extended family relatives contributed to 12 % and 1% respectively. The findings showed that all members of the family serve as breadwinners. This role is not the sole responsibility of the husbands, rather it is a collective role performed by all members of the family in the modern world.

Ononugu (1999) observed that though women play autonomous role as wife and mother in the family they also participate in winning bread for the family. The study also revealed that children also contribute to the family finances. When parents take proper care of their children and give them the necessary education they required, they are bound to contribute to the welfare of their aging and aged parents.

Management of family finance includes method of budgeting, how money is controlled and expended (Kaiser, 2003). The findings of this study shows that 3% of the people budget daily,6% budget weekly, 90% of the people budget monthly While 1% budget yearly. Nwankwo (2004) stated that budgeting monthly is a fair method of budgeting as the finance controller has about 30 days at his disposal to manage the money. This method of budgeting is recommended for public servants who earn monthly salaries. For people who are self employed e.g. Tailors, Carpenters etc, their discussions will depend on the type of life they want to live and should be adjusted to suit modern style of living. Couples, who wish, could make weekly budgeting, but daily budgeting should be discouraged. Couples who budget daily will never know their income and total expenditure. Nwankwo (2004) stressed that there will be no time for them to plan their expenses as such will not be able to adjust their style of living. With regards to who should control finance, 63% of the respondents said that their wives control all money meant for feeding. This is supported by the fact that 82% of the people are satisfied with the performances of their wives role in finance management.

From the above results, it is clearly seen that house wives are really competent to handle family finances. To start with, the house wife, performs the function of planning meals for the family, knows the requirement in a house and looks after the children. In fact she is in a better position to know the immediate needs of the family; she will always plan within her limits as far as she knows the available amount at her disposal. No good housewife will

squander in one day the money to last the family for 30 days.

Ishleme (2007) also observed that keeping of the family money makes the house wife feel belonging, especially non-working class housewives. Lawyer (2003) stated that there is no gain in treating these housewives as maids, increasing their problems by creating a situation where they feel rejected and become beggars. She further explained that the husband should create an atmosphere where each wife controls some part of the family finance especially that meant for feeding.

There is also no reason why the wives should be denied their freedom because they are polygamously married Corps (2003). Anybody who is polygamy must have known what   it entails before venturing. So the wives should, not be given undue hardship by letting the first wives alone control the family finance or the husbands to decide everything for wives.

Dailey (2003) pointed out that it is more economical to the family if their finance is controlled by the wife because no matter how highly the family budgeted; it is always augmented by the housewives so that the family doesn't feel any hitch. This is in agreement with Nwankwo (2004) who stated that money is a limited resources and has always been characterized with ''not enough'' Even non-working class wives that do petty trading with the meagre money given them so that they will gain. They always try their best to see that the money given to them accommodates the family needs for the specified period.

With regards to the degree of adequacy of the budgeted amounts, 69% 0f the respondents confirmed that they always have shortages. This means that the budgeted amount does not always see them through the required time. This fact could be attributed to the rising cost of living (Brech, 1993). Couples should adjust their plans to tally with the present trend. It may be that the size of the family has increased. This will surely affect the budget.

Couples normally loose sight of this issue and continue keeping their budget constant even after adding two more kids to the family. Anyakoha and Eluwa (2011) stated that good management will eliminate some aspects of budget shortages.

As far as possible this study has been able to help families to take good decisions on how to secure peaceful homes. It has also enabled the researcher to be conversant with family problems with regards to family finances. Through this research work the researcher is in a position to offer advises on some difficult family's financial problems. Although there was difficulty in collecting information especially from the villagers the work was completed within the scheduled time. I think this study has been worthy of all time, energy and money spent on it.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study, it is concluded that each family is uniquely different from the other. The role of breadwinning is not the responsibility of the husband alone. It is a collective role performed by all members of the family – father, mother, children all contributed to family finances. Family discussions are very important in management of family finances. Since the family cannot escape from performing economic functions, the couples concerned are in a better position to decide how best it could be carried out. When budgeting, families should take note of cost of living and family size.

Recommendations

1. House wives should be allowed a free hand in performing their functions with little or no interruption from the husband with regards to family money.
2. Couples should take proper care and give adequate training to their children so as to enable them get good jobs and contribute to the welfare and the financial needs of their aging or aged parents.
3. Housewives should be allowed to control at least the feeding money for families whether in monogamous or polygamous homes.
4. Monthly budgeting should be practiced by families.
5. Furthermore, couples should do everything possible to eliminate factors that militate against finance management which among others includes lack of planning /poor planning, extravagance and external influences rather they should embrace openness and honesty. Careful planning and budgeting, making decision together, considering the view and interest of each family members and implementing the decision as made.

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WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY: THE COUNTER CONCERNS

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Abstract
It all started with the industrial revolution. Where Europe and consecutively the whole world demanded a change in the way the factories were working. The industrial revolution dated from the year 1760 until somewhere between 1820 and 1840. It led to several inventions which eased the work of the labourers working in the factories. It eased their work timings and their labour. However, it was also during this time that many people lost their jobs. We hear a lot about how the families before the industrial revolution worked from day to night in the fields. Along with the women. But with the growth of industries, the women were left behind by their husbands who went away to work at the factories. The only work the women were expected to do was to tend to their homes and look after the children. The unmarried young ladies, however, got jobs at the spinning factories and saved money for becoming a wife and a mother. But the laws were very cruel to them and we see in the historical documents that the women were left with nothing after the divorce. But during such hard times, when women were being berated there were some, who did not back down and made great inventions known to man. Women in the past have certainly made an impact on their future which we are enjoying as our present. With the continuation of the women working in the scientific field and making lives easier, it is still a shock to see a huge rift between the woman who keeps working for science and the women who can barely operate the television on their own.

Keywords: women, technology, concerns, industrial revolution

Introduction

Women have been shielded from the world of technology for so long that it comes as no surprise that women do not know much in that field. We are talking about the majority here because undoubtedly there are women in the field of sciences excelling and making a name for themselves, but most women find it hard to even put together the pieces of a simple table fan. They turn to men for help in such cases. It could be because for so long women have been

subjugated by men, but it is surprising to note that women know little of how to function with the simplest of gadgets. Men on the other hand find it a second nature to put together the pieces of an object without reading the manual. It might be due to extreme sexism or due to the lack of confidence of women in themselves. But whatever it may be, it is a shock to see women relying on men for little jobs. Even the Gen-Z girls turn to the boys for help with many things related to technology. Little things like the functioning of a phone, printing materials, and other little things about the technologies.

It all started with the industrial revolution. Where Europe and consecutively the whole world demanded a change in the way the factories were working. The industrial revolution dated from the year 1760 until somewhere between 1820 and 1840. It led to several inventions which eased the work of the labourers working in the factories. It eased their work timings and their labour. However, it was also during this time that many people lost their jobs. We hear a lot about how the families before the industrial revolution worked from day to night in the fields. Along with the women. But with the growth of industries, the women were left behind by their husbands who went away to work at the factories. The only work the women were expected to do was to tend to their homes and look after the children. The unmarried young ladies, however, got jobs at the spinning factories and saved money for becoming a wife and a mother. But the laws were very cruel to them and we see in the historical documents that the women were left with nothing after the divorce.

But during such hard times, when women were being berated there were some, who did not back down and made great inventions known to man. Henrietta Vansittart was a devoted woman who completed and edited the design of the patent screw propeller, that her father was working upon, after his demise. Ada Lovelace, also known as the first lady programmer who worked on the model of mechanical general-purpose computer suggested by Charles Babbage. Elizabeth Bell gave the model of a pulley device that was made to clean the chimneys. Mary Walton realized that the pollution during the industrial revolution was harming the environment and to work for the betterment of it, she designed a system which pumped air through water tanks and collected all the pollutants. Maria E. Beasley gave the design of an improved life raft. Josephine G. Cochran designed the dishwasher because she did not like to do the household works considering she came from a wealthy socialite background. But it is possibly due to her this attribute, we now have a dishwasher. Margaret A. Wilcox was an engineer in Chicago and in her model of a car's engine proposed the use of heat, thus giving us the first model for a car heater. Bessie Virginia Blount was a physical therapist who took the effort to invent the feeding tube for the welfare of her patients. Marie Van Brittan along with her husband Albert Brown first devised the home security system. There were many other brilliant inventions done by women during the times they

were suppressed by society, but they never relented and gave society some of the most commonly used items with their genius minds.

Irawati Karve is the first Indian female anthropologist, who studied anthropology at a time when it was very unlikely for women to continue studying after their bachelor's degree, thus, it comes as no surprise that she was the only woman in her master's class. Kamal Ranadive was one of the earliest Indian scientists who dedicated her research to cancer and also proposed the theory that breast cancer has heredity. Rajseshwari Chatterjee was the first female engineer in India. Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi was the first female in India who was a physician. Kamala Sohonie was the first Indian woman to have a PhD in a scientific field in India, and she discovered that the plant tissue contained an enzyme called 'cytochrome C'. Asima Chatterjee is known for her works in the field of chemistry and also for her research on vinca alkaloids and the development of anti-epileptic and anti-malarial drugs.

Many women might claim that they do not like how advanced we have become but it could be due to the fact they cannot operate the littlest of things on their own without feeling as if they know nothing. And nobody likes to feel like a failure. Apart from that, many women might have an interest but their interests are stomped upon by the powerful men of the society. There is no denying the fact that there are not many equal opportunities for men and women. Their opportunities in the field of technologies are little to none. Many companies do not hire women, even after their excellent scoring in the IITs just because they are women. But that does not mean all women go into that field, it is about their interests and their love for the selected fields. But even the women who wish to go to the technological fields are frowned upon by society. Though women are considered to be the weaker gender, this mentality of the people has hampered the progression of women.

But everything cannot be blamed upon society. Some women are to be equally blamed for it because they do not put much effort and they do not try to outsmart the patriarchal society. It is all about the initiative and if all the females themselves do not want to come forward and make a change for themselves, nothing else can be done for their enhancement. The rural women do not care so much about the latest or even the old technologies because of their monetary status and their prejudiced society which expects them to be good mothers and wives. The women are merely retired to the kitchen and household work which takes away their opportunity from them to grow and learn. This makes them rely on their husbands or their sons for little tasks such as operating a washing machine or something as simple as calling someone.Women in the rural areas are kept as far away from technologies as possible because it is 'inappropriate', for them to spend much time away from the kitchen and the household tasks. The women there are not given enough exposure to make decisions of their own. Regardless, many women are also scared to fidget with gadgets and be at the mercy of their in-laws and their

husbands. Life isn't fair for women in the villages despite the technical revolution 4.0. And these factors lead them to be scared of technology because it is an alien concept to them. Especially the older generations, because those women have neither seen nor heard of such things. Most of our grandmothers in the villages would not know another thing about the phone except how to call someone.

On the other hand, city girls and women might know how to use the microwaves and the refrigerators but when it comes to the slightest inconvenience they turn to men for help. It is drilled into the systems of women to look for men when anything with the technologies goes wrong. Even in the past, we know that women relied on men. They were forced to lean on men for every decision regarding their lives. Some women did not know much outside their homes and their kids and husbands. There was nothing for them except for the household tasks. Women in the past were told to be feminine ever since they were kids. Corsets to enhance the breasts of a mere teenager, women not allowed to speak until they were spoken to, them not going out of the safety of their homes often, them not being allowed to study. It was how society shaped women and how they expected them to be. It didn't matter what they wanted as long as they provided heirs to carry on the clan.

The stereotype of people interested in the field of technology is painted as a man or a boy good at math and it is because of his genes that he can be a good student for computers. Women on the other hand show lesser interest in computers because they are forced to be and sometimes choose to be more feminine. The appearance of a woman plays an important role in how society perceives her. A pretty woman studying engineering or technology is considered to be a waste of her beauty. They are forced to give up their passions for studying computers or engineering and become like the women from the ancient and the medieval age who were submissive and meek.

Even if a woman knows how to change a tyre of her vehicle most women do not get down to do it because it stains the hands and is not very appealing. The women cannot be blamed for it entirely because it is how they are brought up. Ever since a child is young, they are forced to stand up to the expectations of their parents. A girl is associated with the colour pink and a boy is associated with the colour blue. Time and again a young girl is given feminine toys and a feminine environment to grow up in. Even if a girl develops an interest in cars, she has to make do with the dolls that she has. It is the bitter truth of the grooming of a young woman and how she is doted upon by her parents. A boy is made to play ball with his father while a girl is expected to watch Disney and play with dolls. If a girl gets hurt she is isolated for a while and the parents make sure that nothing befalls their daughter ever again. This becomes a constant mentality of a woman while growing up that she is delicate and must do girly things. Her hands must be smooth, her hair must be proper, her skin must be flawless and her body should have the feminine touch that can attract attention.

They were all psychologically brainwashed into thinking that beauty is more important and that being pampered is what they deserve. It is all about the upbringing of the individual and the family background and the society that shapes the psychological aspect of a woman when it comes to the technologies.

According to a study conducted by Sapna Cheryan, a social psychologist working at the University of Washington, she tried to find out how the stereotypes prevent women from joining computer engineering. In her study she clearly stated that it is due to the social norm that computers are for nerdy men, women restrain themselves from going into that field. But through her experiment when she changed the environment of the computer labs into something more gender-neutral, like adding a coffee machine or adding some neutral colours to the place, many women wanted to volunteer for the computer sciences.

Most women are afraid of messing with the gadgets for fear that they could damage them because the knowledge of how it works is beyond them. Their interest in such things is diminished ever since their childhood and those who are persistent are judged for their love for technologies. Only twenty-nine per cent of internet users in India are women. They are not exposed to the wonders of the world online. But when they are exposed enough or even a scrap of it, they can do wonders with their knowledge. It only takes exposure for one to bloom completely to their extreme abilities. Arti Devi a self-taught community radio program editor came from a very subtle background where she wasn't taught and didn't gain the trust of the people until she became something using her materials. Mathematician Katherine Johnson at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is another excellent example of a woman who excelled on her own and proved her abilities using her materials?

"It is extremely worrying that women are still not very present in technology-related programs and jobs. It's a concern not just because the industry is booming, but, also, because if women don't consider these professional outlets, society as a whole will lose out. The vision women provide is fundamental to devising and implementing solutions for humanity's future. Achieving this will depend on our families, schools, culture, and our knowledge of both past and recent history." Esade Business & Law School for **Forbes**.

For research, a survey was conducted on 150 women of Indian background. The sample consisted of a mixture of rural, semi-urban, urban, uneducated and educated classes of women. The responses to the survey were really alarming. While on one hand, we are talking about technical advancements and robotics and AI, some women do not know how to insert a SIM card into their phones.
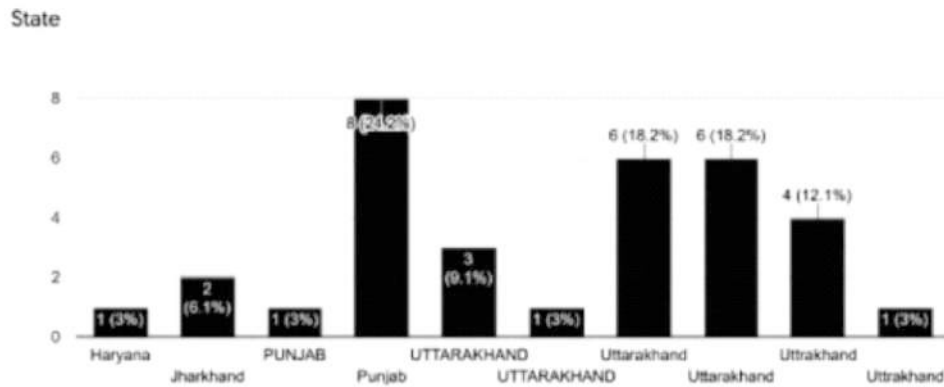
Fig. 1: Responses from Uttarakhand and Punjab states

In the responses given in Fig.1, we can see that most of the responses received were from the cities of Uttarakhand and Punjab states, which are not very urban. These north Indian states are not that advanced as compared to the metropolis and it is not a surprise that the women responding were mostly unaware of the tech world.
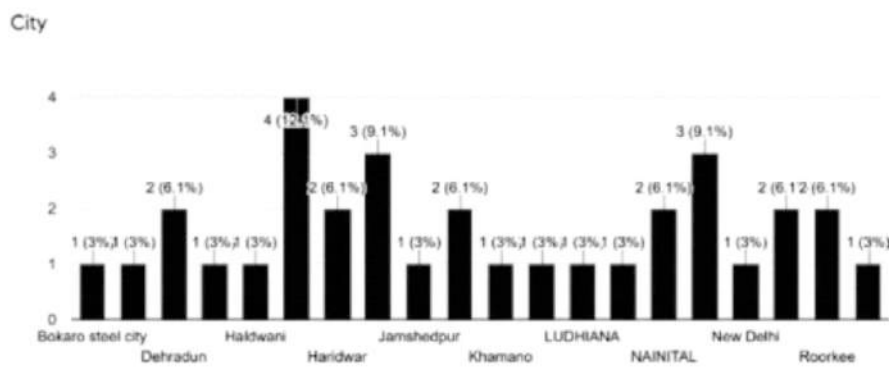
Fig.2

Fig.2 is a representation of the particular cities in the states from where we received the responses.

Occupation
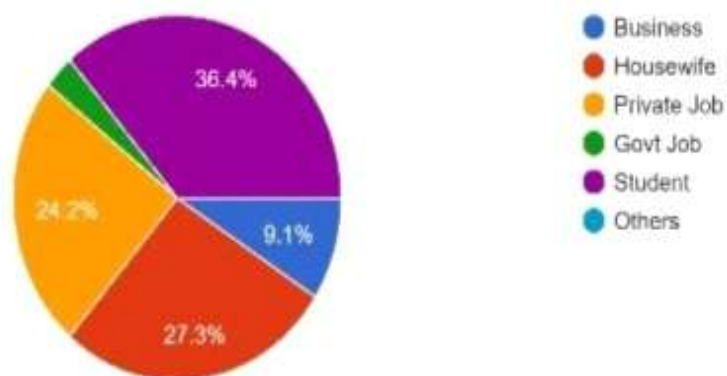
Fig.3 : Responses by women based on occupation

In Fig.3, the women were asked about their occupation, which was an important question to know considering that none of the women was in the tech sector. The majority of the elder women were housewives and the rest were students and doing some jobs which were not concerned with technologies. 9.1% women conduct business, 27.3% women are housewives, 24.2% women are doing private jobs, 36.4% are students and the rest are into government sectors or other jobs. But the result implies that 27% women are still housewives in these cities and they are not that exposed to the technical world as the girl students, whose contribution is 36% in this survey.

Do you use android phone?
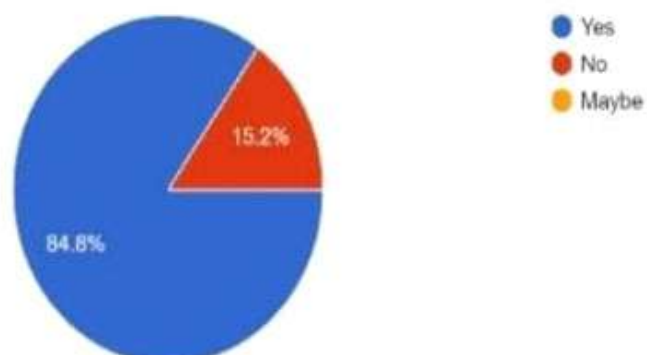
Fig.4: *This represents responses by women on the use of android phones*

The 15.2% women who responded with a 'no' may belong to the rural areas of the states where there are not many opportunities for them to know how to function a phone, it is evident that it is an alien thing for them. But the rest of the population is growing into the Android devices. Though 84.8% of women can be seen using an Android mobile phone, 15% in itself is not a tiny number to be overlooked.

Do you have any robot?
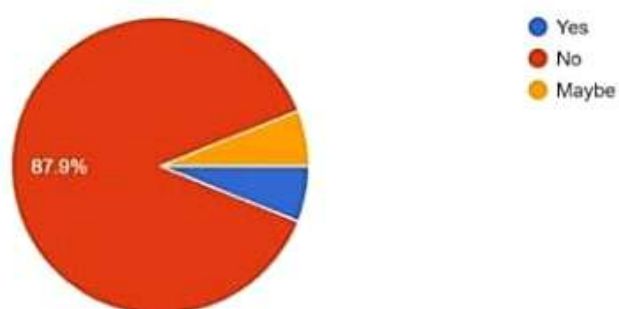
Fig.5

This one was shocking to read that in this hi-tech century, there are women who do know the features of the phone they use. It is concerning that the women who use their phones, a device which is a major part of their daily lives, do not know everything about their simple gadgets. 78.8% of women do not know much about their phones. While 51.5% outright claimed that they do not know everything about their phones, 21.2% we're still unsure. And 27.3% were aware of how their phones worked.

Do you know all the features of your phone?
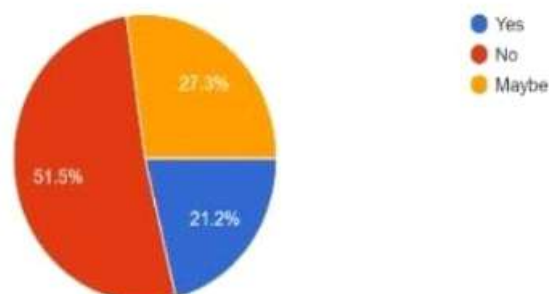
*Fig.5&6: Responses by women on understanding features
of android phone and do not own a robot*

Again, it was equally shocking to realize that only 5% women own a robot and they are sure about it. Still 5.1% are unaware which gadget is known as robot. The situation is really pathetic here. Reason may be that, because the women are told to look after the family and household so much that they could not really concern themselves with a gadget and an invention like a robot. Let us consider the graph and take no and maybe as one, we will know that more than 93% of women do not own a robot, out of which 87.9% claimed to not own any device the rest 5.1% were not aware of they owned any and the remaining 5 percent owned a robot. Where we all know how so many products that we use in our daily life are based on robotics only, the awareness is quite less in women.
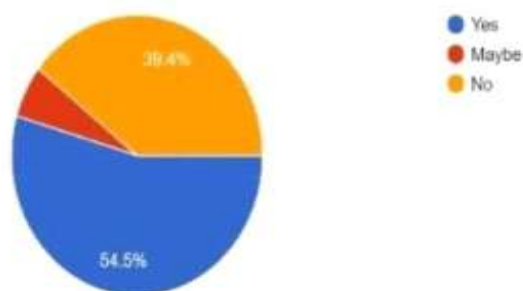
Fig.7: This represents the knowledge of women on idea of sensor

39.4% of the sample size are unaware about sensors! What to say next? The invention of sensors dates long back but the feminine gender is yet to experience the excitement of sensors.

Only 54.5% of women know what the sensors are. Perhaps not in detail but they are somewhat aware of what the sensors in technology are. More shocking to know is the fact that there exist 6.1% women, who are not sure of what is being asked.

Do you know what is AI?
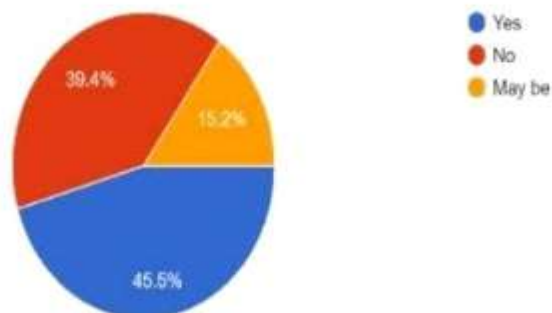
Fig.8: This represents the knowledge of women on AI

A larger percentage of women, 39.4% plus those who responded with maybe, 15.2%, do not know what AI is, which considering the background and the occupations of the women is no surprise however, not normal. But the 45.5% women are aware which is a good progress.

Name the gadgets you use on daily basis.
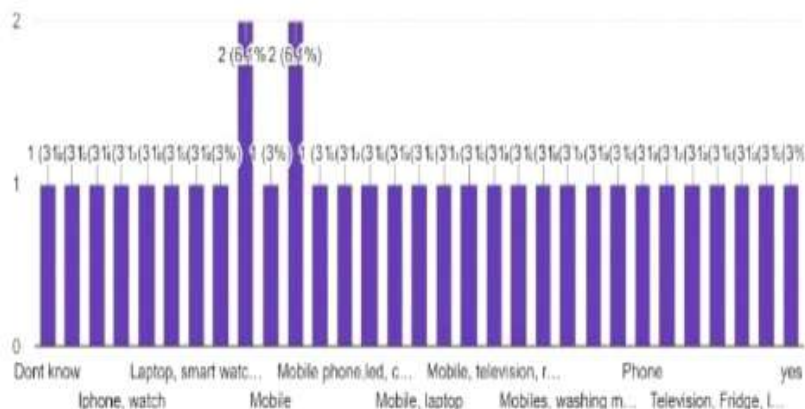
Fig.9: This represents the responses of women about devices they used regularly

Next, the women were asked about the devices they use regularly and the answers were all different ranging from televisions and fridges to laptops and iPhones etc. The devices stated here were laptops, mobiles, watches, washing machines, television, fridge, ear buds and all but only basic devices. And the real question is, how much do they know about these gadgets?

Do you repair the damaged /broken/not working electronic items yourself?
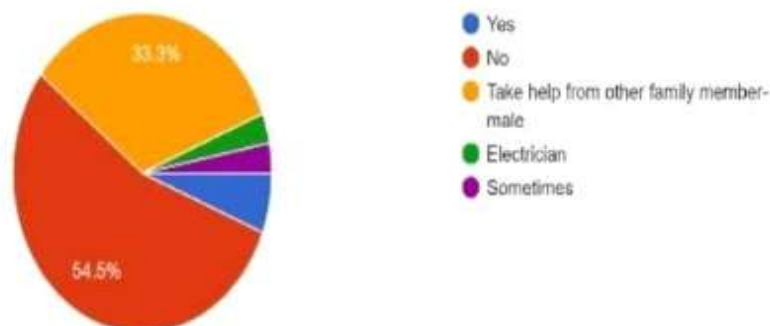
Fig.10: This represents the responses of women on how they can repair their damaged devices

A vast majority of women, not only these 54.5% plus 33.3%, do not know how to repair the broken or damaged goods on their own. They rely on the men in their families or call for an electrician who is in most cases, a man. 54.5% women say that they do not repair their devices on their own and 33.3% women say that they take help from a male member of the family.

Conclusion

It is not the otherworldly force stopping the women from being what they can be but we as a society are judgmental and forcing women to take the meek role in it and stop them from progressions. Women in the past, with so many restrictions, have proved to be such great inventors, and the women in the present and the future might just do wonders once they are free from the chains of society. It all begins at home. Letting our daughters and sons choose the path they want to take and giving them full support for it is important for them to grow out of their shells. In the study conducted above, we come to know that it is an alarming state where women do not even know what dangers or wonders their phones might possess. And they turn to men for any help with the gadgets. It's a disappointing. This is the 21st century world where women are sabotaged and subjugated into believing that they cannot be techs and know and explore more about computers or engineering. With the rise of the 21st century and the rise of technology, it must be known that it shall also be the time for the rise of women in the field of technology so that they can be independent in more ways than one.

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INFLUENCE OF MODERN MATE SELECTION PROCESSES ON MARITAL STABILITY AMONG STUDENTS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study was carried out to investigate the Influence of Modern Mate Selection Processes on Marital Stability among Students in Tertiary Institutions in Niger state, Nigeria. Four objectives, research questions, and four hypotheses were formulated for this study. The total population for the study was 2,505 married female students of tertiary institutions in Niger State. Out of this a sample of 444 married female students was randomly selected. Questionnaire made up of 35 structured items was used for the study. The method of data analysis was by frequency counts, and percentages. Regression Analysis was used to test all null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Results of the null-hypotheses showed that hypotheses one, and two were rejected, while null hypotheses three and four were retained. The findings reveal that parental counsel process guarantees stability in marriage, those who chose mates under the good counsel of their parents can experience marital stability. It was recommended among others that parents should endeavour to play the role of counsellors to their children on whom they should marry.

Keywords: Modern Mate, Marital Stability, Parental Counsel, Dating, Online matchmaking

Introduction

Mate selection is the process of choosing a partner with whom to form a marriage bond or long-term marriage-like relationship. While personal preference is a key component in the selection process, structural influences also exist. Mate selection is a process of picking a partner to marry or can be a process which involves the preferences of members of one sex for members of the opposite sex who possess certain qualities of interest (Buss, 2007). Paul (2009) viewed mate selection as a responsibility carried by a potential mate to choose the opposite mate for marriage, especially compatible mate. Mate selection is very complex and in Nigeria differs from one culture to the other. In Nupe culture, mate selection begins as early as infancy, in Hausa culture the process begins at eight or nine years of age and in some Tiv culture, it begins in late adulthood (Baumrind, 1999).

In some cultures, arranged marriages are common, while courtship practices are severely restricted. For instance, among the Idomas of Benue State Nigeria, the parents of a prospective husband can introduce their son to a lady they have observed over a period of time as a wife. In other cultures the parents of a groom initiates the process with the parents of the girl without their knowledge until some of the processes have been completed (Agaba, 2005; Amali & Ojogbane, 2005). In Nigeria, many young men and women are increasingly attending institutions of higher education mostly because of labour market returns. Arum & Budig (2007) however, reported that apart from labour market returns, there is likelihood that institutions of higher learning may become avenues for mate. Attendance in elite institutions for instance could increase the ability of individuals to get spouses who are positively endowed with characteristics associated with either higher achievements or ascriptive status. Such a role in the process of mate selection would increase significant additional incentives for enrolment.

In Nigeria, attending tertiary institution does not often lead to mate selection probably due to perceived unemployment upon graduation resulting in poverty. Even where educational stratification creates an environment for students to be in close proximity, they often end up dating and not mate selection. Educational attainment however increases social inequality by affecting life chances, both directly through improving labour market outcomes and indirectly through increasing the likelihood of choosing a mate who brings greater social, economic resources to the marital union (Arum and Budig, 2007).Within institutions of higher learning, students look at

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personality traits as a strong variable for mate selection. Each group has its own norms of desirability which its members come to look upon as absolute and imperative. Every group through its unique personal social experiences in areas of behaviour which may not be culturally accepted develop subjective ideals, standards, and taste with regards to what they deem desirable in their mates. The degree, to which these standards operate, depends on whether members of the opposite sex who would qualify under such standards are available (Arum and Budig, 2007).

Objectives of the Study
The aim of the study was to investigate influence of Mate Selection Processes on Marital Stability among students in Tertiary Institutions in Niger State. The specific objectives were to:
1.   find out how parental counsel process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State;
2.   establish how meeting through friends process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.
3.   determine how dating process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State;
4.   establish how online matchmaking process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.

Research Questions
The following Research Questions intended to answer the following questions:
1.   does parental counsel process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
2.   does selection of mate by meeting through friends process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
3.   does selection of mate by dating process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?
4.   how does online matchmaking process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.?

Null Hypotheses
The following Null Hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of confidence:
H0₁. parental counsel process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State;
H0₂. meeting through friends process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.

H0₃. dating process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State;

H0₄. online matchmaking process has no significant influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.

Methodology

The design was a descriptive survey to obtain information from the respondents through the use of structured questionnaire and random sampling techniques was employed in selecting the respondents.

Analysis of Data and Results

Data collected was presented using frequency, simple percentage and mean as well as the regression analysis. The frequency and percentage analysis was performed on the personal data of the participants. Regression analysis was used to test the formulated hypotheses of this research. The Predictive Analytical Software (PASW) also known as SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Science version 22 was used as statistical analysis software to generate the results of the analyses. The four point scale was collapsed into two which reflected agree and disagree. A total of 444 copies of questionnaires were administered and retrieved. Various results obtained are tabulated.

Research Question 1

Does parental counsel process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 1. Frequency and percentage of research question one

Questions	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
Item1	193(43.5%)	205(46.1%)	16(3.6%)	30(6.8%)	444(100%)
Item2	180(40.5%)	200(45.1%)	21(4.7%)	43(9.7%)	444(100%)
Item3	210(47.3%)	180(40.5%)	30(6.8)	24(5.4%)	444(100%)
Item4	178(40.1%)	215(48.4%)	20(4.5%)	31(7%)	444(100%)
Item5	188(42.3%)	208(46.9%)	20(4.5%)	28(6.3%)	444(100%)

Decision rule: The decision rule was, if p-cal (calculated regression value) is less than p-critical (the table value) the null hypothesis is rejected, while if p-cal is greater than p-critical the null hypothesis is retained.

In answering research question 1, table 1 revealed that items 1-5, 89.6%, 85.6%, 87.8%, 88.5% and 89.2% respectively of the respondents were of the opinion that parental counsel is an ideal process for choosing a mate to ensure stability in a marriage, while average 14.4% of respondents disagreed. Hence

parental counsel has a positive influence on marital stability.

Research Question 2

Does selection of mate by meeting through friends' process influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 2. Frequency and percentage of research question two

Questions	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
Item1	195(43.9%)	175(39.4%)	40(9%)	34(7.7%)	444(100%)
Item2	200(45%)	153(34.5%)	50(11.3%)	41(9.2%)	444(100%)
Item3	210(47.3%)	162(36.5%)	45(10.1%)	27(6.1%)	444(100%)
Item4	205(46.2%)	155(34.9%)	65(14.6%)	19(4.3%)	444(100%)
Item5	220(49.5%)	145(32.7%)	35(7.9%)	44(9.9%)	444(100%)

Looking at the results in table 2 items 1-5, 83.3.5%, 79.9%, 83.8%, 81.1% and 82.2% respectively of the respondents agreed that meeting through friends is one of the best processes for mate selection, while overall average for all items 20.5% of the respondents were indifferent with the opinion of other respondents. Hence meeting through friends has a positive influence on marital stability.

Research Question 3

Does selection of mate by dating influence marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 3 Frequency and percentage of research question three

Questions	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
Item1	52(11.7%)	35(7.9%)	163(36.7%)	194(43.7%)	444(100%)
Item2	45(10.1%)	59(11.3%)	209(46.2%)	144(32.4%)	444(100%)
Item3	25(5.6%)	53(11.9%)	194(43.7%)	172(38.8%)	444(100%)
Item4	65(14.6%)	30(6.8%)	202(45.5%)	147(33.1%)	444(100%)
Item5	54(12.2%)	32(7.2%)	191(43%)	167(37.6%)	444(100%)

From Table 3 items 1-5, 80.4%, 78.61%, 82.5%, 78.6% and 80.6% respectively of the respondents disagreed that dating process is an ideal process of selecting mate for stable marriage, while average for all items 21.4% of the respondents agreed that is an ideal process of choosing a mate. Hence, dating process has a negative influence on marital stability.

Research Question 4

How does online match making process influence marital stability

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among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State?

Table 4 Frequency and percentage of research question four

Questions	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
Item1	100(22.5%)	88(19.8%)	63(14.2%)	193(43.5%)	444(100%)
Item2	100(22.5%)	99(22.3%)	65(14.7%)	180(40.5%)	444(100%)
Item3	74(16.7%)	40(9%)	100(22.5%)	270(51.8%)	444(100%)
Item4	89(20%)	73(16.4%)	160(36.1%)	122(27.5%)	444(100%)
Item5	72(16.2%)	99(22.3%)	85(19.2%)	188(42.3%)	444(100%)

Looking at the results in Table 4 items 1-5, 57.7%, 55.2% , 74.3%, 63.1% and 61.5% respectively of the respondents disagreed that internet or online match-making is the ideal process for choosing a mate to ensure stability in marriage while average for all items 44.8% stood against the opinion. Hence, internet or online match making has a negative influence on marital stability.

Hypothesis 1

Parental counsel process has significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.

Table 5.   Regression coefficients of parental counsel process on

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	39.213	.957		40.971	.000
	Parental counsel process	.988	.498	.094	1.983	.043

a. Dependent Variable: Marital Stability Assessment

The t- calculated for dating process was computed to be 1.983, P value =0.043, P<0.05 hence, it can be concluded that parental counsel process, the slope is significantly different. The null hypothesis one is rejected, because p-value less than table value. This means that marital stability to the regression equation is significant. This signifies that the regression model was a good model in explaining Parental counsel process in marital stability.

Hypothesis 2

Meeting through friends' process has significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State

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Table 6. **Regression coefficients of meeting through friends' process on marital stability**

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	38.623	1.022		37.794	.000
	Meeting through friends process	1.203	.489	.116	2.458	.014

a. Dependent Variable: Marital Stability Assessment

The t- calculated for dating process was computed to be 2.458, P value =0.014, P<0.05 hence, it can be concluded that in meeting through friends process, the slope is significantly different. The null hypothesis two is rejected, because p-value is less than table value. This means that marital stability to the regression equation was significant. This explains to us that the regression model is a good model in explaining meeting through friends in marital stability

Hypothesis 3

Dating process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State

Table 7. Regression coefficients of dating process on marital stability

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	40.131	.876		45.826	.000
	Dating Process	.434	.417	.049	1.041	.298

The t- calculated for dating process was computed to be 1.041, P value =0.298, P>0.05 hence, it can be concluded that dating process, the slope is not significantly different. This means that marital stability to the regression equation was not significant. Therefore, null hypothesis three is accepted, because p-value is greater than table value. This implies that dating process of marriage selection had no significant influence on marital stability.

Hypothesis 4

Online match making process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State.

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Table 8. **Regression coefficients of online match making process on marital stability**

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	39.985	.906		44.118	.000
	Internet or online matchmaking process	.406	.345	.056	1.177	.240

The t- calculated for dating process was computed to be 1.177, P value =0.240, P>0.05 hence, it can be concluded that online match making process; the slope is not significantly different. This means that marital stability to the regression equation was not significant. Therefore, null hypothesis four is accepted, because p-value is greater than table value. This implies that online match making process had no significant influence on marital stability.

Discussion

Based on the objectives of the study, findings revealed that parental counsel process has significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The null hypothesis one was rejected, which means there was no significant influence of parental counsel process of selecting a mate on marital stability. This implies that parental counsel process guarantees stability in marriage. Therefore, it can be said that those who chose mates under the good counsel of their parents can experience marital stability. Paul (2009) reported that today, we search for soul mates, only few work with their parents counsel, that is, very few youths today take, observe and think over their guidance counsel of whom to select as a marriage partner. Only the few who take, observe and think over their parents counsel can experience marital stability.

Meeting through friends' process has significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The null hypothesis two was rejected, which means there was significant influence of meeting through friends' process of selecting mate on marital stability. This implies that selecting a mate through friends could guarantee marital stability in a home. Paul (2009) is of the view that "when we see people or meet people through friends, we filter them as either being in or out of our pool of eligibility." The Researcher agreed with this outcome but with little fear of the fact that opposite may result in atmosphere of deceit, lies, competition and selfishness among friends.

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Dating process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The null hypothesis three was retained, which means there was no significant influence of dating process of selecting mate on marital stability. This implies that dating a mate before selecting same mate does not guarantee marital stability. It therefore means that though you select a mate through dating you can still experience marital instability.

Online match making process has no significant influence on marital stability among students in tertiary institutions in Niger State. The null hypothesis four was retained, which means there was no significant influence of online match making process for selecting a mate on marital stability. This implies that online match making is not responsible for stability in marriage. Therefore, online match making has no power to bring about stable marriage (Steven & Buckwalter, 2013). In their study, they found out that online matchmaking affect marriage qualities. About 95% of mates selected in the internet never worked out (Steven and Buckwalter, 2013).

Conclusion

In view of the findings, it is safely inferred that in Niger State mate selection processes in the following areas, marriages by dating and online match making processes of selecting mate negatively influenced marital stability. Marital stability was attained by those who selected mates through counsel of their parents and meeting through friends.

Recommendations

1. Dating process of choosing a life partner should be de-emphasized among students. This is because dating process does not guarantee marital stability.
2. Online match making should be discouraged among tertiary institution students. This is because it is not an ideal way to have stable marriage.
3. Parents should endeavour to play the role of counsellors to their children on whom they should marry. Wise counsel is ideal to experiencing marital stability.
4. Tertiary institution female students should establish good moral relationship among friends with impeccable character.

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URBAN INFLATION AND HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BY FAMILIES IN AKWA IBOM STATE

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Abstract
This study was conducted to determine the predictive influence of urban inflation on household financial adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State. To guide the study, two objectives, two research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated. The null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study comprise 1000 families in Uyo Metropolis, using accidental sampling technique. The research questionnaire designed and used for the study were subjected to the reliability test on 30 respondents and the data collected for the reliability test were subjected to Cronbach Alpha reliability test, which yielded a coefficient of 0.82. Findings of the study shows that the inflation significantly influences household lifestyle and savings. It is recommended that policy makers should take into consideration one of the findings of this study which is the review of wages of workers in order to cope expenditure and improved family savings.

Keywords: Urban Inflation, Financial Adjustments, Family savings, Household Lifestyle, Financial Planning

Introduction

Inflation is typically expressed as the changes in prices for a basket of goods and services. Inflation in this instance is defined as a persistent rise in the general price level of goods and services in a country over a long period of time (Umaru & Zubairu, 2012). Inflation is measured by price indexes. One of which is the Consumer Price Index (C.P.I), which measures the cost of things urban consumers buy out of pocket. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) compiles consumer price index (CPI) to reflect price changes of consumption goods and services as well as retail sales in a certain period.

Monetary authorities and policy makers are becoming concerned about the high and persistent rates of inflation in Nigeria and the consequences have been dire. Even though managing inflation is an essential objective of central banks, the central bank of Nigeria (CBN) has made achieving price stability as its main monetary policy thrust over the past decade. According to Umaru and Zubairu (2012), the emphasis given to price stability in the conduct of monetary policy is with a view to promoting sustainable growth and development as well as strengthening the purchasing power of the domestic currency amongst others. The central bank employs the monetary targeting strategy in the conduct of its monetary policy. This is based on the assumption of a stable and predictable relationship between money supply and inflation (Osuji, 2020).

Inflation erodes the purchasing power of the naira over time. As the price of goods goes up, money (naira) purchases less and less. The consequence of inflation always certainly leads to consumers reviewing spending habits as people seek for ways to maintain equilibrium between income and expenditure. This could be reflected in eating out less, buying in bulk and switching brands from high end brands to affordable ones (Anderson, 2022). The micro effect of inflation is just as impactful as the macro effect on the national economy. Inflation needs to be studied based on its impact on households (micro) as well as on the nation (macro) generally. While many studies have examined the impact of inflation on economic growth in Nigeria, very few studies is being done to ascertain the impact of inflation on household consumption and lifestyle of families.

Data on headline inflation available at the Central Bank of Nigeria website shows that in March 2022, the consumer price index (CPI) which measures inflation increased to 15.92 percent on year-on-year basis. Increases were recorded in all Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) divisions that yielded the Headline index. On month-on-month basis, the Headline Index increased to 1.74 percent in March 2022, this is 0.11 percent points higher than the rate recorded in February 2022 (1.63 percent). The percentage change in the average composite CPI for the twelve months period ending March 2022 over the average previous twelve months period is 16.54 percent, this shows 0.19 percent points decrease compare to 16.73 percent recorded in February 2022. The Urban Inflation rate increased to 16.44 percent year-on-year in March 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the Urban Index rose to 1.76 percent in March 2022, this was up by 0.11 percent points from the rate recorded in February 2022 (1.65 percent) (CBN, 2022). The corresponding twelve-month year-on-year average percentage change for the urban index was 17.10 percent in March 2022. This was lower than 17.29

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percent reported in February 2022 (Proshare, 2022). In a layman's understanding, inflation rose for 2022 but not as high as the levels of 2021. In other words, prices are going up, but not in the same rate at which they were accelerating in 2021, but commodity prices for 2022 are way higher than they were in 2021.
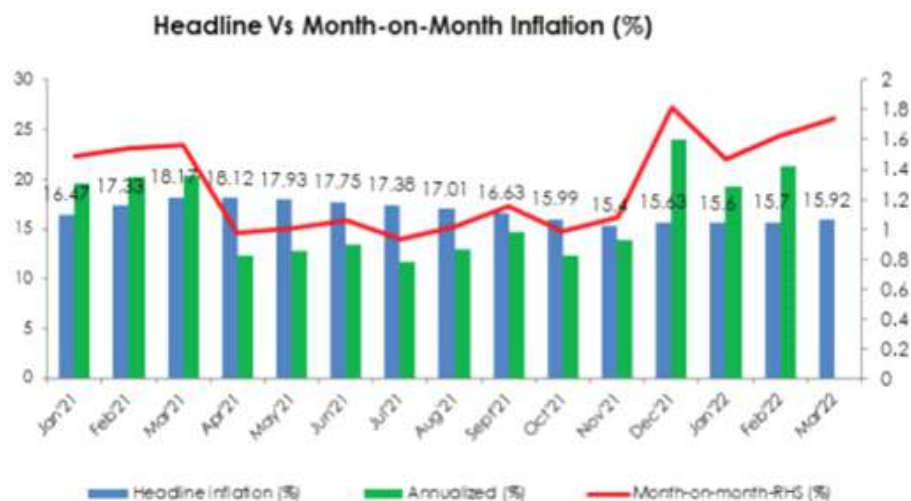
Courtesy: NBS, FDC Think-Tank (2022)

The impact of inflation on households particularly middle and low income households seem more pronounced than high earning homes. With the highest levels in over two decades, there is no doubt continued increase in inflation is hitting household purchasing power and likely restraining spending. Price sensitivity is starting to show up according to Cohen (2022). The author stated that there is a threshold that consumers do not want to go over. At this point, consumers are weighing everything, from energy prices, food prices to educational costs (school fees). They are also making decisions based on their income. These decisions is not just impacting on lifestyles and living costs, but long-term including the educational future of children as well as investments. Lifestyle choices, such as what to wear and where to live are impacting on discretionary expenses. Savings is also hard hit, as families may find it difficult to save, given that prices of basic commodities are arising and they must meet those basic needs in the wake of stagnated wages. Others are forced to even save during these times, fearing the worst is yet to come. There are also cases where the interest on savings is not even meeting up with inflation, thereby reducing the value of investments. The impact of inflation on households is huge. Thus, this study reviews the adjustment strategies of families and how urban inflation is impacting on the financial adjustment strategies of families in Akwa Ibom State.

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Statement of the Problem

The positive effect of the increase in the national minimum wage has been fast swallowed up by burgeoning inflation. Month by month CPI data in Nigeria shows a steady rise in inflation. Utilities (including energy costs) food and essentials are highly impacted by inflation. This is leaving most households with tough choices to make as regards education, feeding and lifestyle choices. Clearly, consumers will not all do the same thing and every category is going to be impacted differently and even in the same category of income, the impact will differ based on personal choices. Economists note that over most periods, the inflation level in prices is roughly similar to those across urban areas with similar income level and so they reason that, on average, over time, people's economic status is not greatly changed by inflation. If all prices, wages, and interest rates adjusted automatically and immediately with inflation, then, no one's purchasing power, profits, or real loan payments would change. However, if other economic variables do not move exactly in sync with inflation, or if they adjust for inflation only after a time lag, then inflation can cause three types of problems-blurred price signals, unintended redistributions of purchasing power and difficulties in long-term planning, all of which have serious implications for middle income countries like Nigeria. This would imply that people would slip back into poverty without even knowing, income and savings are eroded with higher spending on commodities and lowered interest on savings. Either way, households would most certainly be impacted negatively. This study thus, reviews the impact of urban inflation on household finances and adjustment in Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The objective of this study is to determine how inflation predict household adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study will seek to determine:
1. the predictive influence of inflation on lifestyle adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State.
2. the predictive influence of inflation on long-term financial planning by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were stated for the study
1. What is the predictive influence of inflation on lifestyle adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What is the predictive influence of inflation on long-term financial planning by families in Akwa Ibom State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Ho₁: Urban inflation does not have a significant predictive influence on lifestyle adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Ho₂: Urban inflation does not have a significant predictive influence on long-term financial planning by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Literature Review

Inflation is an economic term describing the sustained increase in prices of goods and services within a period. One impact of inflation is that it erodes the economic power of consumers, that is, the purchasing power of consumers decreases as money only buys less of what it used to buy. Inflation requires prices to rise across a "basket" of goods and services, such as the one that comprises the most common measure of price changes, the consumer price index (CPI) (Floyd, 2021).

An effect of inflation is blurred prices. Prices are the messengers in a *market economy,* conveying information about conditions of demand and supply. Inflation blurs those price messages. Inflation means that price signals are perceived more vaguely. If the static becomes severe, it is hard to tell what is happening. High and variable inflation means that the incentives in the economy to adjust in response to changes in prices are weaker. Markets will adjust toward their equilibrium prices and quantities more erratically and slowly, and many individual markets will experience a greater chance of surpluses and shortages. Another way of thinking about these blurred price signals is that inflation causes *price confusion* and *money illusion*. Typically, when prices of products rise, people can interpret the changing price with higher demand or greater scarcity, and adjust their purchasing behavior accordingly. When all prices are rising, people are less able to interpret signals from the changing price. Money illusion occurs when people mistake changes in nominal prices with changes in real (or relative) prices and might change their purchasing behavior even if there is no change in their purchasing power(Floyd, 2021).

According to Floyd (2021), inflation can make long-term planning difficult. This is particularly the case for middle income, poor homes and even for the rich. When household purchasing power decreases as a result of inflation, it does not with it reduce fixed expenditures. On the contrary, fixed expenditures only cost more and, in some cases, go up as it is in Nigeria, where companies are reducing quality, reducing quantity but increasing prices for goods due to inflation. This view is echoed by Smialek (2022) who averred that

high or unpredictable inflation that is not outmatched by wage gains can be especially hard to shoulder for poor people, simply because they have less room to wiggle. Poor households spend a bigger chunk of their budgets on necessities (food, housing and utility which is often a contributor to bouts of high inflation) and less on discretionary expenditures. For lower income households, price increases eat up more of their income, this in effect, impacts on lifestyle, buying behaviour and long-term planning. Inflation will catalyse adjustments by all stakeholders in the economy. One way to gauge what lies ahead is to look at how the adjustments will play out through the intertwined savings and investments channels. Household response to hardening interest rates will hugely influence both savings and investment. Not only are households the most important source of domestic savings, they are now also critical to deployment of bank credit as personal loans are almost on a par with industrial lending.

Theoretical Framework

Structural theory of inflation has been put forward as an explanation of inflation in the developing countries like Nigeria. The well-known economists, Myrdal and Straiten who proposed this theory analysed inflation in these developing countries in terms of structural features of their economies. Myrdal and Straiten explained inflation with developing economies in focus. They argue that existence of structural imbalance in economic, political and social systems accounts for disproportionate response of output to increase in investment spending and money supply. They further contend that savings in these economies are often inadequate to finance planned level of investment, thereby prompting the use of deficit finance. The economists identify low agricultural output, resource, foreign exchange, and infrastructural constraints as major obstacles to output response to rising demand following an increase in money supply. They contend that low agricultural output, budget constraint, scarcity of foreign exchange, and infrastructural challenges are major obstacles to output growth in developing economies and that in the light of these challenges, an increase in money supply produces a less proportionate increase in output, thereby pushing up the price level. The proponents therefore posit that aggregate demand-supply inflation model cannot appropriately explain inflation in developing economies (Okoye, et al, 2019).

Empirical Studies

A growing body of theoretical and empirical studies exits which provides evidence that sustained and therefore likely predictable high rates

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of inflation can have adverse consequences either for an economy"s long – run rate of real growth or for its long – run level of real activity (See Barro (1995), B

A growing body of theoretical and empirical studies exits which provides evidence that sustained and therefore likely predictable high rates of inflation can have adverse consequences either for an economy"s long – run rate of real growth or for its long – run level of real activity (See Barro (1995), B

A growing body of theoretical and empirical studies exists which provides evidence that sustained and likely predictable high rates of inflation can have adverse consequences either for an economy's long – run rate of real growth as well as on individual households.

Numerator in 2021 reported on a sentiment survey of 600 consumers conducted in June/July shows the following key findings: 4 in 5 (83%) of those surveyed said they noticed price increases on their commonly purchased groceries or household essentials in June & July; Two-thirds of consumers (66%) expect prices of groceries and essentials to further increase in the next 6 months -- 50% expect a slight increase, and 16% expect a significant increase in price; Those expectations translate into concern. Over half (54%) of consumers are moderately or significantly concerned about future price increases, with low purchasing power consumers 1.7x more likely to say they were extremely concerned than consumers with high purchasing power (39% vs. 23%). On consumer response to inflation, they reported over half of consumers (55%) said they had changed their shopping behavior due to price increases in the past month. The top three strategies for managing an inflationary environment (in order) are: switching to lower priced brands; pursuing promotions and discounts; and cutting back on discretionary spend- 49% of consumers plan to switch to lower priced brands with slight inflation, 60% plan to switch with significant inflation; 45% will seek out additional discounts and promotions with slight inflation, 50% with significant inflation; and 36% plan to cut discretionary spend with slight inflation, 49% with significant inflation.

Effah and Adusei-Poku (2017) studied the effect of inflation on consumer spending behaviour in Ghana? The analysis of the results was done using Ordinary least square test (OLS), the Johansen test (JH), and Vector Error Correction (VECM) test. The findings of the studies based on the JH tests showed stable significant long run relationship between inflation and consumer spending behaviour. The findings of the study show significant short run relationship between inflation and consumer spending using the VECM. The results of the OLS test show there is positive relationship between inflation and consumer spending behaviour.

Methodology

The researcher employed the descriptive survey research deign. The population of the study consists of families mainly parents in Uyo metropolis of Akwa Ibom State. The sample size of this study consist 1000 families in Uyo metropolis. Accidental sampling technique was employed in the sampling procedure. The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative research design. Both primary and secondary data was used for the study. Data on inflation was obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) publications. Household and family financial information was gotten from interviews and the use of questionnaire on residents on the city of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The questionnaire was validated by experts in Economics and sociology. The instruments were tested for reliability using the test retest method on 30 respondents. The collated scores were then subjected to a Cronbach alpha reliability test, which gave a value of 0.82. The instrument was administered on residents of the city at banks, malls, major markets and entertainment centres. Panel Regression data analysis was used to test the null hypotheses at .05 level of significance.

Model Specification

To test the hypotheses, a multiple regression analysis is applied to investigate the impact of inflation on household lifestyle adjustments; long-term financial planning. Thus, a general multiple regression model was developed in this study as follows:

$$UINFLi = \beta 0 + \beta 1 HLFA + \beta 2 LTFP + \alpha$$

Where:
UINFLi = Urban Inflation
$\beta 0$ = Constant (intercept)

HLFA = Household Lifestyle Adjustments
LTFP = Long-Term Financial Planning
α = the error

The decision was based on 5% (0.05) level of significance. The null hypothesis (Ho) will be accepted, if the Prob (F-statistic) value is greater (>) than the stated 5% level of significance, otherwise reject.

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Presentation of Findings

Table 1: Analysis of percentage change in respondents' behaviour with respect to increase in prices of commodities

How has inflation made you engage in the following cost saving measures?	last year Inflation	current year Inflation	% change
Switch to lower priced brands	33%	67%	103.0%
Seek out additional discounts and promotions (bargaining more at the market for lower prices)	40%	70%	75.0%
Cut back on non-essential/discretional spending	36%	59%	63.9%
Purchase more store brand products	36%	56%	55.6%
Switch to lower priced retailers (buy from smaller shops)	32%	48%	50.0%
Purchase items in bulk	30%	33%	10.0%
Purchase fewer premium products	32%	48%	50.0%
have not changed behavior	30%	15%	-50.0%

Table 1 presents the cross tabulation of respondents' comparative behavioural change with respect inflation for last year (2021) and the current year (2022). The result shows over a 100% increase in switching to lower brands between last year and the current year (2022). The result also shows that people are bargaining more at the market than they were last year. This is in order to get a good deal for their money. The result further shows that 63.9% more families are cutting back on non-essential spending. However, the result shows that only 10% more persons are buying in bulk, but 50% more respondents have changed their behaviour as a result of inflation.

Table 2: Summary of Pearson Correlation Matrix

		UINFL	HLFA	LTFP
UINFL	Pearson Correlation	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
	N	970		

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HLFA	Pearson Correlation	.852*	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012		
	N	970	970	
LTFP	Pearson Correlation	.175	.248	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.849	.793	
	N	970	970	970

Table 2 shows the correlation matrix for the study variables. The result shows that urban inflation (UINFL) has a very high positive relations with household lifestyle adjustments (HLFA) (.852) and Long-Term Financial Planning, LTFT (.849). Similarly, household lifestyle adjustments (HLFA) is also significantly related to Long-Term Financial Planning, LTFT (.793).

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁: Urban inflation does not have a significant predictive influence on lifestyle adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 3: **Summary of Panel Regression Test for significant predictive influence on lifestyle adjustments by families**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	-7.065	2.970		-2.378	.041	-7.065
	HLFA 1.242	.187	.826	6.657	.000	1.242

R^2 =0.872; Adj. R^2 =0.843; *F*-Statistic 30.567, *P*-Value (*F*-Statistics) .000

Table 3 gives the summary of the regression test for significance. The result shows that every unit rise in inflation increases household lifestyle adjustments (HLFA) of families by .1.242. The probability value(*F*-Statistics) is .000. Since P<.05 (.000), the result is statistically significant. Thus, urban inflation has a significant predictive influence on lifestyle adjustments by families in Akwa Ibom State.

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Ho$_2$: Urban inflation does not have a significant predictive influence on long-term financial planning by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Table 4:   Summary of Panel Regression Test for significant predictive influence on long-term financial planning by families

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.130	5.570		.023	.982
	LTFP	1.515	.350	.749	4.329	.002
R^2 =0.75; Adj. R^2 =0.695; F-Statistic 13.51, P-Value (F-Statistics) .002						

Table 4 gives the summary of the regression test for significance. The result shows that every unit rise in inflation increases long-term financial planning (LTFP) of families by .1.515. The probability value(F-Statistics) is .002. Since $P<.05$ $_{(.002)}$, the result is statistically significant. Thus, urban inflation has a significant predictive influence on long-term financial planning by families in Akwa Ibom State.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study show that inflation significantly influences households' lifestyle choices and savings. Lifestyle choices include managing energy costs, like running generator less, changing children schools to less expensive schools, clothing decisions based on lowered expenditures, food purchase patterns and cutting down on recreational activities that cut into family finances. Long term investments impacted by inflation includes personal housing projects, other investments outside of salaries for salary earners, depleted savings due to rising expenditures and stagnated wages. These findings are in line with Numerica (2021) which reported over half of consumers (55%) said they had changed their shopping behavior due to price increases in the past month. The top three strategies for managing an inflationary environment (in order) are: switching to lower priced brands; pursuing promotions and discounts; and cutting back on discretionary spend- 49% of consumers plan to switch to lower priced brands with slight inflation, 60% plan to switch with significant inflation; 45% will seek out additional discounts and promotions with slight inflation, 50% with significant inflation;

and 36% plan to cut discretionary spend with slight inflation, 49% with significant inflation. this finding is further supported by Effah and Adusei-Poku (2017) who found a positive relationship between inflation and consumer spending behaviour.

Conclusion

The aim of the current paper is to examine the effect of urban inflation on household financial adjustments in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that inflation has a significant effect on household adjustment strategies. It is concluded that urban inflation influences lifestyle choices and long-term savings of families in Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendations

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

1. Policy makers should take the findings of the current study into consideration in managing the economy since inflation induces consumer spending behaviour, which in turn, affects the economy.
2. The results also highlights the importance of non-standard monetary policy measures in helping to stabilize inflation and thereby providing support for economic recovery.

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LEVERAGING ICT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS FOR GENDER BALANCE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is breaking the glass ceiling and the wall of partition between male and female stereotyped vocations and professions. Gendered occupations and businesses are speedily thinning away, traditional gender roles are being eroded as technology continues to flatten the curve and offer seamless services to human kind irrespective of sex, age, place and race. This study explored how ICT and entrepreneurial skills can and have been leveraged on by the female gender to bridge competency gaps in our today's world. Various and varied literature on ICT, national development, gender balance, entrepreneurship and technology were reviewed. In the conceptual study, the authors highlighted some female entrepreneurs who have leveraged on ICT and entrepreneurial skills to carve a niche for themselves thereby underscoring the fact that no particular gender is inferior to the other. The study therefore recommends that all should be given equal opportunity to prove their mettle in a competitive global landscape and thus contribute their quote to national development.

Keywords: ICT, Entrepreneurship, Gender, Entrepreneurial Skills, Balance, National Development

Introduction

Our present day society is filled with several individuals with different and differing skills and competences. These competences do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race or height, status and religion. In a developing economy such as Nigeria, the incidence of gender-bias is rife. Many vocations, businesses and professions are usually "genderized", in other words, there are some of them that are said to be meant for a particular gender. This has often led to discrimination, remonstration, acrimony and prejudice. Entry into certain professions or developing skills and competences in them is usually viewed with skewed perception by a greater majority.

These days no profession or skill-set is to be an exclusive preserve of a particular gender. Information and communication technology as well as entrepreneurial skills have broken the jinx. The glass ceiling is being shattered and women are proving their mettle in all spheres and scope of the society. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, Nigeria has more women entrepreneurs across the globe. There are about 40 percent female entrepreneurs owning approximately 23 percent of enterprises in the formal sector. Female entrepreneurs contribute to the development of not just their immediate families but also that of the country through poverty alleviation, income generation, creation of employment opportunities, and enhancement of the well-being and self-worth of women in general. This study unveils a few of these enterprising women and their areas of focus towards national development as they leverage on entrepreneurial and ICT skills.

Statement of the problem

The human society is steeped into prejudice, biases and divergent opinions. Most of which are unfounded and unverified. In the past, especially in a developing economy, technical or engineering fields were reserved for the male folk. Men were also seen as the only ones who can develop and deploy entrepreneurial skills and competences. The pendulum has continued to chime; the question is, are women still limited by their gender to certain professions, trade, business or skills or is the trend gradually changing? This necessitated this study.

Objectives of the Study

This study is aimed at unveiling the extent Nigerian women have leveraged ICT and entrepreneurial skills in the development of the Nigerian society. It also showcases few women entrepreneurs who are blazing the trail and have shattered the glass ceiling in entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship

Ezoem (2015) described entrepreneurship as an important facet of industrial growth and the backbone of any country's economic development.

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Inegbenebor in Esene (2006) viewed entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. Entrepreneurship is the process that targets the merging of creative, innovative ideas and actions with managerial and organizational skills for the purpose of meeting specified needs. It involves mobilizing people, money and all other resources in order to ensure wealth creation. The difference between a job seeker and a job creator is entrepreneurship (Uche et al., 2021). On the other hand, entrepreneurship education is the process of transmitting skills and competences, insight into business opportunities and appropriate steps in exploring and exploiting such opportunities (Abdulwahed et al., 2013). Developing competences in entrepreneurship enhances an entrepreneur's ability to take risks, identify opportunities and appropriate such opportunities. Admittedly, without investment in human capital development, proficiency in the performance of tasks and success in entrepreneurship becomes a mirage (Sousa, 2018; Mamabolo et al., 2017).

Entrepreneurship entails harnessing the factors of production: land, labour, capital and utilizing them to produce new products and services. However, it is only those who irrespective of their gender, religious or political leaning, economic or educational status, perceive opportunities that others do not see or care about, acquire materials, employ workers, invest in capital goods, develop new ways to use economic resources more efficiently and engage in marketing activities that can be referred to as entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial skills therefore refer to the competences developed and imbibed by one who must succeed in entrepreneurship. These skills are not gender determined as they are available and accessible to all.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Whatever human beings do that is aimed at drawing them closer to nature through technological skills acquisition can be described as ICT (Ezoem, 2015). According to Okorie in (Uche et al., 2021), information and communication technology (ICT) is the combination of computer and telecommunication to information systems, services and products. ICT consists of hardware, software, telecommunication networks, workstations, robotics and smart chips. The importance of ICT is far reaching and all-encompassing. It enhances human capital development, socio-economic welfare of individuals in the society. ICT impacts positively on individuals, groups and organizations, government and societies. It provides near limitless possibilities of increasing quantity, and enhances the quality, speed and availability of information in a complex but increasingly interdependent world of business (Okorie, 2008).

Information and communication technology has become a way of life and a tool for national development and sustainable education. Its ubiquity and

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rapid development have equally transformed the society from just information technology to knowledge age (Daniel, 2012; Uche et al., 2021). These scholars further stated that when properly harnessed in development communication leads to sustainable development which is described as the type of development that is by the people, from the people and for the people. It is a paradigm shift from what was or what used to be where development experts, developed nations, partners and agencies in the comfort of their cozy environment think out what they presume will be the need of the developing world and go ahead to apply it which more often than not, results in a colossal waste of resources both human and material. Proper utilization of ICT therefore becomes essential to ensuring that the needed developments are cascaded to the people who need it through an all-embracing programme of events.

National Development

It is important to first determine what development is about. Reyes (2001) viewed development as a social condition within a nation in which the needs of its citizens are met by the proper use of its natural resources. Du-Pisani (2006) posited that development is an evolutionary process in which the human capacity increases in terms of initiating new structures, coping with problems, adapting to continuous change and striving purposefully and creatively to attain new goals. National development on the other hand is a development that cuts across a particular state, nation or country. According to Uche et al, (2021) national development is the need of the moment, especially in a developing economy to which Nigeria belongs. National development is a term that refers to sustainable growth and development of a nation to a more desirable one (Oloyede, 2019). It is people oriented and its success is evaluated in terms of the impact it has had in improving the lot of the masses (Adekoya and Ajilore, 2012). It is a process that is largely participatory that is targeted towards producing substantial changes in the economy, ecology, technology and the overall culture of the nation so that the moral and material advancement of the majority of the citizens can be attained within conditions of generalized justice, equality, liberty and dignity (Nwodu & Fab-Ukozor, 2003).

ICT and Gender Equality

In line with sustainable development goal five (SDG 5) which aims at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through enhanced use of enabling technology especially ICT, women all over the world can leverage on ICT to access better education, personal security, jobs, basic healthcare and financial inclusion. However, there are factors that can constitute constraints to their accessing these benefits such as affordability, skills, security and relevant contents. Through private sector initiatives, there is an improvement in the lives of women and enhancement of gender equality

through investments, innovation and development of products and services. Women represent 70% of the world's poor even though they constitute more than 50% of the global population. Research has shown that women reinvest 80% of every dollar made back into their families. Thus, any meaningful and pragmatic support for the economic empowerment of women is a crucial step in promoting prosperity and eradicating poverty. Nonetheless, women are currently less likely than men to use or own digital technologies, with gaps larger among youth and those over 45 years old (International Chamber of Commerce, 2017). Three major reasons why ICT matters for gender equality as articulated by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) include: the provision of opportunity, capacity and understanding.

The cyberspace (Internet) has created unprecedented opportunities for the enterprising females to tap into the global market. ICT becomes the great enabler offering female entrepreneurs the opportunities to compete in the global market without discrimination thereby boosting their business irrespective of size, sector and location. There are also opportunities for partnerships, international collaborations, and affiliations including affiliate marketing. There are opportunities for skill acquisitions and equipping with digital devices. Information and Communication Technology offers women access to education especially online education and basic healthcare through m-health, e-health and such like. According to ICC, the private sector plays a pivotal role in investing in community-oriented training, deploying infrastructure and delivering a wide range of ICT services to meet these needs. It is noted that ICT enhances efficiency, coordination, quality of information garnered and shared for development planning. Therefore, there is the need to leverage ICT by nations across the globe to ensure the empowerment of women. This calls for the understanding of governments about the workings of ICT ecosystem including matters of applications, infrastructure, policies and user engagements.

Theoretical Framework

This study is underpinned by Technology determinism theory of Marshall McLuhan. It is a theory that does not discriminate on the basis of gender as every individual is impacted by technology. Technological skill is equally accessible to all. Technology determinism believes that humans are conditioned by technology as their choices and actions are inevitably shaped by the nature and extent of technological structures existing in the society at any point in time (Leonard, 2008). By and large, humans are under the influence of technologies that they rely upon for enhanced quality of life. Nonetheless, technologies, in influencing humans, often need to contend with other social factors which could enhance or limit their effects (Adum et al., 2015 and Baran, 2010).

Nigerian Women Entrepreneurs

On Sunday 4ᵗʰ July, 2021, the Nation Newspapers under their banner head, Sunday Parade, featured Loveth Ndubueze, a female carpenter who broke the glass ceiling in a field previously dominated by men. She started carpentry in 2018. Others of the same kindred spirit include Omotayo Lasaki of Tayasaki—a furniture company and Tolulope Idiakhoa. These ladies are into the production of furniture: kitchen cabinets, wardrobes, doors, sofas, dinning sets, office and home furniture. Recently, Nigerians saw the wonder of turning waste to wealth through a female entrepreneur, Adejoke Lasisi who recycles pure water sachets and turns them into handbags, footwears and bodywears. She converts textile waste into floor mats and rugs. She also established a weaving school to train upcoming entrepreneurs.

Evergreen in our memory are the likes of Chief Mrs. Folorunso Alakija, the oil mogul and quintessential entrepreneur who started out as a stylist cum seamstress whose networth is within the threshold of 1Billion U.S Dollars; the social media maven and blogger Linda Ikeji has taken the new media landscape with storm. Several others are into mentorship/coaching services, agro-allied business, transportation with some driving cabs and tricycles commonly known as keke. Indeed, there is no sector or profession that women are not venturing into and raising the bar. Core men dominated and strength sapping vocations such as auto-mechanics and vulcanizing have seen female entrepreneurs making a difference. There is a case of one Becky Osarume Osagie who is blazing the trail in vulcanizing. She repairs punctured tires and tubes, inflates deflated tyres and changes old ones with new ones for those who require her services. Oyenespecial oven-smoked dried fish is another brain child of an enterprising Nigerian woman, Mrs. Rashidat Umar Oyinoza. This CEO, though a graduate of computer science from the University of Abuja, is into aqua-culture value chain subsector. She raises fresh fish, sells fresh fish, dries some, and packages oven-smoked dried ones in her branded label before supplying to various sales outlets in the country. She deploys her ICT skills in building a database for her customers with constant update to trace and track her growth and expansion mechanism.

Young female students are also proving their worth in entrepreneurship. Bash Lady cakes & confectionaries is a product of Mass Communication at the Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State, North-Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The young Nigerian entrepreneur, Miss Basirat Adeyemi started this line of business while she was still a student of the institution. She produces several baked products, pastries and confectionaries such as cakes, buns, doughnuts, chin-chin, egg-rolls, sausage rolls, ice-cream and other edibles.

Conclusion

It is noted from the discourses above that engaging in entrepreneurial skills and acquisition of ICT skills can bridge the gap in national development. Entrepreneurship is no respecter of any particular gender. In fact, it is gender

blind and as such accessible to all. Female entrepreneurs are blazing the trail thus proving that women can attain whatever height they aspire to. It is therefore imperative that the female folk should continue to acquire the needed skills and education so as to maintain their pride of place in the human society.

Recommendations

1. Government policies should encourage every individual and give equal opportunity to prove their mettle in a competitive global landscape.
2. Individual entrepreneurs should contribute to national development through train-the trainers' workshop, seminars and advocacy.
3. Women should aspire to whatever height they desire in life without any feeling of guilt, inferiority or intimidation by the opposite gender.

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URBANIZATION INFLUENCES ON STUDENTS LEARNING MOTIVATION IN UYO LOCAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined urbanization influences on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee, Akwa Ibom State. Three research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. A descriptive survey design was adopted while the population of the study comprised 6,703 Senior Secondary Two (SS2) students in the fifteen (15) public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. A sample size of 400 Senior Secondary Two (SS2) students which represents 5 percent of the study population was selected for the study using Taro Yamane sampling formulae. Simple random sampling method was used to select 10 sampled schools as well as 40 students from each of the sampled school for instrument administration. The researchers structured questionnaire titled "Urbanization Influences on Students Learning Motivation Questionnaire (UISLMQ)" was used for data collection. The overall reliability coefficient of 0.72 and 0.83 was obtained for the independent and dependent variables of the instrument using Cronbach Alpha Statistics. Simple linear regression analysis was used to test the research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Findings of the study revealed a

significance influence of overcrowded classrooms, external uproar and materialistic values on students' learning motivation in the study area. Conclusion was drawn from the findings while the researchers recommended among others that strict laws concerning noise pollution within the school premises should be made and effectively implemented so that students' motivation for learning can be sustained.

Keywords: Urbanization, Learning Motivation, Overcrowded Classroom, External Uproar.

Introduction

The learning process is very essential in students' development and improvement of skills, inculcation of right values and performance of a given task. According to Alade (2010), the primary concern of learning is the elevation of human condition, to nurture responsible and respectful citizens. Through learning, students are enabled to develop their knowledge, skills, interest and adopt new behaviour essential for the survival of social norms and values. Whether in urban or rural areas, students learn the basic fundamentals of knowledge which encourage social, economic and cultural progress through education. Students need a safe environment of learning in urban areas so as to cultivate deep interest and motivation towards learning.

Motivation is the drilling force behind the actions which may affect the needs, desires and life ambition. Learning motivation is one's inner drive to achieve better in school work. Students are most likely to put more effort, regulate their behaviour and persistently pursuit academic work if highly motivated, whether in urban or rural areas. Kuddus et al (2020) opioned that urbanization influences (which are those things within the urban settlement that may impact positively or negatively on the education of young ones) seem to influence the learning motivation of students.

One of the urbanization influences on students learning motivation is overcrowded classrooms. A classroom is said to be overcrowded when the number of students exceeds the optimum level such that it causes hindrance in the teaching and learning process. Over-crowded classroom creates unsafe environment and makes teaching and learning more difficult. Olayele et al (2017) noted that most teachers in urban schools experience huge class size due to higher population of pupils in cities. Given that teacher-student ratio in urban schools are usually high, the teachers may concentrate on learners seated in the front and fail to carry those at the back sit along, which may give room for

disturbance and noise making. Such condition will decrease students' motivation to learn, increase poor concentration and participation in class activities.

External uproar in urban areas may likely influence students learning motivation in schools. External uproar is the disturbing noise from the outside with harmful effect on the learning ability of students in the school classroom. Physical and socio-economic development in most urban areas such as construction, sound of motor vehicles, industrial activities as well as human activities such as religious activities, music, public bars, promotion adverts and entertainment has created serious uproar or noise, which adversely affected the listening abilities as well as student's willingness and motivation to learn. In recent times, Ogwo et al (2018) observed that almost all the schools in the urban areas are sited around residential areas, industrial area, traffic and market places. Such condition can make learners loose interest and motivation in learning.

Materialistic values of people living in urban areas may likely influence student's perception and attitude towards schooling. Most students value the possession of wealth as the key to happiness and success in life. This is because the external environment of which they find themselves places much emphasis on money and possession of expensive property. According to Ivan and Clinton (2012), a number of students sometimes drop out of school in the quest of acquiring money like other people in the society, so that they can afford expensive items for self satisfaction. The author added that sometimes, through social media platforms, some financial buoyant individuals are usually advertised such that young ones who peruse such information are motivated to leave the school for more income generating activities. Because of the materialistic values uphold by significant people in the society, young ones who have strong desire to be financially rich may resort to engaged in activities that would provide quick financial earnings at the expense of schooling.

Theoretical and Conceptual Review
Theory of Reasoned Action (1975)

The theory of reasoned action (TRA) was propounded by Ajzen in 1975, and was derived from social psychology setting, which anchored on the study of attitude and behaviours. The theory was created largely out of frustration with traditional attitude-behaviours research, much of which found weak correlations between attitude measures and performance of volitional behaviours. According to Ajzen (1975), the major components of TRA is that a

person's behavioural intention depends on the person's attitude about the behaviour as well as perceived expected outcomes which is the subjective norms. If a person intends to display behaviour, then it is likely that the person will do it.

Behavioural intention measures a person's relative strength of intention to perform behaviour. Attitude consists of beliefs about the consequences of performing the behaviour multiplied by his or her valuation of these consequences. Subjective norm is seen as a combination of his or her valuation of these consequences. Subjective norm is seen as a combination of perceived expectations from relevant individuals or groups along with intentions to complying with these expectations. A person's voluntary behaviour is predicted by his/her attitude toward that behaviour and how he/she thinks other people would view such behaviour (Ajzen, 1975). A person's attitude, combined with subjective norms, forms his/her behavioural intention.

The relevance of this theory to this work is in its ability to explain the relationship between materialistic values and students learning motivation. It is known therefore that students' motivation to learn depends on their predictive reasons and behavioural intentions. Students who hold the belief that success depends solely on materials possession may be less motivated to engage in academic activities. Young ones who uphold the idea that buying materials items or acquiring well is a normal behaviour of affluent people may see school as a waste of time and withdraw themselves from school work.

Urbanization

Urbanization is the process by which large number of people becomes permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities. Tacoli (2015) viewed urbanization as the population shift from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to the change. Alirol et al (2011) earlier conceived that urbanization is the mass movement of populations from rural to urban settings and the consequent physical changes to urban setting. In 2019, the United Nations estimated that more than half the world's population 4.2 billion people now live in urban area and by 2041, this figure will increase to 6 billion people (Kuddus et al., 2020).

Urbanization is the process through which cities grow and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the cities. Cities are known to play multifaceted functions in all societies. Cities are the heart of technological development and economic growth of many nations, while at the same time

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serving as a breeding ground for poverty, inequality, environmental hazards, and communicable diseases. When large numbers of people congregate in cities, many problems arise, particularly for the poor. This influx of humans and animals leads to vulnerability of all migrants to circulating communicable diseases and the potential to establish an urban transmission cycle.

Students Learning Motivation

Learning motivation is a concept that clarifies students' ability to engage in learning with interest and enthusiasm. Serhan (2019) described learning motivation as a students' desire (as reflected in approach, persistency and level of interest) regarding academic subjects when judged based on standard of performance of excellence and competence. Koyuncuoglu (2021) viewed learning motivation as the students' interest or desire in engaging with learning and their school experience. Highly motivated students are expected to make more effort to increase their academic and social achievement in their learning process. Therefore, learning motivation is the process whereby students find academic activities meaningful and worthwhile and try to derive pleasure and greater achievement through regular engagement.

Overcrowded Classroom and Students Learning Motivation

Classrooms that are overpopulated often have the teacher-students ratio higher than what is expected which may impact negatively on students' performance. According to Beshavion (2011), it is obvious that students in over-populated classes would likely not understand what the teacher teaches as their attention is divided. The author added that such situation is solely responsible for social vices, hardship, commotion, poor performance and involvement of criminal act among students.

The National Policy of Education stated that the teacher-student ratio should be one teacher to 40 students (1:40), per class in secondary schools (FRN, 2013). Teacher-student ratio is the number of teachers in school with respect to the number of students who attend the school. Afoma (2013) observed that the average number of students per classroom in most public secondary schools is about eighty to one hundred (80-100). One of the causes of higher number of students in class, is the rise in students' enrolment as well as joining two more classes together for a teacher due to teacher's transfer (Arshad et al., 2009). Kennedy (2014) stated that having so many people in class would make the class congested and will be very difficult for the teacher to pass instructions to students, thereby hindering student's motivation towards

learning.

In a study conducted by Olaleye et al (2017), the authors found that students' learning motivation in some schools are negatively influenced by overcrowded classroom. The authors added that when a class is over-crowded, a teacher may find it difficult to conduct each student's activities properly and to promote their learning skills and capabilities. Ndubueze and Chinasa (2021) also found in their study that students in Nigeria public schools loose interest and motivation for learning due to overcrowded classrooms.

External Uproar and Students Learning Motivation

The increase in population and concentration of people in a particular area or habitat has led to the generation of noise to an extent that it distorts the peaceful existence and performance of normal activities. External uproar or noise within the school location constitutes a lot of danger and hazard to learning by students and the education system generally. Abdolreza and Amir (2016) described noise pollution as the presence of noise or sound in the environment that are disturbing and annoying to living beings. Sapina et al, (2014) defined noise as unwanted sound judged to be unpleasant, loud or disruptive to hearing. Ogwo et al (2018) described noise as unwanted sound that creates annoyance and interferes in conversation, disturbs sleep and teaching-learning process; reduce work efficiency and causing stress. Noise prevents the free flow of information from the teacher to the learner during instruction and consequently disrupts the knowledge of learner.

Abdolreza and Amir (2016) asserted that loudness of sound which is also known as sound pressure level is measured in units called decibels. The normal human ear detects sounds that range between zero decibels and 140 decibels for hearing threshold with sounds between 120 decibels and 140 decibels causing pain (pain threshold). Philip (2014) noted that excessive noise from the outside school reduces the ability to hear lessons clearly and has a negative effect on a child's listening ability and motivation to learn. The author added that young ones exposed to continuous disruptive noise can experience poorer reading ability, memory and academic performance. No meaningful learning can take place in a noisy school environment. This is in line with the findings of Crandell and Smaldino (2010) that students are prone to be unable to understand what the teacher teaches in the classroom when there is excessive noise. Even the students would find it difficult to read in the library or their respective classes when environment is rowdy or noisy.

Zabby (2011) maintained that some of the students are less motivated to learn in public schools because of the location of the school. The author added that some of the school located in urban areas have encounter various environmental distraction such as sound from motor vehicles, music, advertisement and entertainment activities. The frequency of noise pollution in areas where schools are located can obstruct proper instruction which may leads to low comprehension by students. Low comprehension of students leads to shallow memory which manifests in poor performance in academics. In such a situation, the affected students may not be highly motivated to carryout academic activities with zeal and passion. Abdolreza and Amir (2016) found in one of their studies that external noise leads to difficulty in concentration and reduces the ability of students to memorize concepts. Abubakar et al (2021) also found that external disturbances irritates students in the classroom and decrease their motivation to learn.

Materialistic Values and Students Learning Motivation

Materialism is viewed as a personal value that is reflected by people's beliefs about the importance that possessions play in their lives and the display of their acquired assets (Roberts and Jones, 2011). Some youths hold the belief that owning the right possessions is a key to happiness and success. The possession of materials things sometimes brings happiness and joy to the acquired. Richins (2011) found that a great amount of time and energy is dedicated to acquiring, possessing and thinking about material things. Students with materialistic inclination are sometimes more concerned about tangible objects than education. Ivan and Clinton (2012) noted that most students today place high value for money and less value for education. They can be driven to have more and more money or possessions to the extent where they neglect to consider their education as a worthwhile activities well-being.

Most students have set making a lot of money one of their future goals. Materialistic values in students affect the balance between their private life and the level of sacrifice they are willing to make for learning in the school. Students with materialistic values have decreased interest and motivation for academic work; hence, regarding it as a waste of times. Gudmunson and Danes (2011) was of the opinion that students' tend to develop 'money attitude' because the environment particularly those living in urban areas are see and regarded as affluent people. Therefore, young ones who live in such areas may cultivate the habit or feel the need to compete with the high materials achievers (Pugh, 2009). In a study conducted by Roberts and Jones (2011), the authors

found that money attitude of young ones have decreased their motivation for learning in the school institution. Ivan and Clinton (2012) also discovered that the quest for materials possession has made some students to withdraw from school in a bit to start up petty businesses.

Statement of the Problem

Students receive learning formally within the school. Students are most likely to be motivated to learn if the environment encourages them to interact, acquire skills and scientifically develop their mindsets. In Uyo Local Education Committee of Akwa Ibom State, it is observed that classes are over-populated with external uproar, such that most students often complain of not being able to understand what the teacher teaches as their attention are sometimes divided. The high density of students' population sometimes makes teachers unable to control the students and inculcate in them spirit of discipline. This situation seems to be responsible for students' display of antisocial behaviour in schools and non-display of good learning behaviour such as paying attention, concentrating and contributing positively during class discussion.

Due to utmost desire for material possessions, some students usually roam the street during school hours hawking and selling consumable goods as well as other goods and services in the urban areas of Uyo. Consequently, this has resulted in high rate of dropout among public secondary school students in the study area. It is obvious that students who develop negative attitude to studies due to less motivation towards learning, are most likely to engage in gangsterism and bad behaviours. Therefore, this study sought to examine urbanization influences on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee, Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate:
1. The influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.
2. The influence of external uproar on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.
3. The influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.

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Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.
2. There is no significant influence of external uproar on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.
3. There is no significant influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.

Design of the Study

The researchers adopted a descriptive survey design for the study. The descriptive survey design is a design which describes the present condition of a particular event. It is a self-report research that enabled a researcher to collect data from respondents through the use of questionnaire (Udoh and Joseph, 2005). This design is applicable to this work in that it enabled the researcher to describe urbanization influences on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee, Akwa Ibom State.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consisted of all the 6,703 Senior Secondary Two (SS2) students in the fifteen (15) public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State (Secondary Education Board, Research and Statistic Division 2022).

Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample size of 400 Senior Secondary Two (SS2) students which represents 5 percent of the study population was selected for the study using Taro Yamane sampling formulae. To get adequate sampled schools, simple random sampling method (balloting method) was used to select 10 public secondary schools out of 15. Thereafter, 40 students were selected from each of the sampled schools using the same method of random sampling, which gives a total of 400 sampled respondents.

Instrumentation

The researchers structured questionnaire titled "Urbanization Influences on Students Learning Motivation Questionnaire (UISLMQ)" was used for data collection. The questionnaire instrument had two parts. Section (A) contained 15 items, that is, 5 items each on urbanization influences while section (B) contained 10 items measuring students' learning motivation. The UISLMQ

was measured in a four point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4; Agree (A) = 3; Disagree (D) = 2; Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. The respondents were requested to give their own opinions or views to the instrument using the symbol (√).

Validation of the Instrument

To ensure the face validity of the instrument, two copies of the instrument were given to two validates from the Department of Educational Foundation, Guidance and Counselling, University of Uyo to assess the suitability or otherwise of the items in the instrument. Their inputs and corrections made were utilized to form the final copy for administration.

Reliability of the Instrument

To establish the reliability of the instrument, Cronbach Alpha reliabity technique was used. Here, the instrument was administered 40 SS2 students in a selected school not included in the population sample. Data was subjected to correlation and Cronbach Alpha statistics was applied for test of internal consistency of the instrument. This yielded the overall reliability co-efficient of 0.72 for urbanization infleunces and 0.83 for items measuring students learning motivation respectively.

Method of Data Collection

The research instruments were personally administered on the respondents in their respective schools by the researcher together with two trained research assistants. Copies of questionnaires administered were filled properly according to instructions and collected instantly to avoid any lost.

Method of Data Analysis

Simple linear regression analysis was used to test the research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion of Findings
Hypothesis 1

There is no significant influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.

The regression analysis showing the influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: **Regression Analysis Test of Significant Influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation**

Model Decision	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-calc.	P-value	
Regression	1485.601	2	1485.601			
Residual	16600.271	397	69.168	21.478	0.000	S
Total	18085.872	399				

S = Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 1 show that the p-value of 0.000 with the degrees of freedom of 2 and 399 is less than the Alpha level of 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected while the alternate hypothesis is retained. This implies that there is a significant influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. To determine the nature of the influence on the independent variable (overcrowded classroom) on students learning motivation, the regression coefficient as well as the p-value was obtained and the result obtained is presented in Table 2

Table 2: **Regression coefficient showing the nature of the influence of overcrowded classroom on students learning motivation**

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized beta coefficient	t-calc.	p-vale
Constant	55.007	2.394		22.981	0.000
Overcrowded Classroom	-0.734	0.158	-0.287	-4.634	0.000*

*significant at 5% (p<0.05).

which implies that overcrowded classroom has an inverse influence on students learning motivation.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant influence of external uproar on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.

Table 3:   **Regression Analysis Test of Significant Influence of external uproar on students learning motivation**

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-calc.	P-value	
Decision						
Regression	4724.515	2	4724.515			
Residual	13361.356	397	55.672	84.863	0.001	S
Total	18085.872	399				

S = Significant at .05 level of significance

Table 3 shows that the p-value of 0.001 with the degrees of freedom of 2 and 399 is less than the Alpha level of 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected while the alternate hypothesis is retained. This implies that there is a significant influence of external uproar on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. To determine the nature of the influence on the independent variable (external uproar) on students learning motivation, the regression coefficient as well as the p-value was obtained and the result obtained is presented in Table 3

Table 4:   **Regression coefficient showing the nature of the influence of external uproar on students learning motivation**

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized beta coefficient	t-calc.	p-vale
Constant	63.363	2.135		29.673	0.000
External Uproar	-1.044	0.113	-0.511	-9.212	0.000*

*Significant at 5% (p<0.05).

Results presented in Table 4 shows regression coefficient of -1.044 which implies that external uproar has an inverse influence on students learning motivation.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee.

Table 5:   **Regression Analysis Test of Significant Influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation**

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-calc.	P-value
Decision					
Regression	550.646	2	550.646		
Residual 17535.226	397	73.063	7.537	0.000	S
Total	18085.872	399			

S = Significant at < .05 level of significance

Table 5 shows that the p-value of 0.000 with the degrees of freedom of 2 and 399 is less than the Alpha level of 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected while the alternate hypothesis is retained. This implies that there is a significant influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. To determine the nature of the influence on the independent variable (materialistic values) on students learning motivation, the regression coefficient as well as the p-value was obtained and the result obtained is presented in Table 6.

Table 6:   **Regression coefficient showing the nature of the influence of materialistic values on students' learning motivation**

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized beta coefficient	t-calc.	p-vale
Constant	54.824	3.911		14.018	0.000
Materialistic Values	-0.526	0.192	-0.174	-2.745	0.007*

*significant at 5% (p<0.05).

Results presented in Table 6 shows regression coefficient of -0.526 which implies that materialistic pursuit of students have an inverse influence on students learning motivation.

Discussion of Findings

Finding of the research hypothesis one revealed a significant influence of overcrowded classrooms on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. This present finding is in line with Olaleye et al (2017), the authors found that students' learning motivation in some schools are negatively influenced by overcrowded classroom. The authors added that

when a class is over-crowded, a teacher may find it difficult to conduct each student's activities properly and to promote their learning skills and capabilities. This finding also agrees with that of Ndubueze and Chinasa (2021) who asserted that students in Nigeria public schools loose interest and motivation for learning due to overcrowded classrooms. It is therefore observed from this finding that students are less likely to be motivated to learn if the classroom is overcrowded.

Finding of the research hypothesis two revealed a significant influence of external uproar on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. This finding is in line with the finding of the study conducted by Abdolreza and Amir (2016) that external noise leads to difficulty in concentration and reduces the ability of students to memorize concepts. This finding also conforms to the finding of Abubakar et al (2021), that external disturbance irritates students in the classroom and decreases their motivation to learn. Hence, it is therefore observed from this finding that locating schools in places that is not calm and conducive for learning can decrease students' motivation for learning.

Finding of the research hypothesis three revealed a significant influence of materialistic values on students learning motivation in Uyo Local Education Committee. This finding is in line with the finding by Roberts and Jones (2011), that money attitude of young ones has decreased their motivation for learning in the school institution. Ivan and Clinton (2012) also discovered that the quest for materials possession has made some students to withdraw from school in a bit to start up petty businesses. Hence, it is obvious to state that strong desire to acquire wealth as others do in the society can adversely influence students' motivation for learning.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of the study, it is therefore concluded that overcrowded classroom, external uproar and deep interest for materialism among students can inhibit their motivation for learning.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made from the finding:
1. The teacher-students ratio of one teacher to 40 students (1:40) per class in secondary schools as stated in the National Policy on Education (FRN, 2013) should be strictly observed by educational administrators in order to enhance effective class control, evaluation of students with ease and facilitate positive academic performance of students.
2. Strict laws concerning noise pollution within the school premises should be made and effectively implemented so that students' motivation for learning can be sustained.

3.   Parents, teachers and the school administrators should always educate the students on the need to cultivate the habit of contentment and shun greed, so as not to be attracted by material possessions which are detrimental to students' academic pursuit.

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EPISTEMOLOGY OF FAMILY, GENDER AND URBANIZATION IN NIGERIA: A THEMATIC REVIEW

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Abstract
In Nigeria, like other parts of the world, urbanization means different things for men and women. Urbanization is the process through which cities grow, and higher percentages of the population come to live in the city. Gender refers to the cultural and social characteristics attributed to men and women on the basis of perceived biological differences. This thematic review adopted the research scholars' database such as the Google scholar, amongst others to search for literatures using the keywords of "Family", "Gender" and "Urbanization" in the search databases. The review's conclusion ranges from the fact that urbanization is on the high increase in Nigeria, which as a results can leads to improved household gender with males increasing unpaid work, erodes gender norms; migrant fathers increase unpaid care work amongst others. Furthermore, education and income support urbanization in improving household gender equality and that, time-costs of Children Analysis yields important for fertility. Finally, the submission of the World Bank (2020) is apt in this conclusion.

Keywords: Family, Gender, Urbanization, Migrant father, unpaid care work

Introduction

A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together; all such related persons are considered as members of one family. Gender refers to the cultural and social characteristics attributed to men and women on the basis of perceived biological differences. Urbanization is the process through which cities grow, higher and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the city.

Specifically, Urbanization denotes a process whereby a society changes from a rural to urban way of life or redistribution of populations to urban settlements associated with development and civilization. For millennia, urban areas have been centers and drivers of commercial, scientific, political and cultural life, having a major influence on the whole countries and regions (Aliyu and Amadu, 2017). Urbanization means the share of urban population in the total population of a country (O'Neill, 2022). According to the Department

of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2015) the global urban population increased from 13% in 1900 to 29% in 1950, 49% in 2005 and it is estimated that by 2030, 60% of the population will live in the cities. Urban population that increased from 220 million in 1900 to 732 million in 1950 and is expected that there will be 4.9 billion urban dwellers by 2030 (annual urban growth rate of 1.8%).

Nigeria Population by gender

According to statista.com, in 2020, Nigeria's female population amounted to approximately 101.67 million, while the male population amounted to approximately 104.47 million inhabitants. According to knoema.com, in 2020, male to female ratio for Nigeria was 102.75 males per 100 females. Male to female ratio of Nigeria increased from 99.54 males per 100 females in 1950 to 102.75 males per 100 females in 2020 growing at an average annual rate of 0.23%.

Households and Urbanization Epistemology in Nigeria

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2015) estimated that the numbers of urban and rural dwellers in the world were almost evenly split, with slightly more in urban areas. However, the share of urban dwellers is expected to rise to 70 per cent by 2050 (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, 2015). Thereby, the number of households in Nigeria reached 43.0 million in 2020 (National Statistical Office, 2020). This is 2.52% more than in the previous year. Historically, number of households in Nigeria reached an all-time high of 43.0 mil in 2020 and an all-time low of 15.7 mil in 1990. These metamorphosed Nigeria to be ranked 8th within the group of 111 countries we follow in terms of interest rate on number of households. According to National Bureau of Statistics' Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2020, the average household size in Nigeria is 5.06 persons per family: in rural areas, the size is higher - 5.42 individuals versus 4.50 in urban areas.
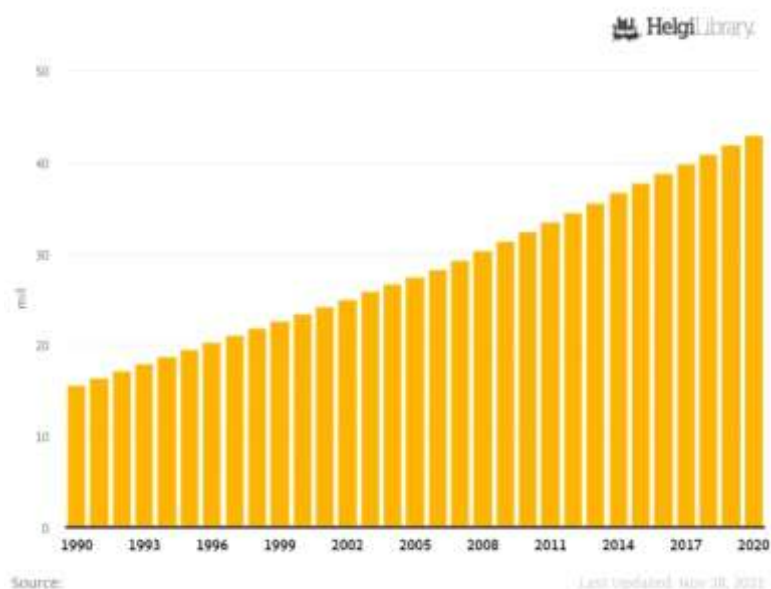
Figure 1: Number of Households in Nigeria from 1990 to 2020
Source:*HelgiLibrary.com*

Furthermore, Onibokun and Faniran (1995) gave very revealing figures about urbanization in Nigeria. From Table 1, in 1921, Nigeria's population was 18, 700,000 out of which 4.8 percent was urban population. There were only ten cities with population of 200,000 and above. Ten years later in 1931, the percentage of urban population had risen to 6.7 percent two cities with population of 100,000, and twenty-four with population of over 200,000. By 1952/54, urban population had risen to 10.2 percent; there were seven cities with population of 100,000, fifty-four cities with population of 200,000 and above. By 2020 estimates, there was a steep increase to 68.0 percent of urban population, 680 cities with population of 200,000 and above, and thirty-six cities with population of 500,000 population.

Table 1: Population of Nigeria, 1921-2020

Year	Total Population (000's)	Total Urban Population (000's)	Percentage of Total Population	No. of Cities with Population 100,000	No. of Cities with Population 200,000 and above	No. of Cities with Population 500,000
1921	18,720	890	4.8	-	10	-
1931	20,056	1,343	6.7	2	24	-

1952/54	30,402	3,701	10.2	7	54	-
1963	55,670	10,702	18.2	24	185	2
1972	78,924	19,832	25.1	38	302	3
1984	96,684	31,902	33.0	62	356	14
2020	160,000		68.0	132	680	36

Source: Onibokun and Faniran (1995)

Table 2 shows Nigeria's Rural and Urban Population, 1950-2025 by percentages. In seventy-five years, from 1950-2025, urban population rose from 10.1 percent of total population to a projected figure of 61.6 percent.

Table 2: Nigeria's Rural and Urban Population, 1950-2025

Year	Rural Population	Urban Population	Urban Population as % of Total
1950	29,595,000	3,340,000	10.1
1955	32,605,000	4,489,000	12.1
1960	36,220,000	6,058,000	14.3
1965	40,396,000	8,280,000	17.0
1970	45,252,000	11,319,000	20.0
1975	50,835,000	15,511,000	23.4
1980	57,188,000	21,242,000	27.1
1985	63,448,000	28,568,000	30.9
1990	70,383,000	38,159,000	35.2
1995	77,533,000	50,16200	39.3
2000	84,853,000	64,768,000	43.3
2005	91,960,000	82,347,000	47.2
2010	98,435,000	102,831,000	51.1
2015	103,411,000	125,343,000	54.8
2020	106,458,000	148,935,000	58.3
2025	107,758,000	173,135,000	61.6

Source: Onibokun and Faniran(1995)

Table 3 shows the percentage of population residing in urban areas in the World, Africa and Nigeria from 1950 to 2025. The world figures are higher

the figures for Nigeria. However, comparing Africa figures with those of Nigeria, Nigerian figures were lower than those for Africa were until 1985 when urban population figures for Nigeria started to outstrip the African urban population figures.

Table 3:   Percentage of Population Residing in Urban Areas in the World, Africa and Nigeria, 1950-2025

Year	World	Africa	Nigeria
1950	29.2	14.5	10.1
1955	31.2	16.3	12.1
1960	34.2	18.3	14.4
1965	35.5	20.6	17.0
1970	36.6	22.9	20.0
1975	37.8	25.2	23.4
1980	39.5	27.8	27.1
1985	42.2	30.6	31.0
1990	45.2	33.9	35.2
1995	48.1	37.3	39.3
2000	51.1	40.7	43.3
2005	53.9	44.0	47.2
2010	59.3	50.7	54.8
2020	62.0	53.9	58.3
2025	64.6	57.1	61.6

Source: Onibokun and Faniran (1995)

Urbanisation is already a big factor in Nigeria, with an annual urban population growth of 4.3 per cent and the country hosting five of the 30 largest urban settlements on the African continent. It will play an even more pivotal role by 2037, when the urban population in Nigeria's cities will have doubled. To keep up with this steady growth, 700,000 housing units must be built every year, with cities like Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano experiencing an annual increase of 20 per cent in housing demand (URBANET, 2018). Managing urban growth and urbanization in Nigeria have become one of the most important challenges of the 21st century. (Aliyu & Amadu, 2017).

Implications of urbanization

The promise of jobs and prosperity, among other factors, pulls people to cities. Half of the global population already lives in cities, and by 2050, by projection; two-thirds of the world's people will live in urban areas (National Geographic, 2022). The World Bank (2020), however, noted that the speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges, including meeting accelerated demand for affordable housing, well-connected transport systems, and other infrastructure, basic services, as well as jobs, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements to be near opportunities. Conflicts are on the rise, resulting in 60% of forcibly displaced people living in urban areas (The World Bank, 2020).

In cities, two of the most pressing problems facing the world today also come together: poverty and environmental degradation. Poor air and water quality, insufficient water availability, waste- disposal problems, and high energy consumption are exacerbated by the increasing population density and demands of urban environments. Strong city planning will be essential in managing these and other difficulties as the world's urban areas swell (National Geographic, 2022). Many research findings show that while cities in Nigeria, as in other developing countries, have been growing at a very rapid rate, there has been no commensurable growth in the rate at which social services and infrastructural amenities are provided. The result has been a gradual decline in the quality of the environment and in the quality of life. Educational facilities such as primary and secondary schools, have not been able to accommodate the sharp increase in the number of pupils; the ratio of population to health facilities such as dispensaries, maternity homes and hospitals is unfavourable, health facilities are neither well-staffed nor adequately equipped. The same findings apply to housing, employment opportunities and crime prevention facilities" (Onibokun & Faniran, 1995).

Two major problems, the current housing and water deficits in Nigeria, support the position of Onibokun and Faniran (1995). The Speaker, Nigeria Federal House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila was quoted to have said that the estimated housing deficit in Nigeria, which is estimated to be between 17 and 20 million housing units and also said to be increasing annually by 900,000 units, the potential cost of overcoming this deficit is about N6 trillion. (Nwabughiogu, 2021). UNICEF, Nigeria (2021) stated further that sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in Nigeria, with over 86 per cent of Nigerians lacking access to a safely managed drinking water source. The problem is compounded by poor drinking water quality and lack of equity in access.

Conclusion

This review concluded that high rate of urbanization in Nigeria tend to improve household gender with males increasing unpaid work. It is worthy to

note that migration equally erodes gender norms; migrant fathers increase unpaid care work. Another conclusion reached is that Education and income support urbanization in improving household gender equality and that, time-costs of Children analysis yields important for fertility.

Finally, the submission of the World Bank (2020) is apt in this conclusion. It states, "Building cities that "work" – inclusive, healthy, resilient, and sustainable – requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have an important role to play to take action now, to shape the future of their development, to create opportunities for all".

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INFLUENCE OF URBANIZATION ON FOOD INSECURITY AMONG FAMILIES IN ASABA METROPOLIS OF DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper titled influence of urbanization on food insecurity among families in Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The paper made use of two purposes of the study with corresponding research questions and hypotheses. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised thirty-five (35) registered farmers in Asaba metropolis which were all accommodated as the sample size. The instrument for data collection was Questionnaire Survey entitled "Urbanization on Food Insecurity among Families Questionnaire" (UFIFQ). The instrument was validated by two experts in Home Economics- and one lecturer in Measurement and Evaluation all in Faculty of Education, Delta State University Abraka. The internal consistency of the instrument was determined by administering the instrument to twenty (20) farmers in Anambra State, Nigeria. The reliability was ascertained which yielded an index of 0.79. The result of the study showed that there is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State; and that there is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others that the government and its agencies should intensify effort in educating the rural farmers on the mechanisms for improved food production; and that Government should also provide subsidies agricultural product in order to improve the farmers' commitment.

Keywords: Family, Food, Insecurity, Production, Urbanization

Introduction

Globally, food systems are changing as a result of increasing urban growth. These changes within the food systems range through production,

processing, packaging, distribution and consumption (Seto and Ramankutty, 2016). However, the resultant effect of these changes often brings about a gradual shift in food structure, dietary patterns and nutritional status that vary with the socio-economic strata. Cockx, et al., (2017) identified urbanization as one of the driving forces behind the nutrition transition which often sharpen dietary patterns. Consequently, the world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history with the level of urbanization increasing in developing countries. In view of this, more than 50% of the world's population was said to live in the urban area in 2008 and it is estimated that by 2030, the number of urban dwellers will reach about 5 billion (UN, 2017). Nearly 90% of these projected urban population increase is concentrated in Africa and Asia, with China, India, and Nigeria alone is expected to add about 900 million urban residents by 2050 (Global Food Policy Report, GFPR, 2017).

The scale and pace of urbanization in Nigeria is also increasing, as she is presently Africa's most populous country with a population of about 185.9million in 2016, about 49.3% urban population and 4.82% annual rate of urbanization (UN, 2017). The rise in population and invariably food demand is still higher than food production since about 80% of small holder farmers produce this bulk of food (Mgbenka and Mbah, 2016).

This massive migration into the urban centers, for safety and economic reasons resulted in significant increase in the population of the urban centers of the Niger delta region. Most of the indigenous population of Nigerian communities has crop farming as their main occupation. It is therefore, postulated that the use of agricultural lands for other purposes, adversely affected household food security amongst the indigenous population, especially those in the urban centers that have lost virtually all their agricultural lands to urbanization. The suspicion is not entirely new, as suggested by the findings of other studies; the World Health Organization also had this suspicion, and requested during the 2010 World Health Day celebrations that local studies be carried out.

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life (FAO, 2016). This definition highlights the multidimensional nature of food security which includes availability, access, utilization, and stability. How urban areas expansion is managed in future years is critical for ensuring agricultural growth and global food security. With the continued growth in both population and consumption of Nigerians, there is the likelihood of worsening food insecurity condition among urban households. This could be seen in terms of food access and poor food utilization rather than food availability because most

urban residents are net food buyers (Omonona and Agoi, 2007).

Unequal economic access to available food supplies due to income inequality and continual increase in food prices due to cost of transporting food products to urban areas also contributes to urban food insecurity (Babalola and Isitor, 2014). These factors could reduce the access and consumption of wider varieties of food that leads to poor food utilization. Apart from urban food insecurity, the accelerated trend in shifts in diets has also increased the prevalence of several nutrition-related diseases. Awosan et al., (2014) observed that percentage of persons with non-communicable diseases such as overweight, obesity, hypertension, cancer, diabetes mellitus is now prevalent in most urban cities in Nigeria. This is as a result of more sedentary lifestyles and the consumption of highly processed foods high in sugar, fats but nutritionally deficient in micronutrients (Liverpool, et al., 2016). This situation necessitated the urgency to assess the effect of urbanization on food security as well as provide relevant policy interventions that aids in securing sustainable food security and identify missing link or strengthen existing ones in food value chains.

Statement of the Problem

Food security is best considered individually, since different members of the same households can experience different outcomes based on gender, age, or other factors. Different children within the same household may have deferent food security outcomes (Wagner and Rieger, 2015). There is significant relationship between urban growth and individual families' food availability, because most likely food supply operates through efficient channels, while at the same time depends on agricultural output. Urbanization generally negatively affects food supply because of increased population. This paper therefore sought to examine the influence of urbanization on food insecurity among families in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

Objectives of the Study

The study examines the influence of urbanization on food insecurity among families in Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The specific objectives of research sought to:
1. Identify the influences of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.
2. Ascertain the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. What are the influences of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State?
2. What the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.?

Hypotheses

The two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance

$H_{O1:}$ There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers' opinion on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

$H_{O2:}$ There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers' opinion on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The study area is Delta State Nigeria.

Area of the Study

The area of the study is Asaba metropolis. Asaba is the capital city of Delta State in southern Nigeria. It is located at the western bank of the Niger River, in the Oshimili South Local Government Area. Asaba had a population of 149,603 as at the 2006 census, and a metropolitan population of over half a million people. Asaba is well known for social activities due to the presence of large people and social amenities such as hotels, clubs, cinemas, malls, event centre, etc. It holds a yearly program named Delta Yaddah which always host series of gospel singers among others. Due to its large population, crime rate is high. Crimes such as pick pocketing, sideways robbery, etc., is rampart in Asaba. Because of the existence of foreigners in the state, cost of living is high in Asaba. The Onitsha bridge is the boundary between Delta and Anambra State, as the bridge separates Asaba and Onitsha.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised the thirty-five (35) registered farmers in Asaba metropolis.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for data collection was Questionnaire Survey entitled "Urbanization on Food Insecurity among Families Questionnaire" (UFIFQ).

The instrument was divided into two part A and B. Part A elicited information on the personal data and characteristics of the universities. Part B elicited information on the (a) the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State, (b) the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of in Delta State. The instrument was validated by experts.

Reliability and Validation of Instrument

The internal consistency of the instrument was determined by administering the instrument to twenty (20) farmers in Anambra State, Nigeria. The data collected were analyzed using Cronbach Alpha Reliability Approach with the aids of SPSS which yielded the index of 0.79.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to test the farmers' opinions with the aid of Special Package for Social Science (SPSS). The data collected through observation schedule were analyzed using frequency tables and percentages. Multivariate regression analysis was used where applicable.

Results
Research Question 1

What are the influences of urbanization on availability of food in Asaba metropolis of in Delta State? The result of data analysis is as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Respondents' mean ratings on the influence of urbanization on availability of food in Asaba metropolis of in Delta State

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Urbanization reduces available manpower for food production in the rural area	3.20	0.72	High extent
2	Urbanization increases the dependency of imported food to the urban area	1.47	0.83	Low extent
3	Urbanization reduces the available land for food production	2.51	0.82	High extent
4	Poor waste management from urbanization affect fertility of the soil for food production	1.35	0.96	Low extent

5	Industrial pollution from urbanization affect agricultural output		3.06	0.74	High extent
	Grand mean		2.32		Low extent

The data in Table 1 relate to the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The results show that 3 items of the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State were available at high extent; that is urbanization reduces the available manpower for food production in the rural area; urbanization reduces the available land for food production; and that industrial pollution from urbanization affect agricultural output were at high extent, 2 were available at low extent that is that urbanization increases the dependency of imported food to the urban area and that poor waste management from urbanization affect fertility of the soil for food production were at low extent. The grand mean of 2.32 shows that influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State were available at low extent. Standard deviation ranging from 0.72-1.02, show disparity in the opinion of farmers on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

Research Question 2

What are the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State? The result of data analysis is as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2:   Respondents' mean ratings on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
6	Poor road network to the rural areas	3.06	0.74	High extent
7	Shortage of skilled manpower in the rural area	1.37	0.84	Low extent
8	Shortage storage facilities for food preservation	3.14	0.72	High extent
9	Poor government policies	2.81	0.81	High extent
10	Influence of paste and plant diseases to agricultural output	2.52	1.02	High extent
	Grand mean	2.58		High extent

The data in Table 2 relate to the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The results show that 1 item of the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State was at low extent; while poor road network to the rural areas, shortage storage facilities for food preservation, poor government policies as well as influence of paste and plant diseases to agricultural output are basic challenge to food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The grand mean of 2.58 shows that the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State at high extent. Standard deviation ranging from 0.72-1.02, show disparity in the opinion of farmers on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

Hypotheses 1

Ho$_1$: There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers' opinion on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

To test the first hypotheses, the means for the two groups were computed to obtain the t-values at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the computation is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: **t-test result of the difference between the mean ratings of male and female farmers on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State.**

Gender	N	X	S	t-cal	8	Df	t-crit	Remark
Male	30	3.38	0.79	0.82	0.05	68	1.96	Not rejected
Female	40	3.2	0.85					

As shown in Table 3, that there is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State at low extent. The t-calculated value of 0.82 is less than t-tabulated value of 1.96 at 68 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. This suggests that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female farmers on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis of Delta State. This therefore means that the null hypothesis was upheld.

Hypotheses 2

Ho$_2$: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female farmers on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.

To test the first hypotheses, the means for the two groups were computed to obtain the t-values at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the computation is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: **t-test result of the difference between the mean ratings of male and female farmers on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State.**

Area of Location	N	X	S	t-cal	8	Df	t-crit	Remark
Male	30	2.88	1.16	2.4	0.05	68	1.96	Rejected
Female	40	3.44	0.81					

As shown in Table 4 indicates that the calculated t-value is (2.4) and the critical value is (1.96) at 68 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance and this suggests that there is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female farmers on the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State. This therefore means that the null hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion
The influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis
The result of the analysis on the influence of urbanization on availability of food supply in Asaba metropolis. This show that farmers accepted that urbanization reduces the available manpower for food production in the rural area; urbanization reduces the available land for food production; and that industrial pollution from urbanization affect agricultural output at a high extent. The findings are in accordance with Mgbenka and Mbah (2016) who found that the massive migration into the urban centers, for safety and economic reasons resulted in significant increase in the population of the urban centers of the Niger delta region. Most of the indigenous population of Nigerian communities has crop farming as their main occupation. Therefore, it is postulated that the use of agricultural lands for other purposes, adversely affected household food security amongst the indigenous population, especially those in the urban centers that have lost virtually all their agricultural lands to urbanization.

The challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State
The result of the analysis of the challenges of food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State as shown in Table 2 indicates that the poor road

network to the rural areas, shortage storage facilities for food preservation, poor government policies as well as influence of pests and plant diseases to agricultural output are basic challenge to food supply to Asaba metropolis of Delta State. The finding is in line with Dankumo et al., 2015 who believes that Nigerians lack enthusiasm for local products and often consider them inferior to imported food products. The emergence of oil sector marked the imminent end of the agriculture sector as the huge revenue generated from the petroleum products shifted attention from agriculture.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the findings, it could be concluded that although food insecurity is a global phenomenon, it is more prevalent in the developing nations including Nigeria. Fortunately, Nigeria is blessed with abundant fertile land for agriculture and enormous human resource. Nigeria has a rich history of agricultural practice but it all soon changes with the discovery of oil in the now unenviable oil-rich Niger-delta region of the nation. The prospect of huge financial resource that could be generated from the oil resource distracted the nation from its agricultural blessing as all attention was diverted. The financial returns from the oil resources are consistently manipulated and diverted by government officials and alas it is the common man who suffers the consequences. Hunger, starvation and malnutrition are ravaging the nation.

Food security can, however, still be restored in the country but some factors are still militating against the restoration such as insufficient production, gender inequality, inefficient policies and corruption, conflicts and civil insecurity, climate change and natural disasters, low technology for processing and storage amongst others. To surmount this challenges, the government must go back to the drawing board to provide enabling environment through promoting decent employment in the agricultural sector and non-farm sectors as well as providing credit facilities to serve as platform for the most vulnerable to cope with the economic realities particularly in the rural areas. While social networking and cooperation among small holder farmers will give them a voice, the government needs to provide basic infrastructures such as access road and electricity and make education more accessible to build farmers capacity. Oil spillage and other industrial effluents constitute a major source of pollution of soil and water and other components of the environment, thereby reducing agricultural productivity. There is the need for government to develop a robust monitoring mechanism to control indiscriminate discharge of effluent. Lastly, modern science and technologies must be adopted to improve agricultural productivity.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made.

1. That government and its agencies intensify effort in educating the rural farmers on the mechanisms for improved food production.

2. Government should provide amenities such as good road network in the rural areas so as to improve transportation of foods produced at the rural areas to urban cities.

3. Government should provide subsidies agricultural product in order to improve the farmers' commitment.

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GENDER ISSUES: RURAL WOMEN DISLODGEMENT IN VOCATIONAL BUSINESS IN AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper sought to discuss on Gender Issues: Rural Women dislodgement in Vocational Business in Akwa Ibom State. Gender Issues were discussed in areas such as Agriculture, Childhood Upbringing, Culture/tradition, Politic and Education. In each area, those situations which led to dislodgement in rural women Vocational Business were discussed. It was observed that there are many women living in the rural areas and concentrate in Agriculture, Marketing and others as their Vocational Business. Situations of rural women in India, Indonesia and other Asian countries were discussed and compared with those in Akwa Ibom State –Nigeria. At the end, suggestion among others is that women activists in Akwa Ibom State should organize town hall meetings in villages with parents, village heads and village council members and sensitize them on the benefits of women education to the family, Community, State and the Country.

Keywords: Women Dislodgement, Vocational Business, Child-up bring, Agriculture, Education, Politics

Introduction

Recently, gender issues remain a big area of concern in many societies. In a well planned or organized system, rural women should enjoy equal opportunities and facilities as those in the urban areas. In Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria and other Asia countries, their experiences are pathetic. Gender issues are the different areas of concerns related to women's lives and situations in the society. It involves the way and manners in which decisions are taken, access to and use of resources and their activities. Gender issues also, involve policies changes that may be against women. There is need to discuss gender issues so

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as to prevent some of these unwholesome policies against women and girl's child. In order to encourage, promote, support women and remove gender disparity, United Nations organized four world conferences on women emancipation. These were held at Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. These conferences set strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and achievement of gender equality in twelve critical areas of concerns. The areas are: women and poverty alleviation, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision making, institutional mechanism for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child. In line with the United Nation strategies, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Akwa Ibom State, set up the following objectives: Advise government on gender and children issues, advise government on issues affecting persons with disabilities and elderly, initiates policy guidelines that lead the process of ensuring gender equality and mainstreaming at both the national and international levels, empowers and offers social protection to vulnerable members of the society such as women, children, disabled and elderly. This is an indication that efforts are being made to remove gender disparity, discrimination, exploitation and dislodgement of women in the society as noted by Akpan and Otu (2021).

Many rural women face dislodgement in different areas of human life in Akwa Ibom State. Dislodgement entails forceful removal from a position of advantage or rightful place. Areas of dislodgement for rural women include; Agriculture, Childhood Upbringing, Culture/tradition, Politics, Education, Information and Communication Technology, Domestic Violence among others. However, emphasis for discussion is on the first six dislodgement areas. Rural women are women that live in the hinter-land. These women concentrate on farm work and small businesses. Often the rural women are constricted to using un-tarred roads, stream water, and fragmented portion of land, confined to local markets due to bad roads and live with or without electricity. By implications, these arrangements affect rural women in their vocational business. Vocational business is an aspect of formal or informal method of training whereby individual is prepared to acquire skills in different simple business areas. It can emanate from the training received from the period of girl-childhood upbringing. It leads to skills acquisition. Skill is about competency and mastery of a particular task. Accordingly, Usoro (2016) wrote that skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable one to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Vocational businesses include; Agricultural business such skill in planting crops, weeding,

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fertilizer application and harvesting. Other areas of vocational business are; marketing and dying, make-up, hair plaiting, trading and sewing among others. These are the many areas of lucrative vocational businesses which rural women do to maintain the three basic needs of life; food, shelter and clothing. By extension, rural women through vocational businesses are able to educate their children even to the university level. Failure to support these women in their vocational business results into dislodgement. Furthermore, this paper discusses gender issues in areas such as: agriculture, childhood upbringing, cultural/tradition, politics, women education, information, communication and technology and domestic violence.

Gender Issues in Agriculture

Agriculture is a lucrative business. Women play a key role in food production and form a large proportion of the agricultural work force globally. However, rural women face many problems that discouraged and dislodged them in their vocational businesses. Women in the rural areas have skills on how to clear the bush, burn, cultivate, weed and harvest as well. Majority of rural women practice these skills as daily job and as vocational business. This creates a sense of independence and fulfillment in them because it is a source of income generation to them. In some rural areas in Akwa Ibom State, there exist some days that women cannot go to the farm, (Usen Ibet Inwang), that is a day that women are forbidden to go to the farm according to the tradition. On these days, rural women cannot go to farm and get farm produce for sell.

In rural areas, many women are not familiar with the use of modern farm equipment (tractors, folk-lift and others), hence, they lack the ability to cultivate large portion of land. Application of pesticides can help in the growth of the crops, but they lack the technical knowhow with regards to the correct quantity to apply for safety of the crops. Williams and Etim (2021) stated that pesticides if not properly applied can cause contamination of soil, water, and other vegetation. In addition to killing inserts and weeds, pesticides can be toxic to host of other organisms. Land fragmentations constitute a problem to rural women in Agriculture. Rural women cultivate in small portions at different locations. This makes the women remain in perpetual subsistence farming. The result is that food produced is only meant for family consumption and local markets. The fact that these women cannot commercialized their products lead to dislodgement in their vocational business.

Gender Issues in Childhood Upbringing

The childhood upbringing between the male and female child living even in the same home is quite different. In Akwa Ibom State, male child has

more freedom while the female child is brought up under strict supervision, intimidation and discouragement. Even at tender age, the male child is given toil like plastic caterpillar, gun, and bicycle to play with, in his curiosity; the child can dismantle the toil and rebuild it, that action builds courage in him. At a certain age, the boy child is allowed to climb trees, go for hunting with his father. By so doing, the boy child is building up courage and learnt to explore his environment. Akpan and Otu (2021) believed that a child who explores the environment will certainly practicalise those skills later. On the other hand, the female child is brought up to be around the house. If the female child is not fast to respond to her expected duties, serious beating and scolding will be given to her. She is told: sit well, stand well, use soft voice to talk or answer questions. If she dare argues, she will be reminded that she is a girl. These are different ways of intimidation, deprivation and discouragement for the female child. This method of childhood upbringing affects the female child negatively. At adults, she cannot go into entrepreneurship business because she lacks the courage to take risk in vocational business. Therefore, female upbringing contributes to serious dislodgement in vocational business. Assessing parenting and childhood upbringing in China the situation seems to be similar. Both in Akwa Ibom State (Nigeria), and China, in parenting, parents do interfere in their kids personal life, have preference for male child, and allow both male and female child to participate in sporting activities as confirmed by Xie, et. Al. (2014).

Gender Issues in Culture/Tradition

Culture/traditions are the norms and beliefs of a particular society. These are ways of life of a particular tribe. Culture is inherent artifacts, some good, technical processes, certain ideas and habits as noted by Ugboaja (2016). These are very strong in the rural areas. The culture/tradition of Akwa Ibom people affects women negatively and favours their male counterpart in many areas. For instance, it is a taboo for women to pour libation. Udo (1983) noted that women government in the Ibibio tradition was only in "Ebre and Iban Isong". Women were forbidden to share in the traditional secret societies such as "Ekpo, Ekpe, Ekpri Akata, Obon, Ekong, Ukwa, Idiong" among others. Presently, "Ekpo" cult is still very strong in some rural areas in Akwa Ibom State.

It is the belief of the people that "ekpo and ekong" masquerades are cultures of the people which are owned by the men and women. But, in practice and during celebrations, only men are members and are allowed to carry the head of the masquerade and chant the songs. During the outings of "ekpo" masquerade in the rural areas, women are made to be indoors for days because they are forbidden from seeing the masquerade (ekpo). In case by mistake; they

(women) happen to see the masquerade, they are fine to pay five big tuber of yams, a chicken and hot drink to appease the gods. If the woman refused, a curse is placed on her and her family. Note that during this period, the women cannot sale or buy in an open market or go to their farms. They remain indoors as long as the masquerade celebration period last. By so doing, the women are totally dislodged from their businesses. Azubuike (2021), in the name of traditional practices, women are subjected to experience harmful traditional practices which include; especially in the rural areas, shaving of the private part at the death of the husband, mutilation of the genital organ among others. In the same vein, Onoh (2021) noted that women and girls are exposed to all sorts of discrimination, deprivation and other ill treatment based on their gender. These maltreatments of women and girls are deep rooted in different parts of the country with traditional and cultural connotation attached.

Another way in which the gender issues in culture/tradition can bring dislodgement to women in vocational business is at the period of mourning of the death of the husband. The woman (wife) is expected to wear black cloth for mourning for a period of one year. During the period she is not expected to attend social gatherings, or participate in her normal business. In case she was a business woman, she has to suspend all forms of businesses. By implication, this means that if she was trading on food stuffs, these will be distributed freely to family members and friends; At this point, there is dislodgement in her vocational business. The rural women are relegated to the background because of gender issues. According to Umobong (2006), in some communities in Akwa Ibom State, women are denied access to lands owned by the dead husbands or parents. For women who were engaged in productive labour, they often lose their jobs. Rural women are relegated to the background despite their valuable contributions to child upbringing. The author believed that women are the custodians of the future as nature has endowed them with the capacity to bear and rear children. When the child is born the mother takes the first responsibility of caring and nurturing at the same time transmitting unto them morals and values at this tender age.

Equally, in decision making, rural women do not take part because they are not members of the village council. Obi (2005) explained that decision making is a process of identifying and selecting a course of action to solve a specific problem. Decision making in many rural areas in Akwa Ibom State are mostly taken by men. The highest council in the rural area is made up of men representing their villages (that is the clan head and all heads of villages). Women only stay to receive information from the council whether it is in favour of them or not. There are moments a bell is rung or a gong is sounded at night that women should not go to farm because that day "ekpo" masquerade

will be out (usen eka ekpo and usen ibet inwang). The women just exist, their opinion is not head nor valid. However, in Indonesia, the rural women as stated by Tambunan (2009) are found to do their small businesses without hindrances and that there are no other better income generating activities available to them, this is considered as a result of unemployment or poverty, not as a reflection of entrepreneurial spirit. Furthermore, in Indonesia culture, pregnant women have preference for traditional birth attendance (TBA) as against professional midwives during pregnancy. They believe that at their antenatal period, that (TBAs) understand their customs, treat them with patient, care and love. Equally, family as a unit of culture also influences Indonesian women through advice to patronize TBA. Accordingly, Yenita, et. al. (2012), asserted that these attitudes explain why coverage of births assisted by skilled providers is still low especially in the rural areas of Indonesia. Also, the high cost of medical treatment, poor quality of emergency obstetric care and an inadequate number of health specialists to manage complications continue to discourage women from seeking care when needed. The authors noted that the above problems require attention. But, in Akwa Ibom State, rural women patronize both traditional birth attendance and professional care providers especially in rural areas where health facilities are available.

Gender Issues in Politics

Politic refers to anything associated with people who seek to govern or are currently serving in the government. Politicians engage in a number of activities aimed at keeping themselves in power, for examples meeting with constituencies to declare their interest and ask that they be voted into political offices or for appointment. They move round and make campaigns, present manifestos on what they hope to do if they are elected into office. Politics in Nigeria and indeed Akwa Ibom State involves a lot of struggles and violence. It involves physical killings and kidnapping of opponent or relation of the opponents. Devilish practices, ritual killings, poisoning of drinks and food, betrayal among others. These barbaric actions and crimes with attendant violence discourage women who ordinarily would have wanted to participate in politics.

In Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, there are twenty-six seats, with only two women as members, the rest of the twenty-four members are men. In this State too, there are thirty-one Local Government Areas with only three Local Government (women) Chairpersons, the remaining twenty-eight are men. As it stands, there is wide disparity in this area. This explains why Onoh (2021) wrote that women and girls are exposed to all sorts of discrimination, deprivation and other ill treatment based on their gender.

During political campaigns, rural women are taken in buses to the campaign arena. Their duties there will be to shout the name of the contestant, clap hands and ring bells among others. These actions can happen for many days. By so doing, they stopped their businesses like trading and farming. At the end of the period of campaign, peanuts are given to them by way of compensation. Rural women at this time are dislodged from their vocational business that could have fetched them much money and other favours. Here, mention could be made about women in politics in Canada, De-Clercy (2008), stated that far fewer women than men hold elected offices at any level, throughout Canada that currently 20% of the seats in the House of Commons are held by women and similar proportions applied to National and Provincial Legislatures. This constitutes a fundamental challenge to the quality of democracy in Canada, meaning that women cannot make their voice (bills) pass through easily. In comparison, here, there is disparity in gender issues in politics. There is a big gap between men and women in the legislature, women are not given equal (50%) or at least (45%) to march with men. This is a gender disparity issue that need show concern.

Gender Issues in Women Education

Education is the foundation for a country's economic, industrial and human development as reasoned by Usen and Akpan (2021). In the same vein, Usen, et. al. (2021), ascertained that education contributes to making an individual a balanced and fulfilled person in life. Ojo (2019) observed that education bestows on women a disposition for a lifelong acquisition of knowledge, values, attitudes, competence and skills.

While Akpan and Akpan (2014) opined that it is in the area of education that females are mostly deprived and this forms the basis of their marginalization and exploitation. Rural women had forgone their education for the sake of their brothers. Some became hawkers or babysitters to raise money for the education of their brothers. With this, Eyam (2004) wrote that women are object of labour. Here, Eseh recalled her experience as recorded by Usi-Omoregbee (2021) "I, Eseh was getting ready for school as usual when my mother told me that I would not be going to school again only my four brothers can go to school". This was because there was no money to take care of education of the five children due to the fact that their father was sick. Eseh being the female child had to stay at home to take care of the sick father.

Notably, the importance of girl-child education cannot be over emphasized, girls have the same right to education as boys. Ojo (2019) asserted that education is an important foundation to improve the status of women and has also been recognised as fundamental strategy for development, education

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empowers women to contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of their rural community.

Lack of education among rural women have caused setbacks for women in vocational business. In the normal circumstances, any person doing business will be eager and glad to experience business growth and sustainability. But, imagine a rural woman in vocational business who wants to collect loan from the bank to start small business or expand the existing one faces a lot of hindrances. The rural woman can be discouraged and dislodged in her vocational business. Akhila (2018), asserted that there is gender inequality, that in some rural areas in India, girls are not allowed to go to school, or if allowed, it is only up to a certain age. Girls are not allowed to move out of their home towns for higher education. Other challenges include financial issues, due to meager income; parents tend to see education as an expense rather than an investment and this results to low enrollment as well as high dropped out rates. There is lack of guidance/mentoring, infrastructures such as well-equipped classrooms, computers, laboratories and qualified teachers are lacking in the system. But, education in rural Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, is opened to both male and female and parents encourage their children to attend school once they reach the age. Therefore, the issue of not allowing girls to attend higher school out of their home is a problem that needs to be addressed so as to bring gender equality in Indian education.

Conclusion

Gender Issues involve different areas of concerns related to women. In Akwa Ibom State, in the rural areas, gender issues are common and they affect women in aspects such as Agriculture, Culture/tradition, Politics, Education and Childhood Upbringing. It has been noticed that rural women are the rural dwellers. These women concentrate on farm work and small businesses. In the process, there are dislodgements in their vocational business. Dislodgement comes when there is forceful removal of women from their advantage position or when rural women are unable to carry out their vocational business. Vocational business include; Agricultural business, Marketing among others. In order to relief women, United Nations organized four conferences which were held in Mexico City 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985 and Beijing 1995, with many objectives in favour of women. Also, looking at other researches, it has been noticed that gender issues exist in other Asia countries like India, Indonesia and others which call for proper attention.

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Suggestions

In order to help the rural women to be educated to manage their vocational business meaningfully, the State Government should open adult education schools in at least ten villages in each local government. The Local government in each area should open and maintain access roads so as to assist rural women to go out to the urban areas to sell their products. The Akwa Ibom State government should ban masquerade "ekponyoro" in the State to allow rural women the freedom to go out for their vocational business any time they wish to. Elites men and women should initiate policies to State and Local Governments to safe women from obnoxious/harmful culture/traditions against women. Parents should endeavour to give a balanced Childhood Upbringing to both boy and girl-child to avoid gender issues and Domestic Violence in marriage.

In order to create awareness on the need for gender-equitable education, women activists should organize town hall meetings in villages with parents, village heads and village council members and sensitize them on the benefits of women education to the family, Community, State and the Country.

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DIGITAL PARENTING: TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE AND PURPOSEFUL PARENTING IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The child well-being should be the paramount goal of every parent. Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood; the aspect of raising a child other than biological relationship done by both parents. Parenting is not the responsibility of women alone, but a collective delightful responsibility of father, mother, other siblings and the society at large. Utilizing technology at home has opportunities and challenges. Children may have internet access at a separate room (such as study room or bedroom) without parental supervision. Other than the inability for parents to monitor their child's activity online, many individuals (especially youths) prefer to find solace in their digital devices because of the myriad fun and satisfaction derived from its use. This has led to many people (adolescent and adults) being addicted to digital devices. This paper is informed by the manner children gain access to the internet via a range of digital devices and services, most often via mobile phones which is so alarming. Parents are feeling challenged in their competence, role and authority when it comes to digital parenting. In response, parents draw on their available resources such as socioeconomic, cultural and their preferred parenting styles as well as some of the principles of positive parenting to monitor what children do with these digital devices. For effective and purposeful parenting in this digital age, this paper proffers solution on how parents can monitor and control contents children and young adult watch and read on the internet.

Keywords: Parenting, Technology, Children and Digital Devices.

Introduction

The advent of digital devices has affected the way of life of this present generation, particularly, in the present Nigeria, parenting has become a herculean task considering the trends of technological devices being handled by most Nigerian children. Adedeji et al (2017) averred that people of this generation are being referred to as digital natives. Digital devices are electronic devices that can be used to receive, store, send and process information. These include smartphones, laptops, personal digital assistants, smart devices that

can perform computational tasks; these devices help provide quick access to reliable and meaningful information thus making life more bearable and improvement in decision making. In this digital era, there has been a wide adoption of these digital devices across all age groups (Adedeji et al., 2017). It is no surprise to see a kid of less than two (2) years handling and operating properly a digital device. This can be due to the fact that digital devices have permeated our daily activities ranging from reading devotionals, reading the newspaper, getting latest updates and trends in our area of interest, playing games, videos and music, learning to mention a few. For most adults, a large volume of their work is done on digital devices. These digital devices are not just improving our daily life but they also revolutionize our family lives (Wartella et al., 2014). The use of digital device(s) to carry out parenting functions is referred to as digital parenting. It involves how parents inculcate technological devices (smartphones, ipads, laptops, television, video-games) into their family lives and parenting practices.

Statement of the Research Problem

Children and youths stay on their devices to socialize with friends, watch movies, have fun, and even learn new skills online since the digital device has brought to their fingertips solutions to diverse problems. This is cyber age where the use of digital devices is a norm and Parents too are not left out. The use of these devices has become a part and parcel of our everyday lives from simple calculations to texting, calling and surfing the web for information acquisition.

These digital devices could be a distraction due to the fact that some people spend endless hours surfing on the internet, watching videos, playing games, and chatting. There is tendency to be physically less active (example, sitting down or lying down for long hours) which can lead to health challenges. In addition, frequent use of digital devices has led to decreased family time and communication, increased social isolation, reduced inter-personal communication/skill (nowadays, some people find it easier to communicate with their digital devices than with fellow humans). Effect of the use of these digital devices on child well-being is the motivation behind this paper and this research focuses on the social aspects that is, relationship between parents and children with a view to highlighting effective and purposeful parenting in the present Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:
1. determine the nexus between children and parenting;
2. highlight the challenges of effective and purposeful parenting in this digital age; and
3. determine the prospects of digital parenting on the child well-being.

Significance of the Study

The human race is gradually losing the feeling of human-to-human affection and communication due to the inception and wide adoption of digital devices. For a family to be called a successful family, the child welfare is the key factor because one is able to talk, see the other person's feelings, reactions, and so on. Effective parenting and communication between parents and children reduce misunderstanding and ultimately birth good children in the long run. Digital devices have opened a new world of information that were not available in the past.   With all of these benefits come risk of Cyber-bullying, sexual exploitation, identity theft and fraud are all very real threats in the internet age. It is a critical role for parents to educate children about digital devices, the internet and support legitimate. This study would help in creating awareness on effective purposeful parenting and broaden bonds between children and their parents.

Digital Parenting and Parenting

Digital parenting describes parental efforts and practices for comprehending, supports, and regulating children's activities in digital environments (http/www./Investopedia.com). Digital parents play a key role in shaping how their children use the digital media; the parent being perhaps the first and most important mediator of digital use of children. Digital Parenting also includes accompanying children online and identifying interesting/positive or negative content (Adedeji et al., 2017).

More so, technology has become part of our social world to the point that there is little difference between online and offline for a lot of young people. If used right, the digital landscape is an exciting place for children and teens to learn and play. Digital parenting is one of the hardest but most rewarding journeys to experience in this technology age. It is a never ending adventure with numerous turns and twists. As a matter of fact, there is no one size fits-it-all as far as digital parenting is concerned. Before now, or in the days of our forefathers, parenting was a collective responsibility of the entire community cum society. In the same vein, when a child did anything wrong it was the duty of any adult around to punish that child.

Consequently, with the advent and evolving trend of digital technology and reality television shows, parenting has been dwindling coupled with influence of social media. This reverberates daily with the increase in ritual killings, loss of ideals and values, sexual violence and rape, disregard for human life and general breakdown of law and order. For us, today, because of the numerous negative effects of these in our society, the need for effective and 'intentional' parenting could not be any more apt with the timing most deliberate.

Now, what is parenting? Parenting has been defined by Cojocaru and Cojocaru (2011) cited in Okoye (2015, p.3) as the process of caring for children

and helping them to grow and develop. Alvy (n.d) is of the view that one of the reasons why parenting is a complicated discourse is because it is most often seen as a personal matter that is greatly influenced by so many factors like the child itself, the environment, the culture and the parent. Today, parenting is no longer accepted as merely an interpersonal bond characterized by love and care. Instead it has been reframed as a job that must be done well with some level of competence (Gillies, 2008). According to Shirani et al (2012), parenting has become a source of risk and anxiety because most often the outcome is seen as the responsibility of parents. In other words, parents have always been held responsible for the behaviour and development of their children.

Collins et al. (2000) opined that the quality of parenting that children receive has a major effect on their development. Furthermore, evidence from behaviour genetics research, as well as from epidemiological, correlational, and experimental studies, shows that parenting practices have a major influence on children's development. Specifically, Sanders (2008) believed that lack of a warm and positive relationship with parents; insecure attachment; harsh, inflexible, or inconsistent discipline practices; inadequate supervision of and involvement with children; marital conflict and breakdown; and parental psychopathology (particularly maternal depression) increase the risk that children will develop major behavioural and emotional problems.

Chu et al. (2012) outlined the attributes of effective parenting to typically include high level of monitoring and involvement, as well as being warm, accepting and nurturing. Gross (2015) viewed good parenting as activities that involves a great deal of consistency and routine, which gives children a sense of control. Good parenting focuses on developing independence in children and style that considers children's age, stage of developments, socializing and growth mindset.

It is instructive to mention that there are four types of parenting as follows: Permissive – overindulges child to avoid conflict, Authoritative –sets clear rules and expectations, Neglectful -uninvolved or absent and Authoritarian -sets strict rules and punishment. Uduk (2022) recommended the combination of permissive, authoritative and authoritarian parenting. Absentee and neglectful parents are responsible for some of the ills in our society.

Effective and Purposeful Parenting

Effective and purposeful parenting refers to the ability of parents to carry out the responsibilities of raising and relating to a child in such a manner that the child is well prepared to realize his or her full potential as a human being. Alvy (n.d) cited in Okoye (2015) noted that it entails raising a child in such a way that it increases the chances of the child becoming a capable adult who will live responsibly. It connotes parenting that is supportive, proactive and responsive

(Hoffman, 2010). Shirani et al. (2012) was of the view that parents who engage in responsible parenting have the ability to meet the needs of their children mentally, emotionally and physically through the critical few years after birth when brain development is at its peak. This would most likely yield children who are cooperative, peaceful, productive adults, and those who would become fine marriage partners and parents in the future. In other words, according to Uduk (2022) effective and purposeful parenting will yield children who would live responsibly: that is, children who care how their actions or inactions have implications for other people and for the environment.

It is worthy of note that there are some practices that impede effective and purposeful parenting in this digital age, these include: Indulgence- my child should not suffer therefore s/he gets whatever is asked for, Negligence of duty – do not abdicate your duties to maids and caregivers. Participate in the upbringing of your child, Wrong priority – do not place your career above your children.

Towards Effective and Purposeful Parenting in the Digital Age

Controlling Screen time should be one of the measures of Digital Parenting. Screen time is a term used for activities conducted in front of a screen such as watching TV, working on a computer, surfing on a smart phone or playing video games. Parents (husband and wives) should be a model for their children in checking screen habits. It has been said that children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. It would be useless to ask a partner and child to cut down on screen time when watching endless hours of TV, texting constantly, or eating dinner with phone on the table (either calling or texting or surfing). The more family can get involved in each other's (husband, wife, and children) non-digital world, the easier it would be to communicate with children. In addition to the above, parents should monitor what children do on the social media. The following under listed items would help in effective and purposeful parenting in Nigeria if practiced holistically (Uduk, 2022):

Be a Good Role Model: Young kids learn a lot about how to act by watching their parents. The younger they are, the more cues they take from parents. Parents should be aware that kids constantly watched them and therefore, should model the following traits before them: respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness and tolerance. Do things for other people without expecting a reward. Express thanks and offer compliments where necessary.

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem: Kids start developing their sense of self as babies when they see themselves through their parents' eyes. Parents tone of voice, body language and every expression are absorbed by the kids. Words

and actions as a parent affect child developing self-esteem more than anything else. Praising accomplishments, however small, would make them feel proud; letting kids do things independently also make them feel capable and strong. By contrast, belittling comments or comparing a child unfavorably with another make kids feel worthless. Choose words carefully and be compassionate. Let kids know that everyone makes mistake.

Make Time for Kids: It is very difficult nowadays for parents and kids to get together for a family meal, let alone spend quality time together. But kids would like to spend more time with their parents. Kids who are not getting parents attention often act out or misbehave. Adolescents seem to need less undivided attention from their parents than younger kids, because there are fewer windows of opportunity for parents and teens to get together. Parents should do their best to be available with their teen. Attending events, games, and so on with teens communicates caring and to know more about the child's friends.

Set Limits and be Consistent with Discipline: Discipline is necessary in every household. The goal of discipline is to help children choose acceptable behaviours and learn self-control. Establishing house rules followed with the consequences helps kids understand parents' expectation and develop self-control.

Make Communication a Priority: Parents cannot expect kids to do everything on their own. Children deserve explanations, proper guidance, justification and motivation to carry out certain task. Be sure to include consequences for not carrying out a task as instructed and make correction where there are mistakes.

Be Flexible and Willing to Adjust Parenting Style: As a child grows in age, parents should gradually have to change the parenting style. Chances that work with children now would not work as well in a year or two. If parents feel disappointed by the child's behaviour or unrealistic expectations, it is advisable to fine ways of helping by talking with a child on certain matters or to talk to other parents or child development specialist. Kids' environments have an effect on their behaviour, as well as the peer influences. Teens tend to look less to their parents and more to their peers for role models. But continue to provide guidance, encouragement, and appropriate discipline while allowing your teen to earn more independence.

Conclusion

Family represents the primary setting in which most children's lives are shaped and determined. Central to the process of the socialisation of children,

are parenting behaviours and discipline responses which children experience within family settings. Through responsible parenting, children gradually internalise social standards and expectations, which facilitate, in turn, greater self-regulation skills and responsibility. Parenting is situated in space and time and does not take place in a social vacuum (Cojocaru & Cojocaru, 2011). Rather, it is shaped by demographic changes, historical events and patterns, cultural norms and values, systems of social layering, family developments and arrangements in the social organisation and structure. These being the case, there are challenges arising from parenting today as adults are being forced to give up the parenting model they got from their own parents and seek new ways of parenting by themselves. Digital parenting helped children to take advantage of the opportunities given my digital media and online environments. The role of the parents is to guide and protect the children against the risk of utilizing these devices for their day-to-day activities. Digital devices helped children in learning, communication, discussion with peer group and exploring global issues. It is noted that risk is also involve socially, behaviourally and health wise. It is advisable that digital parenting should develop a strategy that would protects the child against social vices while reaping the potential benefits of digital environment.

In effective and purposeful parenting, parents do not have to be perfect people and they cannot expect children to be or become perfect either. It is a well-known fact that most parents generally receive little preparation beyond the experience of having been parented themselves, with most learning on the job through trial and error. Therefore, a little help with how to get the job right will be of immense help. Added to this, there is the need for parents to keep a right order of priorities and learn to confront, tolerate, and conquer the inevitable difficulties that come with responsible parenting. It is important to note that parenting activities are not natural behaviours, deriving from the reproductive capacity, but instead the ways in which children are reared, cared for and socialized involves various behaviours, skills and objectives learned through participation in the social community. For effective and purposeful parenting in this technology era, one should apply moral and religious principles.

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PLEASURES AND WOES IN COUPLES' RELATIONSHIP MAINTENANCE: PHENOMENOLOGICAL NARRATIVES FROM INTEGRATIVE BEHAVIOURAL COUPLE THERAPY AMONG IBIBIOS

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Abstract

Marital interactions are behavioural strategies that reveal the powerfulness or powerlessness of spouses, their perceptual variations and labours to sustain the relationship. Our study sought to examine the lived experiences of couples from in-session narratives of the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy. Research questions centered on how couples' emotional and behavioural distress, from relational events were influenced by processing errors, distorted appraisals and unrealistic expectations. Ten interview dialogues were created to generate data among Ibibio-speaking couples of Nigeria, who were purposively studied to explore the efficacy of an important ethno –cultural practice, mbopo, which suggests the seclusion and training of young women on tenets of marriage to adequately equip them for duties of marital life. Participants were interviewed in English, Pidgin English and Ibibio languages. Forty-eight (48) distressed participants screened from a large-scale survey (n =1328) of married persons were placed in therapy. Qualitative data were explored and extracted from participants' responses and submissions during therapy. There were 6 thematic sessions comprising individual and joint assessments of spouses on marital distress; feedback/treatment on related issues; behavioural exchange, including communication skills and problem solving training; and acceptance-driven empathic joining and unified detachment. The Nvivo 8 software package was used in data analysis. Emerging themes, nodes, attributes and categories were carefully noted. In the end, transcribed responses coalesced into the change and acceptance behaivoural dimensions of the Integrative Behaviour Couple Therapy. It was confirmed that couple's relationship maintenance efforts were moderated by relative measures of couples' performance ecology, empathic-accuracy, struggles with the dialectics of infidelity or suspicion of it, and power dimensions of their lived experiences.

Keywords: Pleasures and Woes, Couples' Relationship Maintenance, Phenomenological Narratives, Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy Ibibio Couples of Nigeria.

Introduction

In many marriages, relationship maintenance is the lifeblood of stability and satisfaction. Relationship maintenance is strategic because relationships take an incredible amount of work that centres mostly on communication (Abdul & Yusuf, 2013). Relationship transactionary behaviours at times emerge from shared family identity, which in turn are either predictive or moderating of marital or adult sibling relationship quality (Myres, 2022; Haas & Lannutti, 2022) and when people fail to enact relationship maintenance the interpersonal climate in the relationship can also give rise to increased questions of uncertainty about relational involvement (Theiss, 2019). Earlier, Biu (2020) had reported that relationship maintenance prepared on social media sites and face-to-face interactions are also associated with relationship uncertainty. For instance, Horan (2014) believes that relationship maintenance implies "doing the work of relationships". Generally, relationship maintenance can be described as processes that help to keep involved actors relatively interdependent with one another (Agnew &Vander Drift, 2015). Healthy romantic relationships such as marriage, and other long term relationships are central in human life because they help promote people's physical and mental health through fulfilling peoples' fundamental need for love and social affiliation (Dubois et al., 2010). Many programmes of research have identified relationship maintenance strategies as behaviours that serve to improve couples relationship and satisfactory attachment (Emmers-Somer, 2006). Murray et al. (2015) developed a new equilibrium model of relationship maintenance in which three threat-mitigating rules are proposed to protect relationship bonds. These include demonstrating the tendency to accommodate a partner is hurt, always rooming towards mutual dependence – as a way of denouncing independence and its adverse relationship effects and resisting every attempt to devalue a partner who is aversive to one's personal goals. The importance of relationship maintenance in enhancing the quality of romantic relationships was further boosted by another study that investigated attachment, maintenance behaviours and stress among long distant and geographically-close relationships (Pistole et al.,2010). In the study, different attachment and maintenance behaviours contributed uniquely to global stress in long distance and geographically close relationships. It is important that despite the type of technological innovation, relationship maintenance (and related advantages such as higher sexual frequency and lower relationship

stress) is better in proximate (i.e geographically-close) relationships than long distant (distal) relationships (Dubois et al, 2016). Moreover, relationship maintenance shows great diversity in social values and cultural beliefs (Chonody & Gabb , 2019; Ogolsky, et al., 2017). Relationship maintenance inevitably involves positive and negative behaviours. Sometimes there may be instances of misperception of motives and intentions, especially when non-verbal behaviours serve as communication strategies. Nevertheless, there are clear-cut positive and negative behaviours in marital transacts in diverse ways, sometimes leading to several aspects marital satisfaction (pleasures) and other times bringing about relational dissatisfaction (woes and miseries). This was reported in a recent study by Dainton (2015) using interdependence approach to investigate relationship maintenance in interracial marriage.

For many individuals, success in marital and family life represents an important component of their social identity. In the Ibibio socio-cultural group in Nigeria, marital failure is greatly abhorred and vehemently viewed as a form of social dislocation that is bound to impact the larger community negatively. Marital trouble is generally viewed with extreme aversion by community members and conclusively blamed on parenting failure. This formed the basis for the age long reverence and celebration of female puberty known commonly among the ibibios as *Mbopo*. The concept of *Mbopo* is premised on the assumption that the seclusion (confinement) of a young woman prior to marriage will serve many purposes including character training and projection of beauty (through fattening), power, literacy, spirituality and ornamental extravagance as principal components of female identity construction (Imeh, 2009).

Although much work has been done on relationship maintenance, no known study has examined relationship maintenance in the context of the *Mbopo* ritual coupled with its suspected culturally-induced therapeutic efforts at reducing relationship distress. Moreover, there are no known qualitative studies incorporating the Integrative Behaviour Couple Therapy with this cultural orientation of Ibibio maidens. It was therefore important to explore the qualitative nature of relationship maintenance in this context and test the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy among married couples from the social psychological and evolutionary inclinations.

Design

The study used a combined phenomelogical and narratives enquiry approach from a marital perspective. It was aimed at understanding the underlying meaning of being a spouse in a committed marital relationship. The design integrated the hermeneutic and heuristic inquiry method (Kenny, 2012;

Moustakas, 1990; Manen, 1990) for data collection before employing the NVivo 8 software for analysis. As commonly known, this method of analysis helps to explore nodes and coding from identified themes using the open coding process. Nodes provide the storage areas in NVivo for references to code text. Every node serves as a storage for everything that is known about one particular concept or category. In the present study, nodes were used as tools to organize qualitative data in particular ways. Generally, heuristic inquiry is similar to phenomenology in its assumptions (Bermudez et al., 2014) and qualitative research is the systematic collection, organization and interpretation of textual material derived from talk or conversation. "Qualitative methods are used in the exploration of meanings of social phenomena, as experienced by individuals in their natural context", (Malterud, 2001).   One advantage of the qualitative method over quantitative method is that it uses rich data to see the social world as constructed by the observer against quantitative method's use of hard, reliable data with a view of the social world as external to the observer (Bryman, 1988). Although some qualitative designs aim at generating a theory, the present study was informed by some already existing theories. One of the principles of qualitative analysis which formed part of the design of the study was the commencement of the analysis with systematic detachment from the phenomenon, using concepts and categories that guided the researcher (creating and importing textual sources) as well as casting insights into new leads for further inquiry.

Study Context

Marriage generally has been an important social institution valued for its numerous roles of social control, procreation and companionship between lovers. Nevertheless, this institution has faced numerous challenges central on the personalities and interests of participating persons. One of the greatest challenges of marriage is that of commitment to the cause of building an undivided dyad. Many people get into marriage and do not hesitate to leave because of one reason or the other. Some may pretentiously remain, hoping for better days which may after all not come. The result is that people remain in distress relationships which work against their happiness and wellbeing. Due to this, communities and institutions such as religious and social bodies initiate programmes intended to provide social antidotes to the threats of marriage. Such is also the case with the Ibibios, a Nigerian socio-cultural group that (used to) protectively guard the marital institution. This is done by devising behavioural training programmes (such as *mbopo*) for the maidens that are ready to go into marriage. The motive is to ensure the stability of the institution of marriage by the application of good behaviour, which was also intended to

rub off on the men as beneficiaries. Nevertheless, like diseases which occasionally resist certain therapies, marital problems remain a universal given. Not minding numerous proactive measures, marital distress remains inevitable in social life. This study anticipated such problems among the Ibibios and initiated a cross-sectional survey which yielded mixed results. The Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy was used in the intervention process among couples found in distressing conditions. The outcome of the qualitative study is reported in this work.

Study Participants and study period

Participants in the study were 24 couples drawn from a larger sample of 1,328 family men and women previously surveyed in a cross-sectional sample from nine local government areas in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The families were undergoing an 8-week therapeutic training and counselling on relationship maintenance after being pretested. They attended therapy (as a referral) on the basis of low relationship maintenance and empathy scores. Since most of the couples' concerns centred on behaviour exchange, inadequate communication and the struggle between change and acceptance of each other, the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy (IBCT) was chosen, because the therapy was an updated version of the Traditional Behaivoural Couple Therapy (TBCT) and two counselling groups were created.

Procedure

Permission to undertake this study was sought from the review board of the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. Based on the spread of the participants, two therapy centres were set up in the University of Uyo, and a public primary school in Eket, a regional town, respectively, both in Akwa Ibom State. Participating couples were contacted on phone to attend intervention sessions in any of the two locations nearest to them. Sampled participants in Esit Eket, Eastern Obolo, Nsit Ubium, and Ibeno were interviewed at the Eket Centre, while those from Uruan, Ikono, Itu, Nsit Atai and Ibiono Ibom participated at the Uyo centre.

The researcher and their assistants had the responsibility of matching group-related module of the therapy to participants, that attended sessions between Mondays and Saturdays at their individual convenience. The researcher met both spouses and introduced the purpose of the interaction and the rules covering the therapy sessions before pre-treatment evaluation including their level of distress, especially any major issue(s) that divide them. After the joint session, individual spouses were interviewed to verify specific

individual problems that may have been hidden or avoided during the joint session.

The couple again came into a joint session where the therapist presented observations to the six questions and advised on the need for partners to increase mutual positive love through behavioural exchange. Every couple was taken-through the dynamics of communication with deep exploration on speaking and listening skills as well as problem solving. These were the steps for participants undergoing therapy using the Traditional Behavioural Couple Therapy (TBCT). However, for those undergoing therapy under the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy (IBCT), additional acceptance programmes were taken beyond the TBCT module. These included; counselling and training on empathic joining which requires guiding participants to learn the relevant strengths towards the development and promotion of emotional acceptance. Also, *mbopo* is the cultural "recipe" of relationship maintenance which was also explored among participants. The following is the abridged structure of the interview guide: (1) behavioural exchange (what spouses do to make each other happy, (2) success at behavioural exchange (seeing how successful a spouse has been in making spouses happy in the week before therapy) (3) relationship gripes (patterns of small problems that could eventually present as serious issues in the relationship), (4) poor communication (how personal exchanges lead to resentment) (5) problem solving (initiatives to resolve issues by reaching compromise) (6) acceptance (perceptions of acceptance in partners and assessment in relation to whether partners ever looked first at their faults before trying to change their spouses), (7) empathic joining (evidential traces of using soft emotions to state and or present relationship problems) and (8) tolerance building (attempts to change a partner's intolerable differences to tolerable differences using positive rather than negative behaviours**)** (9) Unified detachment (giving up the different struggles to change your partner but expressing acceptance) (10) *Mbopo* enhancement (explorations of how the maiden seclusion and fattening practice of the Ibibios may have influenced couples relationship maintenance strategies),.

Results
Behavioural Exchange

A particular participant described behavioural exchange with disappointment encountered in his effort to encourage a disillusioned partner:
"When she feels sad sometimes, I will ask her what is wrong, women are sometimes hard to understand, they can just change. When this happens, I will try to find out and do some good things for her (husband, 35 years old, eight-years in marriage, high school qualification, TBCT, EA)"

Another participant expressed delight in engaging in a culturally-ascribed, gender-specific exchange behaviour in the service of her partner.

"In our tradition, the woman has to give chewing stick as a sign of respect. I don't know whether it is the same thing to give tooth paste and brush, but what it shows is that you love and value your husband and it makes you feel happy too" (Wife, 32 years, FSLC, 8 years of marriage, TBCT, EA".

Success at Behavioural Exchange

In exploring how successful marital partners were in exchange behaviours, participants expressed wide ranging experiences, some specific, and some unspecific and unconscious.

"I always do them, he can testify that last week we had a happy week together. I do whatever I feel can bring peace (wife, 43, SSCE, 15 years of marriage, TBCT, EA)".

Another participant who appeared to have lost count of such behaviours said:

"I cannot remember everything but we were happy last week because we were able to fix some windows in our new house. We got the money from our joint business (Husband, 35 years old, FSLC, 3 years of marriage, TBCT, EA)".

A spouse reported non-engagement in behavioural exchange due to unhappiness caused by a disagreement and conflict.

"He almost --- well, we were not happy due to a disagreement (Wife, 48, GCE, 12 years in marriage TBCT, EA)".

Poor Communication

The interaction of marital partners with the therapist during the IBCT sessions also revealed issues of poor communication between spouses. Lavner, et al., (2016) had found that communication – to – satisfaction and satisfaction – to – communication pathways were relatively associated with marital functioning. However, studies have found that distressed couples were more likely to engage in negative communication than positive communication (Bradbury & Karney, 2013). In our study episodes, distressed couples reported instances where they engaged in poor communication:

"Yes, what always makes us to quarrel is the way he talks to me, so I will also talk that way even though I will later beg because it is not good. I just don't know what to do when I am angry" (wife, 43, SSCE, 15 years, TBCT Empathically Accurate)".

"I have done this sometimes. I remember when I was very angry with my wife because she used the money we planned for something to buy other things without asking me, but you have to, choose between money and wife – you see (Husband, 53, HND, 27 years, TBCT, Empathically Accurate)".

Uncovered relational trends in participants' thoughts and opinions also reveal that even in the midst of poor communication, some spouses still restrain themselves towards maintaining the relationship.

"If my wife offends me, I always approach her to know why she did what she did. Sometimes what you think may not be how she explains it. This shows that we can infer false meanings from what people do" (Husband 35, GCE, 8 years, text, EA)".

Relationship Gripes:

Relationship gripes are small problems that can snowball into serious relationship resentments and damages. During the sessional dialogues, relational partners identified blaming, child training, alcoholism, impatience, quarrelsome interaction and stonewalling as some of the problematic issues hampering their relationships.

"Yes, we quarrel over how to punish a child when he or she does something wrong. When she gives them too much treatment" (Husband, 29, SSCE 4 years in marriage, TBCT, EA)".

Extensive qualitative analysis particularly revealed that couples encounter relationship problems due to impatience on the part of one or both partners. Data exploration of the sample revealed that spouses were different on what should be the sufficient period between information and action (reaction time).

"My wife will always tell you her needs, but will not give you sufficient time to think about it. She needs immediate solution (Husband, 56, B.Sc, 32 years, IBCT, EA)".

Still on relationship gripes, alcoholism and negative mind-reading came up as important puzzles of concern for wives in their relationship.

"The most important things that make me quarrel with my husband is how he drinks and gets intoxicated, other men can drink but his own...(Wife, 29, FSLC, 10 years, IBCT, EA").

"It is because when you do not understand his behaviour, you remember similar things in the past and conclude that he may be ….. it is the same (wife, 27 old, FSLC, 3 years, TBCT, EA)".

Problem Solving

The central step in relational problem solving is the ability to foster collaboration through brainstorming. During therapy, partners in this study were primed with relevant scenarios to recall problem solving strategies and scenes in their dyadic encounters. Moreover, therapeutic sessions between couples and researchers offered opportunities to uncover couples peculiar strategies at problem solving.

"When I tell my husband the truth, it is not good for me if he does not believe me. It is better for both people to be truthful so that there will be trust. It is the lack of trust that brings suspicion and problems... and problem is not good" (Wife 32 years old FSCL, 8 years, TBCT, EA)."

In solving problems, participants also identified loyalty and trust as mechanisms to ensure peaceful interaction between spouses. They believe that loyalty breeds respect which is also very essential in warding off relational problems or solving them whenever they arise.

"The wife should submit to the husband and respect him. In the university there, because of too much book knowledge, they may not agree to this (Husband, 50 years, FSLC, 25 years, IBCT, EA)"

"It is men who accuse their wives more. But some women too deserve to be accused. You can see some married women behave immorally. It is bad (Wife, 60, NCE, 38 years, IBCT, EI."

Acceptance:

The central reasons for updating the Traditional Behavioural Couple Therapy to Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy was to pay additional attention to the recipient (observer) of behaviour and focus less on the agent of behaviour (Dimidjianet al., 2008). The Traditional Behavioural Couple Therapy (TBCT) has, from inception, concentrated all attention on the agent of behaviour hence the over-emphasis on change. With the incorporated component of acceptance, the context can change not only because the agent alters the frequency or intensity of behaviour, but also because the recipient receives the behaviour differently. However, most of the couples in this study could not see acceptance in the way it was formulated. They instead consistently emphasize that there was the need for the other partner to "change" problematic behaviours:

"I cannot accept a behaviour that is not good. She has to change bad behaviours and I have to change mine too. Marriage is give and take – it is not good to give bad behaviour and take good one (Husband 29 years old, OND, 5 years in marriage, IBCT, EI)".

"I sometimes say even though I did this or that to you, you should not do this to me. It should not be an eye for an eye when someone makes a mistake. But when we quarrel, we still go on with our marriage because there is no more place for you in your father's house (Wife, 43 years, FSLC, 25 years of marriage, IBCT, EA)".

Empathic Joining:

Generally, Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy strategies include acceptance and tolerance. Acceptance strategies are used as tools to manage incompatibilities, the differences that seem irreconcilable or problems that are not getting solved (Mairal, 2015). From the theoretical framework of IBCT, the methods of acceptance are opposed to negative methods of change, coercion, vilification and polarization (Mairal, 2015). Empathic joining as an acceptance strategy consists of learning strategies that encourages partners to express their grief or distress in a way that does not project accusation. Sessional transcripts of participants in this study include the following views:

"I remember once that I lost an important document in transit due to the carelessness of my wife who held the document while sitting on a motorbike. I was midway between anger and sadness and actually cried. I did not complain and shout at her but I felt a lot of pain and was trying to pity myself because of the loss. Is this the type of thing you are saying (therapist: yes, part of it). Ok, I have done it. All of us do it at one time or the other (Husband, 36 years, FSLC, 10 years of marriage, TBCT, EA").

Mairal (2015) had pointed out that the IBCT is a treatment that is not well known but with great potential. The present study, in precaution, took a great deal of effort to get participants into the knowledge of the therapy and they, in turn, showed great interest and optimism in the awareness created. For instance, after an interesting interaction with the therapist, a participant with nostalgia responded as follows:

"There is no need to be complaining always, I have told him many times that it is love that brought me into his (this) house, then if I don't see the love in his actions, I feel lonely and angry. I feel I made a mistake because even now, men do not allow me to rest, he knows and I always tell him that they are disturbing me on the road. If I did not love him, will I not listen to any of them (I mean those people?) (Wife 50 years old, NCE, 27 years marriage, TBCT, EA)".

Unified Detachment

The second component of acceptance is "Unified Detachment", which is oriented towards the two partners to distance themselves from their conflicts and arguments by promoting an intellectual analysis of the problem favouring

impartial, descriptive dialogue (Dimidjian et al., 2008).After a session where unified detachment was explained to participants, the following reactions ensued:
"In the past, we normally see the person who caused the problem and not the problem because somebody caused the problem. No problem can come on its own". (Husband, 50 years old, FSLC, 35 years,   IBCT, EA)".

While trying to make sense of the concept of unified detachment, some partners made attempts to relate it to familiar concepts in everyday use.
"I feel this is just another name for forgiveness. If two people (husband and wife) both agree to forget about their problem, then they have forgiven each other. It is good. We always forgive. But can the two people forgive in the same way? Some people will still talk about it later. But I know we forgive each other. (Wife, 48 years, GCE, 12 years marriage, TBCT, EA)".

Mairal (2015) has also explained that unified detachment is "unified" in the sense that the two partners have to get together, by cooperating, to face the problem. However, when the twin strategies of acceptance: empathic joining and unified detachment fail to yield expected results, it becomes necessary to employ other strategies related to tolerance building. The basic feature of tolerance building is to highlight positives out of negatives and take negative behaviour as inroads to remind partners of corresponding positive behaviours. In this study, there was evidence that couples encountered difficult situations that depleted their emotional reserviours in different relational concerns.

Tolerance Building
Participants also relieved their experiences in accommodating the adverse or excessive mannerisms of their spouses through tolerance building:
"Personally, I tolerate my wife over many things. You cannot have 100% in your life but I believe that as we go on in life my wife will see that this particular behaviour will not keep us in peace. She will even change it without your (i.e. my)advice (Husband, 36 years, FSLC, 10 years, TBCT, EA)".

This strand of response indicates hopefulness that tolerance building is capable of manifesting positive behaviours in the future. Tolerance building can be encouraged in diverse ways including enacting negative behaviours to help partners understand that they can control the intensity of behaviour, identifying the positive aspects of a problem, faking negative behaviours to evaluate them from a more objective standpoint and increasing self-care to increase one's level of independence, thereby decreasing the demands each

partner makes on the other. A similar scenario was created in this exchange:
"Yes, sir, what you say has been happening and we try to make peace and forgive each other. As long as you continue to marry and stay together, all these things happen. In fact, if they don't happen in a marriage, that marriage will be very dull because they are the different ways (positive or negative) that you talk to your partner " (Wife, 31 years, NCE, 10 years of marriage, IBCT, EI)".

Depending on one's personality which helps to enact individual differences, people employ different skills which include tolerance building to navigate relational gripes and project or forecast a healthy relationship.

Mbopo Enhancement

Turning to the cultural dimension of peoples' lives, therapy also explored qualitative information on the *mbopo* rites of passage usually performed on young maidens who were to be handed over to their prospective husbands. Therapy, in this study, sought the understanding and application of *mbopo* in participants' marital lives. As observed in these reports, qualitative data varied from people's attitude towards the cultural practice to their direct and indirect experiences in marriage

"Mbopo is good because it helps to teach young women all aspects of home management while preparing them for marriage (Husband, 36, FSLC, 18 years, EA)".

"The rules of mbopo have influenced us because some of the things teach us good ways of life which we also learn in church and school. So it is still good" (Wife, 25, SSCE, 5 years, IBCT, EA)".

"It is good but the negative sides of the culture makes it incomplete. We need to separate good things from those that people do because of no religious education (Wife, 52 years, FSLC, 12 years in marriage, EA)".

"What most people don't like are the negative things like circumcising the woman to stop her from following other men" (Wife, 25, SSCE, 5 years, IBCT, EA".)

"it is bad because of some things like female circumcision. Christianity does not allow this even though some church goers still do it. It is not good (Husband, 44, B.Sc, 11 years in marriage, TBCT, EA)".

Participant responses at some point indicated some level of conflict between mbopo practice and Christian beliefs.

"The training now goes on silently in people's households because of some of the things people use it to do that is against Christianity. God fearing parents now select the good things to teach their daughters ... without the negative ones. Those days, you cannot see special houses where the mbopo are kept. This is because some people look at it as idolatory but the basic morals are still taught in the homes" (Husband, 36, FSLC, 10, TBCT, EA)".

"Mbopo is still being practised in our communities in a revised form. The fear of God and rules of government makes (many) people not to engage in female circumcision any more. Males too do not like to marry circumcised females for many reasons" (Husband, 35, GCE, 8 years, TBCT, EA)".

Discussion

In the previous section we presented the findings of the study in discourses identified under the ten formulated dimensions that data emerged in line with the components of the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy. The purpose of this section is to state our interpretations and opinions about our findings and go further to explain their implications and make suggestions for future research. More specifically, the section attempts to relate or integrate the findings with relevant literature and theory concerning the discourses that emerged, as a way of providing a broader understanding of the various themes.

Relationship maintenance through Behavioural Exchange

Given the descriptions of behavioural exchange as projected by the integrative behavioural couple therapy, participants associated exchange behaviours with several actions they could undertake to make each other happy. These include physically related things, family related things, economic as well as educationally related things. Others were obedience, dialogue, sex, praise, amusement, truthfulness and anniversaries. In support of this, Butzer and Kuiper (2008) had observed that a relationship exists between romantic relationship satisfaction and the use of humour, with more satisfied individuals using more positive humour in both conflict (woeful) and pleasurable situations than less satisfied individuals.

It should be noted that participants in the study were distressed partners of marital conflict, most with low level of education. Viewing this from Gottman and Levenson's (2006) findings that the first seven years of marriage and midlife (when couples have young teenage children) are crucial periods for

divorce, there appears some empirical and theoretical support with marital duration of participants. As indicated, majority of the participants were married within the 1-7 and 8-14 years duration. Participants' private disclosures with the therapist as well as in joint session as couples were mostly positive behaviours that give them a sense of meaning in their relationships. In support of this, Rogge and Bradbury (2002) had observed that by sampling couples at multipoint over time, is it possible to track change as it is occurring, and this allows a deeper analysis of the mechanisms involved in that change.

Success at Behaivoural Exchange

Results of participants verbalizations regarding success at behavioural exchange showed diverse directions of what they actually did, intended to do and what they have been doing but do not remember. These indicate the flow of intimacy which, in some cases, could not be expressed due to psychological barriers such as ego and some measures of conceited self-worth. Specifically, instances of stone walling represent tactical withdrawals intended to measure the other partner's capacity to transit from interdependence to temporary independence. This aligns with Arriaga's (2013) account of the causes and consequences of relationship interactions using the interdependence theory. Notably, Thibaut and Kelley (1959) originated this psychological theory which has found roots in other disciplines, example. sociology (Homans, 1961), anthropology (Malinowski, 1992) and economics (Heath, 1976). The social exchange theory is an economic model of human behaviour where people invest with expectations to gain in interpersonal interaction. Couples who love each other would always find avenues to enact successful behaviours for the other's pleasure.

Poor Communication

Discussions aimed at mitigating poor communication between relational partners were found to contain emotional expressions such as appreciation, discontent and disrespect. This, however did not mean that partners were unconcerned about the state or quality of their relationship but were negotiating routine relational tensions inherent in their union as evidenced in age-long relational perspectives in communication. Qualitative methods greatly seek plurality, complexity and subjectivity in drawing conclusions because they are designed to address these and provide the researcher with the perspectives of target audience members through immersion in a culture or situation and direct interactions with the people under study. Specifically, it is assumed that men communicate to exchange information, while women use it (information) to bond. Nelson and Brown

(2012) have submitted that women use language as a social mechanism for social maintenance and relationship building including the creation of bonds while men use it primarily to exchange information.

Relationship Gripes

The results presented relational gripes as diverse including complaints on alcoholism and disagreements on child training. Emerging exchanges between marital partners reflected issues which tend to evolve, revolve and concentrate around repair strategies ranging from arguments on deeply interactive modes of child training to inability of a spouse to delay gratification of certain needs. These altercations have in past researches been stressed by Emmers and Canary (1996) who coded relational repair strategies into four types including passive, active, interactive and uncertain and found that relational partners relied most on interactive and direct processes in repairing their relationships. However, due to the inability of partners to get their spouses to make the kind of changes they expect, Christensen et al. (2015) explained that most crimes of the heart are misdemeanors which may not be as huge as the transgressions of infidelity, but they may still be construed as blatant disregard of the other spouse's feelings.

Problem Solving

In this study, participants' disposition on problem solving still emerged age-long cultural expectations regarding the relationship between husband and wife in the Ibibio cultural setting. For example, when discussing problems associated with dyadic exchanges, women did not lose the sense of respect that is culturally expected of them in reverence to their husbands. Problem solving generally entails emotional maturity as observed during therapeutic exchanges, even though at some point certain emotions tend to run out of control. The study has shown that participants were least influenced by their level of education, chronological age or number of years in marriage but were mostly governed by the empathic rhythm of their attachment towards their spouse. The unfolding exchange also revealed that although participants were screened on the basis of their empathy levels, qualitative data reflected the transference of routine interaction between personalities of the partners involved. In sum, problem solving skills were as diverse as the genre of couples' personalities.

Acceptance

The theoretical model of change in IBCT suggests that acceptance promoting strategies (primarily, unified detachment and empathic joining) will

usually result in shared vulnerability, externalization of the problem and non-blaming, intellectualized discussions and conflictual interactions (Wiedeman, 2011). It also means that acceptance would involve changing an aversive value from an aversive outcome to a more attractive outcome (Cordova, 2001).

Empathic Joining

Outcomes of empathic joining in our therapy sessions were mixed as participants expressed emotions revealing their individual differences. The IBCT conceptual model of relationship difficulties holds that relationship distress develops primarily through couples' repeated and unsuccessful attempts to deal with natural differences or initial localized disagreements that are often emotionally loaded because of partner's sensitivities and vulnerabilities (Doss et al., 2013). Mixed outcomes noticed among study participants point to situations where they blame their partners for their emotional suffering and at the same time verbalized their desire to identify the soft feelings underneath their anger and disappointments, loneliness, abandonment, embarrassment and shame. The interchange of a 50-year old wife as indicated in the result represented a woman's evolving and loving feelings towards the husband in an attempt to create assurance of commitment, which should as well be reciprocated by the husband. This process can help spouses to become a team, learning each others stories, rather than blaming each other for all the problems in the relationship. In essence, it presents the message that instead of shifting blames, spouses should join hands, in support of the doctrine of unified detachment.

Unified Detachment

Available theoretical evidence has shown that whereas "empathic joining" focuses on a close emotional look at separating the problems from a partner, "unified detachment" takes a more distant, intellectual and objective look at justly rejecting the problem. In our study's sessional interactions, spouses attempted to draw meanings from the therapist's responses which, on the whole, brought them together in attacking the problem. This scenario situates with Christensen et al. (2015) views that the therapist can promote unified detachment by continually referring back to the major theme in the partners' interactions, their pattern of interaction, and the mutual trap into which they both fall. It was apparent in thisstudy that spouses were cooperative in addressing relationship issues that tended to pull them apart.

Tolerance Building:

Concerning this component, observations from participants' exchanges

showed levels of effort in spouses to build tolerance in their relationships. Tolerance building is absolutely necessary in relationships because an important assumption in IBCT is that many important differences between partners and the problems that those differences create will never be completely erased (Christensen et al., 2004). Based on Ibibio people's ethos whose worldview and values strongly abhor divorce and separation in all its ramifications, spouses reported several strategies and tools from their personality repertoires which they use to accommodate each other in order to increasingly enhance their relationships.

Mbopo Enhancement

Apart from inferences drawn from Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy in the Ibibio sub-culture, feelers from participants showed that the pre-marital preparation of young women through the *mbopo* practice were, at the same time, strange as well as familiar in some respect to spouses in the course of therapeutic interaction. The testimonies from participants who had relative information and experience about *mbopo* as a cultural ritual mostly (village dwellers and aged people) and those without such experiences (city dwellers and young people) showed differential perceptions of the utility and acceptability of the practice among people of various generational groups.

In summary, these qualitative episodes indicate diverse strategies that support healthy as well as distressing interaction in relationship maintenance. However, the study's findings have shown that relationship maintenance among Ibibio couples is, as expected, high and diverse depending on relationship ecologies of couples concerned.

Limitations

We recognize that several limitations may have impacted the global utility of this study because of the process of interpreting and translating data presented in this research. First, field interactions with spouses were given in different languages and formats which were later harmonized (translated) into the English language. Second, spouses expressed their views under the therapeutic process which places the therapist as a superior partner in the process. This power differential and distance, as well as the presence of a participant's spouse at some levels of the therapeutic interaction, may have influenced the content of verbalizations that emerge from spouses in the course of therapeutic interactions. This may at some point lead to distortions in order to play safe with one's partner intentional.

Conclusion

The research employed qualitative design that incorporated semi-structured interviews to better understand couples' perceptions and experiences about relationship maintenance from the perspective of the Integrative Behavioural Couple Therapy. Both positive and negative behaviours were identified. However, spouses appreciated the opportunity that therapy (IBCT) provided within the ambience of daily interactions, even as they were aware of the numerous challenges that dyadic interaction provided on a day-to-day basis. Our research confirms that outcomes of the IBCT provide useful scientific guide for partners to improve their interaction for sustained relationship. It is important to mention that since the goal of phenomenological research is not to generalize but to understand particular phenomena, there will be no need to anticipate generalization or expectation of external validity of this study. Finally, whereas a narrative study reports the life of a single individual, a phenomenological study describes the meaning for several individuals of their lived experiences of a concept or phenomenon and focuses on describing what all participants have in common as they experience a phenomenon which, in this study, is marital relationship maintenance.

The study therefore serves as a strong reference to how couples should learn to interact to keep their relationships against the adverse currents of intolerance and despair. Moreover, future researchers and therapists would appreciate it as a compendium of solutions and ideas about marriage and its maintenance strategies.

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EVALUATION OF THE PROXIMATE COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONAL AND SENSORY PROPERTIES OF MUNGBEAN – COOKING BANANA COMPOSITE FLOURS AND BISCUITS

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Abstract

Urbanization has caused changes in the food habits of the people, resulting to consumption of varieties of snacks such as biscuits. The evaluation of the proximate composition, functional and sensory properties of mungbean – cooking banana composite flours and biscuits were carried out using standard analytical methods. The result of the proximate composition showed a significant difference (p<0.05) among the blends in crude protein, crude fibre, ash and carbohydrate. Mungbean flour (100%) possessed the highest protein content of 26.13% while cooking banana had the lowest protein content of 3.01%. The functional properties result showed that blanching increased the water absorption capacity, wettability and oil absorption capacity, but decreased bulk density, gelation temperature and swelling index of the blends. The composite biscuit of mungbean – cooking banana flour at different levels of substitution were all acceptable by the panelists. There was no significant difference (p>0.05) in flavour, texture, crispness, taste and general acceptability, but there was significant difference (p<0.05) in colour. Biscuits produced from 20% mungbean:80% cooking banana composite flour were more acceptable by the panelists because they were ranked highest.

Keywords: Composite Flours, Mungbean, Cooking Banana, Urbanization, Composite Biscuits

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Introduction

The food habits and preferences of the people in African countries are changing towards convenience foods because of urbanization. Biscuit culture has assumed a dominating and essential factor in the dietary pattern of Nigerian consumers both in the urban and rural areas. Biscuit is one of the attractive food products especially for children. Biscuit is a nutritive snack obtained from dough which is transformed into light porous easily digestible and more appetizing product through the application of heat in an oven. Stuijvenberg et al. (1999) opined that consumption of biscuit should be encouraged especially those enriched and fortified, for both children and adults. In the last decades there has been an extensive research into the use of composite flour for baking aimed at curbing importation of wheat into tropical countries where production of wheat is far below domestic use (Nwanekezi et al., 2015). Composite flours are mixtures of different flours procured from cereals, legumes, roots, tubers, etc., with or without the inclusion of wheat flour.

Mungbean (Vigna radiata (L) wikzek) is a dicotyledonous crop which belongs to the family Fabacea and is related to cowpea. It is also called green or golden gram or green bean (Choroko) in Swahili. It is an important pulse crop originally from India and cultivated traditionally throughout Asia especially in India, Myammar, Thailand, Idonesia and Phillipines (Agugo, 2003). It is also grown in many parts of Africa and America. Mungbean is rich in dietary fibre, carbohydrate, energy, vitamins, proteins and minerals (Khalil, 2006). Despite the high nutrient content of mungbean, the utilization is impaired by some inherent constraints such as antinutritional factors and hard-to-cook syndrome. These antinutritional components have to be eliminated to improve their nutritional quality and organoleptic acceptability.

Cooking banana is a potential crop which could be blended with mungbean flour for biscuit making and other confectionaries. Cooking banana is a starch crop grown in the tropics, and is rich in carbohydrate, calcium, potassium, ascorbic acid, phosphorus, iron, among others (Chandler, 1995).

Most cultivated banana are tripods giant perennial herbs which belongs to the species Eumusa of the genus Musa (Ortiz et al., 1995). Cooking banana has long been regarded as a cheap source of carbohydrate and contributes to improvement in the diet and income of rural households in developing countries (Wainwright, 1992). Cooking banana is rich in vitamins, A, C. and B6. It is low in protein and essential minerals. Therefore, it is necessary to complement it with other food sources (Chandler, 1995).

Cooking banana when unripe, is good for diabetic patients due to the low level of sugar in it and the high iron and calcium content. It can also be used as a staple food, and in the confectionary industry. According to Chukwu et al. (1995), acceptable chips have been produced from cooking banana fruits. Weingberg (2002) also reported that mungbean has been used to produce cakes, doughnuts, noodles, etc. Mungbean and cooking banana are highly perishable and so are processed into flour after harvest.

Inadequate intake of protein, has been reported as a major cause of retarded growth in young Nigerians. Again, the habit of eating biscuits and similar bakery products from wheat has become very popular in Nigeria, but wheat cannot be grown in Nigeria, hence, the need to examine the suitability of composite flours from mungbean – cooking banana for baking. Also, there is limited information on the use of mungbean – cooking banana flour in biscuit making. This study will therefore give an insight on the nutritional and economic benefits of mungbean – cooking banana flour and their utilization in production of baked products such as biscuit. Also, processing of these agricultural produce into composite flours and biscuits with a longer shelf-life can provide a major outlet to use of surpluses, and addition of value to the crops. The objective of this work was to evaluate the proximate composition, functional properties and food utility potential of mungbean and cooking banana composite flours.

Materials and Methods
Materials Collection

The mungbean seeds used for the experiment were obtained from the Crop Science Department of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The seeds were carefully sorted to remove extraneous materials and broken beans. Also the species cardaba of cooking banana was obtained from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike farm. The other ingredients such as butter, sugar, eggs, salt, baking powder, etc., were purchased from Umuahia main market.

Flour Preparation

The method described by Mubarak (2005) and Khalil (2006) with slight modification were used for processing the mungbean. Whole undehulled mungbean seeds (Vigna radiate (L) wilczek) weighing 2000g was soaked in water for 12 h at room temperature (25 °C). The seeds were drained and

dehulled manually, and dried in an oven at 65 °C and then cooled in a dessicator. The seeds were then dry milled, sieved and packaged for analysis.

The method of Ogazi (1996) with slight modification was used for processing the second sample, cooking banana. The cooking banana was harvested, then a bunch of cardaba was washed, peeled manually with a stainless knife and blanched in hot water at 89 °C in a bowl and covered for 15 m. This was done to prevent enzymatic action that could have caused browning reaction. The fruits were sliced to about 5 mm thickness with stainless kitchen knife to enhance dehydration. After blanching, the slices were drained and dried in a moisture extraction oven at 65 °C for about 50 h. The slices were milled using a hammer mill. The flour produced was sieved to obtain a fine flour of desired particle size.

Proximate Composition Determination

The Association of Official Analytical Chemist - AOAC (2005) methods were used to determine the protein, moisture, crude fibre, fat, ash and carbohydrate content of the samples and the analysis was done in triplicates.

Functional Properties Determination

The methods described by Onwuka (2018) were adopted to determine the bulk density, water absorption capacity, oil absorption capacity, gelatinization temperature, wettability, and swelling index.

Composite Flour Formulation and Biscuit Production

The blends of mungbean and cooking banana flours were formulated at the ratio 100:0, 0:100, 10:90, 20:80, 30:70, 40:60, 50:50, where 100:0 and 0:100 served as controls. The composite flour samples were used to prepare biscuits using a method described by Oyewole et al. (1996). The ingredients were weighed, fats and sugar was mixed until fluffy. Egg and milk were added while mixing and then mixed for about 40 m. Composite flour, baking powder, vanilla flavour and salt were added slowly or introduced into the mixtures. The thin dough obtained was rolled on a flat rolling board sprinkled with flour to a uniform thickness of 0.4cm using a wooden rolling pin. Rectangular raw biscuits of 6cm lengths and 3.5cm width were cut, perforated, placed on greased baking trays and baked at 160 °C for 16 m. The biscuit samples were cooled and wrapped airtight with polyethylene bags until needed for analysis.

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Evaluation of Physical Properties of Biscuits

The weight and diameter of the baked biscuit were determined by weighing balance and measuring with a calibrated ruler respectively (Ayo et al., 2007). The spread ratio was determined using the method of Gomez et al. (1997). Three rows of five well formed biscuits were made and the height measured. Also the same was arranged horizontally edge to edge and sum diameter measured. The spread ratio was calculated as diameter divided by height.

Biscuit of known thickness (0.4cm) was placed between two parallel wooden bars (3.0cm). Weight was added on the biscuit until the biscuit broke. The least weight that caused the breaking of the biscuit was regarded as the break strength of the biscuit.

Sensory Evaluation

The baked biscuits were subjected to sensory evaluation by a 20 semi-trained panelist from Department of Food Science and Technology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, selected on the basis of familiarity with biscuits. Samples were coded and presented to the panelists. Water was provided for in between evaluation. Panelists were asked to evaluate the samples for colour, appearance, flavour, taste, crispness, texture and general acceptability using a 9-point Hedonic scale (9=liked extremely to 1=disliked extremely) (Onwuka, 2018).

Statistical Analysis

Analysis of variance ANOVA (Steel and Torries, 1980) was used for detecting significant differences among the composite biscuits. The means were separated using Duncan:s multiple range test on SAS 17.0 package.

Results and Discussion

Proximate Composition of Composite Flours of Mungbean and Cooking Banana

The proximate composition of composite flour of mungbean – cooking banana are presented in Table 1. A significant difference ($p<0.05$) was observed in the moisture contents of mungbean flour and cooking banana flour samples. Flour from mungbean (100%) had the highest moisture content of 9.72% while the least was (100%) cooking banana flour 8.50%. However, Agugo and Onimawo (2008) and Akaerue and Onwuka (2010) reported moisture contents of 9.30% and 10.11% respectively for mungbean flour. It

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was observed from the result that as the substitution of mungbean flour increased, the moisture content increased. However, the moisture content of the blends samples was lower than 100% mungbean flour. The low level of the moisture content could be an advantage of longer shelf lives of the flours. These results are in line with that of Ogazi (1996) who reported that banana and plantain flours should be dried below 11.1% dry basis for longer storage.

The crude protein content of mungbean (100%) was the highest (26.13%) followed by the blends 50:50 and 40:60 mungbean – cooking banana flour while cooking banana (100%) had the lowest protein content (3.01%). From the study, the result obtained for cooking banana (100%) is in line with that of Ogazi (1996) who reported that banana and plantain contain low protein.

There was a significant difference (p<0.05) among the blends. The increase in protein content in the blends could be attributed to increase in mungbean flour inclusion which has high protein content. The protein content of mungbean is similar to that of some legumes such as rapeseed flour (25%) and sunflower flour (28.78%) (Akinjayenu and Francis, 2007), pigeon pea flour (24.15%) (Nwanekezi et al., 2017) and African yam bean flour (22.30%) (Arukwe et al., 2021).

Table 1:   Proximate composition of mungbean and cooking banana flour samples

Sample MF:CF	Moisture %	Dry Matter %	Crude Protein %	Crude Fibre %	Ash %	Fat %	Carbohydrate %
100:0	$9.71^a \pm 0.02$	$90.28^e \pm 0.07$	$26.13^a \pm 0.08$	$4.00^a \pm 0.05$	$2.32^g \pm 0.00$	$1.65^a \pm 0.03$	$56.18^g \pm 0.21$
0:100	$8.50^e \pm 0.02$	$91.50^a \pm 0.02$	$3.01^g \pm 0.04$	$0.66^g \pm 0.00$	$3.23^a \pm 0.00$	$0.64^f \pm 0.01$	$83.96^a \pm 0.04$
10:90	$9.18^d \pm 0.02$	$90.82^b \pm 0.03$	$10.19^f \pm 0.00$	$2.36^f \pm 0.01$	$2.75^b \pm 0.00$	$1.17^e \pm 0.00$	$74.35^b \pm 0.50$
20:80	$9.22^d \pm 0.03$	$90.78^b \pm 0.03$	$15.69^d \pm 0.80$	$2.61^e \pm 0.02$	$2.68^c \pm 0.02$	$1.24^d \pm 0.02$	$68.56^c \pm 0.07$
30:70	$9.36^c \pm 0.01$	$90.64^c \pm 0.01$	$18.14^d \pm 0.80$	$2.96^d \pm 0.02$	$2.62^d \pm 0.03$	$1.36^c \pm 0.02$	$65.56^d \pm 0.07$
40:60	$9.45^b \pm 0.00$	$90.55^d \pm 0.00$	$20.77^c \pm 0.84$	$3.32^c \pm 0.01$	$2.51^e \pm 0.01$	$1.48^b \pm 0.06$	$62.47^e \pm 0.07$
50:50	$9.67^a \pm 0.00$	$90.33^e \pm 0.00$	$23.25^b \pm 0.14$	$3.64^b \pm 0.00$	$2.43^f \pm 0.02$	$1.52^b \pm 0.00$	$59.49^f \pm 0.16$

means with the same superscripts down the column are not significantly different (p<0.05) Key: 100:0 = 100% mungbean flour, 0:100 = 100% cooking banana flour, 10:90 = 10% mungbean and 90% cooking banana flour, 20:80 = 20% mungbean and 80% cooking banana flour, 30:70 = 30% mungbean and 70% cooking banana flour, 40:60 = 40% mungbean and 60% cooking banana flour and 50:50 = 50% mungbean and 50% cooking banana flour.

A significant difference (p<0.05) was also observed in the crude fibre content of the blends as the proportion of mungbean increased. Flour from cooking banana (100%) had the lowest value of 0.66% while flour from mungbean (100%) had the highest value of 4.00%. This suggests that addition of mungbean flour to cooking banana flour will result to a nutritional

improvement of the composite and easy digestibility of the products made from them. Agugo and Onimawo (2008) reported that high fibre content makes mungbean a good digestive food.

The ash content of the mungbean flour and cooking banana flour ranged from 2.32% to 3.23%. The ash content of the blends exhibited significant differences ($p < 0.05$). The cooking banana flour (100%) possessed the highest ash content (3.23%) while mungbean flour (100%) had the lowest value of 2.32%. For the blends, ash content was highest in sample blend 10:90 mungbean – cooking banana flour with a percentage of 2.75 followed by 20:80 mungbean – cooking banana (2.68%). From the result, the decrease in ash content of the composite flour could be due to the decrease in percentage of the cooking banana flour. The ash content reported in the mungbean flour from this study is similar to that of some well known legumes such as cowpea 3.36% (Ilesanmi and Gungula, 2016), African yam bean 4.05% (Arukwe et al., 2021), pigeon pea 4.38% (Nwanekezi et al., 2017). The result also shows an increase in fat as substitution of mungbean flour increases. Substitution levels of 40:60 and 50:50 mungbean – cooking banana flour showed no significant difference ($p < 0.05$). The fat content of cooking banana flour (100%) showed significant difference ($p < 0.05$) from that of mungbean flour (100%). Mubarak (2005) and Akaerue and Onwuka (2010) obtained fat contents of 1.82% and 1.89% respectively for dehulled mungbean flour. The variations could be due to differences in variety or probably the varying extent of dehulling (Bhatty et al., 2000). The decrease in the fat content recorded for this study could be due to the leaching into soaking water. Akinjayenu and Francis (2007) attributed fat reduction during soaking to hydrolysis of fat to fatty acids and glycerol by lipolytic enzymes. The reduced fat in cooking banana and the blends is advantageous and proves that use of cooking banana flour will lead to a healthier and wholesome product since there is consumer's awareness towards reduced fat and increased fibre.

The carbohydrate content of the dehulled mungbean flour was found to be 56.18%. However, much higher total carbohydrate content (62.9%) was observed by Mubarak (2005). Also, Agugo and Onimawo (2008) reported 61.47% for carbohydrate and the variations could be due to the processing methods used. Substitution with cooking banana flour was found to increase the total carbohydrate content of the blends. This could be because cooking banana flour has a higher carbohydrate content while mungbean flour exhibits lower carbohydrate content. Cooking banana is considered as a starchy staple food and rich source of carbohydrate because of their high carbohydrate content. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) existed between the dry matter

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contents of the cooking banana flour (100%) and mungbean flour (100%).

Functional Properties of Composite Flours of Mungbean and Cooking Banana

The result of the functional properties of composite flour from mungbean and cooking banana are shown in Table 2. Bulk density (BD) result showed that the bulk density of the composite flour increased as the concentration of mungbean flour increased. Bulk density has been reported to be important with regards to sensory acceptability, handling and packaging equipment and transportation cost (Lewis, 1990). Also, there was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between (100%) mungbean flour and cooking banana flour which showed that cooking banana flour (0.71g/ml) had lower bulk density compared to the mungbean flour (0.76g/ml). The low bulk density could be an advantage in the formulation of baby weaning foods, and agrees with Akubor (2004) who noted that low bulk density flour improves handling due to lesser weight. The low bulk density recorded for the composite blends could be beneficial in production of baby foods where high nutrient density to low bulk is desired (Arukwe et al., 2021).

Table 2: **Functional Properties of Composite Flours of Mungbean and Cooking Banana**

Sample MF:CF	BD (g/ml)		WAC (g/g)		OAC (g/g)		GT (C)		WETT (s)		SI	
100:0	0.76[a] 0.00	+	2.46[d] 0.05	+	1.88[c] 0.28	+	90.00[a] 2.00	+	17.33[g] 0.57	+	1.22[a] 0.01	+
0:100	0.71[e] 0.00	+	3.66[a] 0.11	+	2.68[a] 0.05	+	70.33[e] 0.57	+	77.33[a] 1.15	+	1.24[a] 0.03	+
10:90	0.74[d] 0.00	+	3.23[b] 0.05	+	1.88[c] 0.05	+	78.00[d] 2.00	+	73.00[b] 1.00	+	1.25[a] 0.04	+
20:80	0.74[d] 0.00	+	3.16[b] 0.05	+	2.10[bcd] 0.09	+	79.33[dc] 1.15	+	58.66[c] 1.15	+	1.20[a] 0.00	+
30:70	0.75[c] 0.00	+	2.96[c] 0.05	+	2.11[cb] 0.07	+	80.66[cb] 0.57	+	55.33[d] 0.57	+	1.20[a] 0.00	+
40:60	0.76[b] 0.00	+	2.16[e] 0.05	+	2.19[b] 0.10	+	82.33[b] 0.57	+	37.66[e] 0.57	+	1.23[a] 0.04	+
50:50	0.76[b] 0.00	+	2.03[e] 0.05	+	2.22[b] 0.10	+	88.66[a] 1.15	+	32.66[f] 0.57	+	1.21[a] 0.01	+

Key: 100:0 = 100% mungbean flour, 0:100 = 100% cooking banana flour, 10:90 = 10% mungbean and 90% cooking banana flour, 20:80 = 20% mungbean and 80% cooking banana flour, 30:70 = 30% mungbean and 70% cooking banana flour, 40:60 = 40% mungbean and

60% cooking banana flour and 50:50 = 50% mungbean and 50% cooking banana flour.

The wettability (WETT) of cooking banana flour (77.33 seconds) was higher than mungbean flour (17.33 seconds). Wettability is the time required by flour to reach its wetness (Okezie and Kosikowski, 1981). Also a significant difference (p<0.05) was observed among the composite flours. The wettability of the composite flour decreased as the concentration of mungbean flour increased. This could be attributed to the high fibre content of mungbean flour. The gelation temperature (GT) of (100%) mungbean flour (90.00 °C) was higher than that of cooking banana flour (70.33 °C). Gels enhance the body and texture of a product and their primary function in foods such as meat curds is to bind the free water in the food. Seed coat fraction in flour protein interferes with the formation of gels (Onimawo and Egbekun, 1998). The gelation temperature of the composite blends increased as substitution with mungbean flour increased. This could be due to the high gelation temperature of mungbean flour. Gel strength improves with increasing carbohydrate concentration. This showed that composite flour will form a better gel. This blend can be used for food products such as puddings and sauces, which require thickening and gelling. The result however, showed that the swelling index (SI) of (100%) cooking banana (1.24) was a little higher than (100%) cooking banana flour (1.22). This could be due to the increased temperature of heat processed flour.

Proximate Composition of Mungbean – Cooking Banana Composite Biscuits

The proximate composition of mungbean – cooking banana composite biscuits are presented in Table 3. The moisture content of the composite biscuit ranged from 3.17% to 3.40%. There was no significant difference (p<0.05) among the samples except for 100% mungbean, which had the highest moisture content. The decrease in moisture content could be due to the high temperature (160 °C) used during baking. Product moisture is significant to shelf-life, packaging and general acceptability (Nwabueze, 2006b). The dry matter content of sample 100:0 (100% mungbean) was lower than the composite biscuits. There was no significant difference (p<0.05) among the samples except for sample 100:0 (100% mungbean). The reduction of the sample 100% mungbean biscuit could be relatively attributed to the high moisture content of the sample. The crude protein of (100%) mungbean was higher 18.87% than that of (100%) cooking banana (2.49%), both serving as

control. There was no significant difference (p<0.05) among the samples. The protein content of the composite biscuits increased as the substitution of mungbean increased. This could be attributed to the high protein of the mungbean (Khalil, 2006). The low protein content of the cooking banana biscuit (2.49%) is in line with that of Ogazi (1996) who reported that banana and plantain generally contain low protein.

Table 3: **Proximate composition of mungbean and cooking banana Composite Biscuits**

Sample MF:CF	Moisture %	Dry Matter %	Crude Protein %	Crude Fibre %	Ash %	Fat %	Carbohydrate %
100:0	$3.40^a\pm0.02$	$96.60^b\pm0.02$	$18.87^a\pm0.10$	$2.07^a\pm0.09$	$2.46^c\pm0.02$	$2.07^a\pm0.09$	$71.13^g\pm0.09$
0:100	$3.28^b\pm0.02$	$96.72^a\pm0.02$	$2.49^a\pm0.41$	$0.20^a\pm0.03$	$3.28^a\pm0.02$	$2.07^a\pm0.98$	$88.68^a\pm0.05$
10:90	$3.17^b\pm0.80$	$96.83^a\pm0.08$	$8.41^f\pm0.14$	$0.50^f\pm0.22$	$0.50^e\pm0.02$	$1.29^b\pm0.14$	$86.13^b\pm0.32$
20:80	$3.18^b\pm0.02$	$96.82^a\pm0.02$	$10.03^e\pm0.00$	$0.73^e\pm0.03$	$0.76^d\pm0.30$	$1.37^b\pm0.01$	$83.93^c\pm0.50$
30:70	$3.24^b\pm0.64$	$96.76^a\pm0.64$	$11.67^d\pm0.10$	$0.92^d\pm0.02$	$2.64^b\pm0.20$	$0.94^d\pm0.02$	$80.59^d\pm0.28$
40:60	$3.28^b\pm0.01$	$96.72^a\pm1.05$	$13.31^c\pm0.10$	$1.04^c\pm0.45$	$2.64^b\pm0.45$	$1.04^{cd}\pm0.04$	$78.69^e\pm0.14$
50:50	$3.28^b\pm0.01$	$96.72^a\pm1.05$	$14.87^b\pm0.10$	$1.14^b\pm0.02$	$2.53^{bc}\pm0.05$	$1.14^c\pm0.02$	$77.04^f\pm0.02$

*means with the same superscripts down the column are not significantly different (p<0.05)
Key: 100:0 = 100% mungbean flour, 0:100 = 100% cooking banana flour, 10:90 = 10% mungbean and 90% cooking banana flour, 20:80 = 20% mungbean and 80% cooking banana flour, 30:70 = 30% mungbean and 70% cooking banana flour, 40:60 = 40% mungbean and 60% cooking banana flour and 50:50 = 50% mungbean and 50% cooking banana flour.

The crude fibre content of the composite biscuit was highest in 100% mungbean (2.07%) followed by sample 50:50 (50% mungbean: 50% cooking banana). There was significant difference (p<0.05) between the samples with regard to crude fibre values. The crude fibre content of the composite biscuit increased as the concentration of mungbean increased. This could be due to the high content of crude fibre which helps for easy digestion and disappearance of starch.

The ash content of (100% mungbean) was lower when compared with (100% cooking banana). Ash is considered among the chemical characteristics that define quality of wheat flour The values of ash content showed that there was no significant difference (p<0.05) among samples 30:70 40:60, 50:50 (mungbean – cooking banana biscuits).

The fat content ranged from 0.94% for sample 30:70 to (2.07%) for sample 100:0, and sample 0:100 (mungbean – cooking banana biscuits). There were significant differences (p<0.05) among the samples. The fat content

reduced as the substitution for cooking banana reduced. The fat content of mungbean biscuit differs from that of mungbean flour. These variations could be due to the ingredients used during baking. The low fat content is advantageous since consumer's awareness is towards reduced fat and increased fibre. The carbohydrate content of the composite biscuit reduced as the substitution for cooking banana reduced. This could be due to the fact that cooking banana flours are considered as starchy staple foods and rich source of carbohydrates because of their high carbohydrate content.

Sensory Evaluation Result for Mungbean – Cooking Banana Composite Biscuits

The sensory evaluation results are shown in Table 4. All the composite blend samples showed no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in colour except for sample (100% mungbean) which showed significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in colour compared with sample 10:90 (10% mungbean:90% cooking banana). The result showed that sample (100% mungbean) had the best acceptable colour because it was liked extremely. Colour is one of the major response variable governing food acceptability. The colour of the biscuit sample was one of the most outstanding parameter in the decision of the panelists.

The result of the mean scores of the panelists for taste ranged from 6.75 for sample (100% mungbean) to 7.55 (30% mungbean:70% cooking banana) on the 9point hedonic scale. All the samples showed no significant difference ($p < 0.05$). Sample (100% mungbean) ranked low in acceptability of the taste by the panelists while (30% mungbean:70% cooking banana) ranked the highest in taste. The variation in taste could be attributed to the choice and taste of the panelists.

Table 4: Sensory properties of mungbean and cooking banana Composite Biscuits

Sample MF:CF	Colour	Appearance	Flavour	Texture	Crispness	Taste	General Acceptability
100:0	7.75[a]±0.96	8.00[a]±0.85	6.35[a]±1.46	6.85[a]±1.13	6.35[a]±1.66	6.75[a]±1.44	7.66[a]±1.26
0:100	7.60[ab]±1.14	6.75[b]±1.44	7.05[a]±1.73	7.25[a]±1.33	6.90[a]±1.58	7.05[a]±1.73	7.60[a]±1.23
10:90	6.95[b]±1.31	6.95[b]±1.50	6.75[a]±1.51	6.65[a]±1.34	6.25[a]±1.94	6.90[a]±1.29	7.40[a]±1.04
20:80	7.35[a]±1.03	7.25[a]±0.78	7.00[a]±1.45	6.55[a]±1.39	7.00[a]±1.45	7.05[a]±1.09	7.90[a]±0.85
30:70	7.50[ab]±1.00	7.50[a]±1.23	7.20[a]±1.19	7.35[a]±1.30	7.25[a]±1.61	7.55[a]±1.87	7.70[a]±0.92
40:60	7.40[ab]±1.04	7.25[b]±1.06	6.60[a]±1.18	6.85[a]±1.38	6.45[a]±1.35	7.35[a]±1.22	7.40[a]±0.75
50:50	7.15[ab]±0.87	7.35[b]±1.03	6.70[a]±1.41	7.05[a]±1.27	6.30[a]±1.55	6.85[a]±1.18	7.40[a]±0.01

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*means with the same superscripts down the column are not significantly different (p<0.05)
Key: 100:0 = 100% mungbean flour, 0:100 = 100% cooking banana flour, 10:90 = 10% mungbean and 90% cooking banana flour, 20:80 = 20% mungbean and 80% cooking banana flour, 30:70 = 30% mungbean and 70% cooking banana flour, 40:60 = 40% mungbean and 60% cooking banana flour and 50:50 = 50% mungbean and 50% cooking banana flour.

The mean score for appearance of the biscuit ranged from 6.75 for sample (100% cooking banana) to 8.00 (100% mungbean). There was significant difference (p<0.05) in appearance between them while there was no significant difference (p<0.05) in appearance with the rest of the samples. The variation in appearance could be attributed to the choice and taste of panelists. The results for the mean scores of the panelists for flavour ranged between 6.35 for sample (100% mungbean) to 7.20 for sample (30% mungbean:70% cooking banana) on the 9point hedonic scale. Sample (100% cooking banana) ranked next to the highest in terms of flavour, followed by the sample (20% mungbean:80% cooking banana). All the samples showed no significant difference (p<0.05). The panelists mean score for texture of the biscuit samples ranged from 6.55 for sample (20% mungbean:80% cooking banana) to 7.35 (30% mungbean:70% cooking banana). There was no significant difference (p<0.05) among the samples. Texture has been described as one of the most important characteristics affecting consumer acceptance of snack products (Suknark et al., 1998). The mean scores on the crispness of all the biscuit samples showed no significant difference (p<0.05). It ranges from 6.25 for sample (10% mungbean:90% cooking banana) to 7.25 for sample (30% mungbean:70% cooking banana). The mean scores on the general acceptability of the biscuit samples (Table 4) ranged from 7.40 for sample (10% mungbean:90% cooking banana) to 7.90 for (20% mungbean:80% cooking banana). The general acceptability of all the biscuit samples showed no significant difference (p<0.05). This implies that all the biscuit samples were accepted.

Physical Analysis of the Composite Biscuit samples
The physical analysis of the biscuits produced from composite flours of mungbean and cooking banana are presented in Table 5. The weight of the biscuits ranged from 7.23g (40% mungbean:60% cooking banana) to 15.60g for (100% mungbean) There were significant differences (p<0.05) among the blends except for 100% mungbean , 100% cooking banana and 10:90 mungbean - cooking banana. The control sample (100% mungbean) had the highest weight. The increase in weight could be attributed to variation of flour, method of processing and shaping equipment. Sample 40:60 (40%

mungbean:60% cooking banana) had the lowest weight. The decreased weight could be attributed to the increase in the fat content of the samples since fat is lighter in weight (Ayo et al., 2007). There were significant differences (p<0,05) in the diameter of the biscuits. Sample 10:90 (10% mungbean:90% cooking banana) had the highest diameter (6.74cm) followed by sample 100% mungbean, 30:70, 20:80, 50:50 (mungbean – cooking banana), with values of 5.89cm, 5.17cm, 5.10cm and 3.70cm respectively.

Table 5: Physical Analysis of the Composite Biscuit samples

Samples MF:CF	Weight (g)	Diameter (cm)	Break Strength (kg)	Height (cm)
100:0	$15.60^a \pm 1.18$	$5.89^{ab} \pm 1.52$	$337.58^e \pm 0.01$	$2.02^a \pm 0.02$
0:100	$14.34^a \pm 0.15$	$3.20^{cd} \pm 0.17$	$450.56^a \pm 0.01$	$1.02^d \pm 0.03$
10:90	$15.01^a \pm 1.02$	$6.74^a \pm 1.26$	$379.44^c \pm 0.01$	$1.79^b \pm 0.22$
20:80	$10.95^b \pm 1.20$	$5.10^b \pm 0.10$	$300.77^f \pm 0.02$	$1.36^c \pm 0.19$
30:70	$10.84^b \pm 0.31$	$5.17^b \pm 0.28$	$375.49^c \pm 0.11$	$2.00^a \pm 0.00$
40:60	$7.23^d \pm 1.91$	$2.20^d \pm 0.26$	$400.20^b \pm 0.01$	$2.06^a \pm 0.02$
50:50	$8.05^c \pm 1.17$	$3.70^c \pm 0.43$	$351.58^d \pm 0.01$	$1.04^d \pm 0.04$

*means with the same superscripts down the column are not significantly different (p<0.05)
Key: 100:0 = 100% mungbean flour, 0:100 = 100% cooking banana flour, 10:90 = 10% mungbean and 90% cooking banana flour, 20:80 = 20% mungbean and 80% cooking banana flour, 30:70 = 30% mungbean and 70% cooking banana flour, 40:60 = 40% mungbean and 60% cooking banana flour and 50:50 = 50% mungbean and 50% cooking banana flour.*

The height of the composite biscuits ranged from 1.02 – 2.06cm. Samples 40:60 (40% mungbean:60% cooking banana) and 100% mungbean had the highest heights compared to the other samples. The break strength of the biscuit samples ranged between 300.77kg and 450.56kg. Samples 100% cooking banana and 40:60 (40% mungbean:60% cooking banana) had the highest break strengths (450.56 and 400.20 kg) followed by 10:90, 30:70, 50:50 (mungbean – cooking banana) and 100% mungbean. Sample 20:80 had the lowest break strength (300kg). There was a significant difference (p<0.05) among the biscuits samples.

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Conclusion

This study has confirmed the feasibility of producing starchy flour with low moisture content for a stable shelf life from mungbean and cooking banana. The flours were found suitable for production of good and acceptable biscuits. The study also showed that blanching had effect on some of the functional properties of the cooking banana flour i.e. wettability and water absorption capacity while soaking had effect on the swelling index, gelation temperature, bulk density and oil absorption capacity.

The result obtained in this study showed that mungbean – cooking banana biscuits were accepted by the panelists, therefore, the flour can compete with similar products in the market and hence serve as a means of circumventing the unacceptability of the raw samples.

Recommendation

The use of mungbean – cooking banana for the production of flours and confectionaries would serve as a means of reducing post harvest losses, promote the continuation of processing and utilization of the raw materials and thus reduce the importation of wheat.

It is also recommended that dehulling machines for mungbean be provided in Universities to eliminate the drudgery experienced in the dehulling process.

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CURRICULUM ISSUES OF OVER – SCHOOLING: IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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Abstract

   Education is a process of empowering people with knowledge , skills, positive attitude and experiences for long term political, economic and social development. The attainment of this goal is undisputedly dependent on the curriculum and the dynamics of the society. The rising tide in knowledge economy has brought about excessive number of subjects resulting in overloaded curriculum with students studying so many subjects before graduating. This calls for gender- balanced curriculum development and implementation at all levels of education system. Main streaming gender in the curriculum is a precursor for National Development. This paper discusses the issue of curriculum, the issue of over schooling and implications for gender involvement in national development. Effective delivery of the curriculum contents sustains and influence creative thinking in male and female learners for self-reliance.

Keywords: Curriculum, Over Schooling, Curriculum Issues, National Development, Gender

Introduction

      There is increased awareness of the role of education for unlocking individuals' potentials for national development. The effort made by the world to bring about gender involvement in developmental aspects of Nigeria is much. In Nigeria, the provision of education is a constitutional responsibility of the Federal government majorly and which prescribes the benchmark and the curriculum to be used at all levels for formal training to become finished

products. Formal training according to Udofia and Ekong (2018) takes place in the school where structured curriculum and organised teaching and learning takes place through the use of approved curriculum to provide pupils with knowledge, skills, positive attitudes and values. The curriculum therefore provides the guide for effective interaction and transfer of experiences to learners to achieve the desired learning outcomes irrespective of gender.

Offorma (2005) defined curriculum as a programme made up of three components: programme of studies, programme of activities and programme of guidance. Joshua (2012) draws attention that there is a growing demand for school leavers to learn new sets of skills like problem solving, critical thinking, innovations and adaptability in order to meet up with the demands of the 21st century. This of course places demands on knowledge and skills acquisition resulting in bloated curriculum contents in the various school system.

Education in Nigeria is liberalized and seen as a quick source of social up-liftment thereby leading to proliferation of primary and secondary schools, the tertiary institutions are not left out. The result definitely is unhealthy competitions especially among private schools with its concomitant effect of excessive demands on teaching and learning. This is clearly demonstrated in the learners being taught many courses, the may not retain for too long as well as being given a lot of take home assignments to perform.

The resultant effect is over schooling rather than schooling for practical understanding and acquisition of competencies in knowledge, skills acquisition as well as and attitude development. According to Joshua (2012) over schooling is the process of being trained, drilled, instructed or taught in school in excess of what is required. Over schooling promotes rote learning rather than impactful learning. Some parents, even with the current economic hardship, still arrange for extra lessons at home to ensure that their wards meet up with the high curriculum demands of the school even at the circumstance when the learners not being mature physically and mentally. The negative effect of over schooling therefore, is to stuff facts in the heads of the young learners not minding their level of understanding, age or intelligent quotient. The current knowledge demand society and complexity of global challenges make it imperatives that both male and female students should be given equal opportunities and considerations for participation in the classroom. Promoting gender equality is currently a global phenomenon as a developmental strategy for socio-economic development of any nation. For instance, Mezieobi, Oyeoku, Ezegbe, Igbo (2012) opined that gender equity in the implementation of social studies curriculum would be greatly attained if lecturers/ teachers encourage equal participation of male and female students in classroom activities as well as giving equal attention to male and female students in terms

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of response to questions, discussions and rewards. This invariably calls for gender balanced curriculum for the realization of the goal of education

Today's schooling is designed with emphasis on thinking, problem solving, logical reasoning and conclusion than mere mastery of facts and knowledge. To be more responsive to students' needs and concern on how well they would be prepared to meet up with the ever changing societal roles, the school curriculum is being beefed with many subjects in a bid to equip the learners to effectively respond to political, economic, social and technological pressures. This invariably has led to a lot of challenges of the school curriculum which directly or indirectly affect national development. It therefore becomes necessary to approach this paper under; the concept of curriculum, curriculum issues, schooling and national development, over schooling, implications for gender involvement in national development.

The Issue of Curriculum

The issue of curriculum definition is dynamic and elusive as the society changes based on different authors. Some view curriculum as the listing of subjects to be taught in school or as an important school document in any formal school setting. It guides the teacher towards achieving set goals and objectives of the school programme.

Curriculum is defined by Okobia (2010) as a course of study or training that leads to a product of education. Curriculum can be considered as any school programme that students undertake to provide them with professional competencies for self-reliance. It is linked to the quality of the curriculum content, teaching strategies, instructional materials and the learning environment.

One of the Nigeria's national educational focus is the acquisition of appropriate skills and development of mental, physical and social abilities and competencies as equipment for the individual to live and contribute to the development of the society (FRN, 2013).

The Nigerian education policy document broadly categorizes the country's education system into:

(A) Early Childhood Care and Development Education
(B) Basic Education which comprises;
(I) Kindergarten
(ii) Primary education
(iii) Junior secondary education

© Post Basic Education and Career Development comprising;
(i) Senior secondary education

(ii)   Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

(D)   Mass Literacy and Nomadic Education comprising:
(i)   Mass literacy, Adult and Non-formal education
(ii)   Nomadic education

(E)   Tertiary Education which comprise:
(i)   The University
(ii)   Teacher Education offered at Universities and Colleges of Education
(iii)   Technology education offered at Universities, Colleges of Education (Technical), Polytechnics and Monotechnics

(F)   Innovation Enterprise Institutions.
Each level of education system has dynamic curriculum structure to achieve the set goals and objectives. The implementation and achievement of the goals and objectives of national development are hampered by issues or challenges

The issues / Challenges
The curriculum issues/ challenges are associated with a number of factors including overloaded curriculum, unconducive school environment, inadequacy of instructional materials, low interest of learners, low motivation of teachers,   and non- consideration of gender characteristics in curriculum implementation among others.

1.   Overloaded Curriculum: Currently, the school curriculum is excessively and unnecessarily taxing. The knowledge explosion society has caused so many courses to be introduced in different programmes at almost all levels of education in the school system. It is widely acknowledged that students are seriously stressed which has affected their general learning and all-round development. The problem of curriculum over load also affects the teachers' productivity with instruction being mainly assessment- driven. The curriculum over load is demonstrated by the number of subjects studied by the students and the amount of contents prescribed in each of the subject.

2.   Un-conducive School Environment: Teaching and learning are interesting, motivating and fun if they are carried out in a conducive environment. Conducive environment is typified by secured, serene environment with adequate and functional facilities like library, laboratory, recreational grounds, and computer facilities among others. Notably,   these

facilities are grossly inadequate especially in public schools thereby making it a formidable task to create a teaching–learning environment that   makes learning interesting, motivating, stimulating and meaningful for students to learn with understanding and the teachers to teach effectively.

3   Inadequacy of Instructional Materials: Instructional materials make instructional delivery more relevant, motivating, interesting and less abstract for   students thereby gingering curiosity in the subjects and in learning. Inadequate instructional materials hindered effective instructional delivery and students' participation in any teaching-learning processes. Empirical report by Udofia (2017) submitted that for effective instructional delivery, there must be varieties of learning experiences through   pedagogical content/skills practices, classroom management, communication, assessment practices and personal characteristics of teachers to make teaching more successful.

Low Interest of learners: Students' interest is a crucial component of learning. Interest is viewed as the readiness of the learner to react positively or negatively towards what is being taught. Interest is aroused in a study when the learners feel happy, satisfied in a particular teaching-learning situation resulting in the desire to learn more. This factor is easily affected by the tone of the school and the general pedagogical principles of instructional delivery. According to Ekong and Udofia (2018) strong, healthy and conducive learning environment are some of the conditions that ginger students' interest, retention and successful completion of the school programme.

Low Motivation of Teachers: The implementation of the curriculum rest solely on the teacher. It is obvious and accepted in educational fora that a student is ready to learn when the teacher is ready to teach in and effective an efficient way. Motivation is a catalyst that energize the teacher to put up his or her best in role performance especially in instructional delivery. Lack of motivation in terms of regular payment of salary, promotion, reward for excellence , and conducive working environment among others are what the teachers consistently battle with in the school system.

6.   Poor content-knowledge/ pedagogical skills of Teachers. Effective instructional delivery is very relevant to meaningful learning. For teaching to be successful as asserted by Udofia (2017), it must be effective in terms of communication, assessment, classroom management, conducive learning environment and use of ICT. Appropriate modeling of professional attitude by

teachers in the 21st century imply teachers' competency in content knowledge and pedagogy for teaching.

7.   Unfavorable Political Climate: Political stability is a necessity for national development. Lack of political will to place premium on education in terms of funding is a major obstacle to effective implementation of the curriculum at all levels. This is seen in the persistent under allocation of fund for education by the government. Ekong and Udofia (2017) remarked that no educational activity or programme can succeed without adequate and consistent funding and financing in terms of provision of cash and other necessary facilities for meaningful teaching and learning.

8.   Non-consideration of Gender Characteristics in Curriculum Implementation- Gender differences in terms of characteristics greatly influence students' choice of career and participation in national development. Female students tend to show interest in literature, home economics and history while male tend to develop interest in tasks that involves manipulation of materials.   Okebukola (2008) in a study of science classroom interaction in Nigerian secondary schools reported that boys were given more opportunities to ask questions, manipulate materials and stay longer on task than girls. Similarly, Oni (2009) opined that teachers tend to give more attention to boys than girls due to religious and cultural belief.   These points enumerated suggest that there is urgent need to address these curriculum issues in order to stem the tide of over schooling and achieve national development.

The Issue of Over Schooling
      The type of education given these days is pressure-packed with lots of subjects and other extra curricula demands to meet up with the knowledge demands, economy and digital world. The focus of schooling in the present society is more on producing good academic results with emphasis on test scores, rank in class, grade point averages, or other examinations or numeric indicators. This has seriously led to over loaded curriculum and excessive learning not that they want to learn but because the students have no option. This in a nut shell is over schooling.   Over schooling according to Etiubon (2012) is the imparting of excess knowledge not desired by the learners at the time of impartation. Also, Udosen and Alfred (2012) viewed over schooling as a way of spending more time than necessary in and outside the school to acquire knowledge, skills, attitude and values.
      Over schooling in this paper refers to over learning or unduly loading of students with   excessive academic works. It also means students being

excessively challenged due to a comprehensive curriculum. This leads to cognitive mismatch emanating from students studying so many subjects, spending too long a time in learning as well as studying subjects that is far above their level of maturity. Over schooling implies loading the curriculum with so many courses. The adage that 'all works and no play makes Jack a dull boy' comes to play in over schooling because students are given very little time to relax, play and regain their strength and mental alertness. Students are made to wake up very early but return home late because of extra lesson causing loss of precious time for interaction with members of the family. This hampers the gaining of useful home experiences and personal reflection of oneself because of time spent on unwarranted academic work. This invariably could result in poor productivity on the part of the teachers while it hinders proper assimilation and acquisition of knowledge, skills and values by the students.

The National Policy of Education (2014) succinctly states that the curriculum should be implemented in such a way that students or learners acquire appropriate skills and develop mental , physical and social abilities as equipment for individuals to live and contribute to the development of the society. This is aimed at developing individual student potentials so as to produce citizens who are competent in knowledge, skills and practice good moral values. The implementation of education policies regarding curriculum at different levels of education in Nigeria still remain a clog in the wheel for national development due to over-schooling. Over schooling puts excessive pressure on students to learn and this is counterproductive due to lack of interest, readiness, motivation and maturity in cognitive processing of what is taught.

Over schooling creates imbalance between learning, teaching and attainment of desired learning outcomes. It is a serious problem to the students, teachers, parents and the society at large. It promotes unhealthy competition among students that may lead to students' loss of   interest, attention, fun and self-confidence in learning. Over schooling may lead to burn out because of physical, mental and emotional stress on the students and teachers. This may significantly influence the rate of learning, understanding and comprehension of what is taught. Therefore, making students, both male and female to enjoy some level of relaxation and freedom from excessive reading, note-taking and doing assignment and less talking, thinking and note marking by the teachers is tantamount to reducing teachers and students frustration in schooling.

Implications for Gender Involvement in National Development.
The implications of gender involvement in national development of

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Nigeria is to the extents of solving the various curriculum issues and challenges. Most particularly is the none consideration of gender roles in curriculum development and implementation. Male and female learners differ in physical and mental development processes. Males tend to be physically stronger and show more interest in practical activities in the classroom than the females. Curriculum development if considering the characteristics of male and female learners would mainstream elements that would care for differentials in preparation for participation in national development. Male /female products of well-organized curriculum development and implementation with volumes of knowledge, skills and good attitudinal developments will participate and contribute positively to national development.

Conclusion

Lack of gender consideration in curriculum development and implementation may mask other educational attainment viz a- viz negative impact on national development. The culture of over schooling in terms of non- consideration of gender characteristics in curriculum development and implementation that leads to excessive stress on learners should be discouraged to ensure full gender integration to participate in national development.

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ASSESSMENT OF TEACHERS' PERCEPTION ON ATTRITION OF GIRL-CHILD FROM JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UYO SENATORIAL DISTRICT, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors that lead to attrition of the girl-child from secondary schools in Uyo Senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed in selecting 100 Junior Secondary School teachers in Uyo Senatorial District. A researcher-made structured questionnaire tagged "Teachers' Perception on Attrition of the Girl-child from school Questionnaire (TPAGSQ)" was used for data collection. The instrument comprised a demographic information section and another section with 23 items using a five-point Likert type scale which sought information on socio-cultural, economic, and school-related factors that cause attrition of girls from school. The questionnaire was validated and a reliability coefficient of 0.78 was established using the Cronbach Alpha procedure. Three research questions were posed and answered using descriptive statistics. The result indicated that socio-cultural, economic and school-related factors cause attrition of girls from junior secondary schools. Prominent among the overall factors were unwanted teenage pregnancy, sickness or death of parent(s), poverty, lack of parental support, sexual harassment, poor performance and class repetition. The study concluded that all other factors are precursors to unwanted pregnancy. Based the findings, it was recommended among others, that girls should be exposed to sexuality education and enlightenment programme organized for parents on relevance of girl-child education in poverty eradication

Keywords: Attrition, Girl-Child, Education, Factors.

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Introduction

Education is the foundation to improving lives of the citizenry and achieving sustainable development in any nation that places premium in educating people. Hence, major progress has been made towards increasing access to education and enrollment rates in schools, particularly for girls. Murthy (2017) asserted that of the 17 goals of sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 10 make an attempt to integrate concerns of the girl-child, directly or indirectly as the goals pertain to ending poverty, hunger, ensuring healthy lives, promoting equitable education, gender equality among others.

World Bank (2010) recognizes education as a fundamental human right and a catalyst for economic growth, as well as human development. In addition, the Universal Declaration of Human Right stated that girls' access to education, like that of boys is a human right (United Nations, UN, 2010). International Conferences and declarations emphasize the value of girls' literacy and access to school. The World Education Forum (2005) held in Dakar was aimed at achieving Education for All (EFA). Sequel to this, the third Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sought to promote gender equality and empower women. Similarly SDGs which is a follow up of MDG(s) in goal 4 aimed at ensuring inclusive and quality education for all (girls inclusive) and promote lifelong learning and Goal 5 aimed at achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls (United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, 2016). Despite the universal declarations of Human Rights of right to quality education and improvements in recent years, female education remains a global area of concern as females are still largely out of school compared to their male counterpart (Fowler, 2016).

Theoretically, the study adopted the Human Capacity approach and Self-System Model of Motivational development (SSMMD). Mosha (2014) viewed human capacity approach as "the substantive freedom of people to lead the lives they have reason to value and enhance the real choices they have". Expounding on this approach, Mosha (2014) contended that the prevention measures for attrition from school is not enough to retain pupils in school if they do not see the benefit of staying in school. He therefore, advocated for policies that are sustainable and enforceable.

Self-System Model of Motivational Development-SSMMD lending credence to human capacity approach

…posits that individuals possess an innate need to connect with others and interact effectively with their environment. It also asserts that the relationship of a given social context (example, family support, teacher support, peer support) and an individual's self-system processes (example, perceived identification with school, perceived control) is influenced by the

extent to which the social context meets or ignores (fulfills or neglects) these basic needs (Skinner, 2009).

This model is applied to attrition of from secondary school. SSMMD assumes that self-system mediates the relation between a social context and school engagement while engagement mediates the relation between self-system process and student outcome. Influence of engagement-related behaviours contributes directly to students' achievement and attrition from school. Primarily, this relationship is understood in terms of student behavior.

Several factors have been identified as determinant of girls' attrition from school. They include socio-cultural, environmental, school-based, personal, economic factor (Maina, 2015; Olasunkanmi & Okaima, 2010; Mosha, 2014, Fowler, 2016).

Socio-cultural Factors

Patriarchal structure, a set of social relations with material base that enables males to dominate females, contributes to attrition of girls from school. This is confirmed by the study of FAWE (2001) which found that girls have low ability compared to boys and educating girls is a waste of resources. UNICEF (2006) noted that the patriarchal culture of boy preference has negative impact on dropping of girls. Boyle et al, (2002) in the report on a six country comparative analysis found that many household prefer boys' education to that of girls, associating it with greater economic rewards. This view collaborates with the finding of FAWE (2001) that girls have ability compared to boys therefore, educating them is a waste of money. These negative attitudes to girls underpinned by son preference have contributed to girls' attrition from school. Most cultures place limit to girls' education because of the sexuality. Once they attain puberty, they are confined with close watch aimed at securing them for marital prospects. These confines underscore the belief that very educated girls will have reduced chances of getting married; this therefore, informs attrition of girls from secondary school due to misguided perceptions of parents that girls are vulnerable and could either get pregnant or get into bad company (Mosha, 2014). According to Wagachira (2015).

Socio-cultural beliefs, custom, pregnancy, insecurity, girls' expectations and other traditions play a significant role in decision to withdraw girls from school and their own decision to drop-out of school. Initiation ceremonies still mark the transition from childhood to adulthood among communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Furthermore, some parents offer daughter, at early age, to marriage to attract dowry hence, the girls see hard work at school as unwarranted and eventually drop-out of school and settle for child-marriage. It can be said,

therefore, that girls are being inhibited from schooling by forced marriage and early pregnancies.

Another social reason for attrition of girls from school is the use of girls as workers in the home. They act as care-givers to their younger siblings, sick parents and in event of lost of parents, they become managers of homes. This collaborated with Mudemb (2013) who found that boys had numerous reasons for dropping out of school compared to females whose reasons were limited to pregnancy and sickness of parents. This traditional use of child for labour at home contributes to a very great extent to girls' attrition from school. In line with this observation, Wagachira (2015) found that home-based factor (family responsibility, sickness of parents, care of siblings, parental illiteracy) and socio-cultural factors (early marriage, pregnancy, son preference and so on) are determinants of attrition of girls from secondary schools in Tanzania.

Economic Factor

Several studies have identified poverty as the major barrier to families enrolling and retaining their children in schools. Poverty implies that parents cannot afford the cost of sending their children to school or unable to dispose with the labour provided by their children at home (Mosha, 2014).

Omoniyi and Oloruntegbe (2014) found that poverty and culture of early marriage as major factors of attrition of girls from school in Northern Nigeria and stated that poverty prevents many families from enrolling some or all of their children in school or forces them to withdraw their children prematurely from school because of the cost of education. When it becomes a matter of choice, the girl-child is the one not to be enrolled or withdrawn to make way for the boy-child.

Similarly, family responsibilities are not met due to poverty as such children; particularly girls are used for menial jobs, child-labour, hawking and the like. (Wagachira, 2015; Fowler, 2016). In another development, (Mayokun, et al, 2016) reported that poverty ranked highest in their study for reasons for dropping out of girls in the government secondary schools. The authors suspected that unemployment, lack of sufficient education, retrenchment of workers, poor remuneration may be contributory factors to the high level of poverty in Nigeria.

School-Related Factors

Several school-related factors play leading roles to attrition of girls from secondary school. Mudemb, (2013) in her study cited school related factors leading to drop-out such as curricular that reinforce traditional gender stereotype, inadequate sanitation facilities, lack of provision of sanitary

materials for girls, sexual harassment by male teachers and classmates, insufficient female teachers to act as role models, use of unsuitable teaching method, corporal punishment among others.

Mayokun, et al. (2016) argued that school environments, at times, are not conducive for effective learning and may lead to poor performance which results in repetition of class and consequently, attrition from school. Whereas Maina (2015) found that school factors that determine girls drop-out are presented as poor learning resources, insecurity, teacher quality, poor performance, distance from school among others, UNICEF (2009) reiterated that child-friendly schools should have fresh potable water within the school. In addition, it was found that in Africa the lack of basic sanitation facilities further decreases the enrolment of girls in various schools. Several studies have particularly linked the attendance of girls to school to the availability of adequate sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 2008). Admittedly, this is the crust of SDG 6 – ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Teacher attitude to students are linked to attrition of girls as they are more positive about participation, interest, and intelligence of boys rather than girls, believing that girls will dropout early (Maima, 2015). Sexual harassment of girls made some parents think that their daughters will not be safe with male teachers and even school boys (UNICEF, 2006) as they are threatened with sexual advances and harassment by couching, pitching and name calling. Some of these cases result in pregnancy and consequent attrition from school (Mosha, 2014). Another issue of insecurity of girls arises from the distance to schools. Long distance between school and home exposes girls to attacks and sexual insecurity. Also trekking long distance, sometimes, without food, exhausts children and is a potential reason for attrition from school particularly the girl child.

• Studies have identified some benefits of girl-child education. Oladele (2012) stressed that girls' education is associated not only with returns of increasing income and economic growth but also with health benefits, AIDS prevention, the empowerment of women and prevention of violence against women.

• The Global Campaign for Education (2010) reiterated that the lack of education poses health risks and enrolling girls in school is one of the most effective ways to benefit health.

• Ananga (2011) stated that girls' education contributes to economic productivity, social development, intergenerational education, social equity, and sustainability of development efforts. It also accelerates the progress and human development.

- It will also help achieve the SDGs pertaining to ending poverty, hunger, ensuring healthy lives, promoting equitable education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, decent work, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, peace and justices (Murthy, 2017).

The education of the girl-child stands to bring about positive change and break the cycle of poverty. Despite government policies and declarations of MDGs to ensure equal access to secondary education with follow-up of SDG 4; to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning and SDG5; to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, the reviewed studies showed evidences of non-access and retention of girls in school and consequent attrition. Those done in Nigeria were in the North and West. No study available to the researchers were conducted in either the South or East. Therefore, sought to investigate the South where Akwa Ibom State is located. The purpose of the study therefore, is to investigate the factors that lead to attrition of the girl-child from secondary schools in Uyo Senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Specifically the study explored the extent to which socio-cultural, economic and school-related factors lead to attrition from school.

Research Questions
1. What are the socio-cultural factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.
2. What are the economic factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.
3. What are the school-related factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.

Research Methods
The study adopted the descriptive survey design because information obtained from representative sample of teachers and findings of the study was generalized to the entire population. The population consisted of Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers from Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

The sample for the study was drawn using multi-stage sampling technique. This technique is deemed appropriate because it does not require the listing of all the members of the population before sampling is done rather sampling is done by first determining the primary sampling units in the population (Kpolovie, 2010). To select the sample for the study, first, three senatorial districts in Akwa Ibom State were identified as primary sampling units, and Uyo Senatorial District was randomly selected from the three existing Senatorial Districts. Uyo Senatorial district has nine Local

Government Areas (LGAs) and all were selected. Finally, teachers were randomly selected from schools in the LGAs and a total sample size of 100 teachers were obtained.

The instrument for data collected was a researcher-made structure questionnaire tagged "Teachers' Perception on Attrition of the Girl-child from school Questionnaire (TPAGSQ). It comprised two parts. Part A sought the demographic information on participants' gender and proprietorship of school whereas Part B consisted of 23 – item five – point Likert type scale, eliciting information on teachers' perceptions on some socio-cultural, economic and school related factors that lead to attrition of girls from junior secondary school. The scale adopted five response categories with Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Undecided (U). The instrument was validated by colleagues in measurement and evaluation and sociology of education. Their suggestions and comments were integrated in the final version of the instrument. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha reliability technique and a coefficient of .78 was obtained indicating that the instrument was reliable and therefore, suitable for data collection.

The data collected were analyzed using statistical Package for Social Sciences version 20 (SPSS-20) computer software. The data analysis comprised descriptive statistics for answering research questions and independent t-test for testing hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The responses to the items of the instruments were weighted SA(4), A (3), D (2) SD (1) and U (0), with boundaries of each response in the 5 point scale from 0 – 4 calculated by dividing the serial with 4 by number of responses 5 and found to be 0.89. This was obtained following Topkaya (2010) pattern of analysis. This value was used in interpreting the mean values. Thus depending on the calculation, the accepted boundaries for each response are presented below:

$$0 \quad = \quad 0 + 0.8 \quad = \quad 0.8$$
$$1 \quad = \quad 0.8 + 0.8 = \quad 1.6$$
$$2 \quad = \quad 1.6 + 0.8 = \quad 2.4$$
$$3 \quad = \quad 2.4 + 0.8 = \quad 3.2$$
$$4 \quad = \quad 3.2 + 0.8 = \quad 4.0$$

Therefore, based on the calculations the participants' range of mean scores were assumed and interpreted to be

0.00	-	0.80	Undecided
0.81	-	1.60	Strongly Disagree
1.61	-	2.40	Disagree
2.41	-	3.20	Agree
3.21	-	4.00	Strongly Agree

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From the above the decision rule was 2.40. These mean values enough to interpret the results and answer the research questions, however, the standard deviation (SD) scores were also presented to show how the individual raw scores from which the mean was computed were dispersed.

Results

The results of this study were obtained from the research questions answered through the data collected and analyzed. Descriptive statistics was used by computing item bt item mean and standard deviation.

Research Question 1: What are the socio-cultural factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.

Table 1: **Mean and standard deviation of socio-cultural factors influencing attrition of girls from JSS in Uyo Senatorial District**.

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Some parents regard education of girls as waste of money	100	2.42	1.04	Agree
2	Girls from literate parents are more likely to be retained in school	100	2.46	1.27	Agree
3	Girls from cultures that prefer boys are more likely to drop out of school	100	2.60	1.02	Agree
4	Some girls drop out because they marry off early in order to bring in bride price	100	2.82	1.10	Agree
5	Some girls dropout of school because of sickness/death of parents	100	3.07	1.04	Agree
6	Girls are left at home as care givers to their younger siblings	100	2.98	1.03	Agree
7	Some girls dropout of school due to unwanted teenage pregnancy	100	3.39	.76	Strongly agree
8	Peer group influence can result in girls dropping out of school	100	2.85	.96	Agree
	Overall average		2.82	1.03	Agree

Table 1 revealed that the mean score of socio-cultural factors that cause attrition of girls from school ranged 2.42 (agree) to 3.39 (strongly agree) and the standard deviation .76 – 1.27. The overall mean score was 2.82 indicating that participants agreed that all the issues raised are socio-cultural factors that

cause attrition of girls from schools. However, participants strongly agreed to the fact that unwanted teenage pregnancy, item 7 with mean score of 3.39, is responsible for attrition of girls from schools.

Research Question 2: What are the economic factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.

Table 2.   Mean scores and standard deviation of economic factors influencing attrition of girls from JSS in Uyo Senatorial District.

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Decision
9	Girls of poor parents are most likely to drop out of school	100	2.89	.98	Agree
10	Non-payment of school fees make a girl-child to dropout from school	100	2.66	1.33	Agree
11	Lack of parental support can to a girl-child dropping out of school	100	3.10	.86	Agree
12	Girls are subjected to menial jobs/street vendor thereby cannot be retain	100	2.32	1.29	Agree
13	Lack of fund to provide learning resources for girls can make them dropout of school	100	2.09	1.22	Disagree
14	Hunger leads to dropping out of school by girls	100	2.43	1.21	Agree
15	Some girls dropout of school due to hardship	100	2.72	1.08	Agree
	Overall average		2.60	1.14	Agree

Table 2 indicated that the mean score of economic factors that cause attrition of girls from school ranged 2.09 (disagree) to 3.10 (agree) and the standard deviation .86 – 1.33. The overall mean score was 2.60 indicating that participants agreed that all the issues raised are economic factors that cause attrition of girls from schools. However, participants disagreed to the fact that lack of fund to provide learning resources for girls can cause attrition from school as represented by item 13 with mean score of 2.09.

Research Question 3: What are the school-related factors influencing attrition of girls from Junior Secondary Schools in Uyo Senatorial District.

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Table 3. **Mean and standard deviation of school-related factors influencing attrition of girls from JSS in Uyo Senatorial District**.

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Decision
16	Some girls living far distance from are likely to dropout from school	100	2.42	1.16	Agree
17	Low academic performance can scare some girls away from school	100	2.58	1.25	Agree
18	Some girls dropout of school whenever they are asked to repeat a class	100	2.57	1.14	Agree
19	Unavailability of necessary teaching/learning resources make difficult for girls to remain in school	100	2.21	1.13	Disagree
20	Some teachers are hostile to female students	100	2.37	1.13	Agree
21	Sexual harassment from fellow male students and teachers brings about dropping	100	2.71	1.06	Agree
22	Students that live very far from school usually dropout of school	100	2.17	1.17	Agree
23	Unsafe learning environment contributes to dropping out of school	100	2.34	1.22	Agree
	Overall average		2.42	1.16	Agree

The result on Table 3 showed that the mean score of school-related factors that cause attrition of girls from school ranged 2.21 (disagree) to 2.57 (agree) and the standard deviation 1.06 – 1.25. The overall mean score was 2.42 indicating that participants agreed that all the issues raised are school-related factors that cause attrition of girls from schools. However, participants disagreed to the fact that unavailability of necessary teaching and learning resources make difficult for girls to remain in school as can be seen in item 13 with mean score of 2.21.

Discussions

The study explored specifically, socio-cultural, economic and school-related factors that are responsible attrition girls from junior secondary schools in Uyo Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. It was found that socio-cultural factors contribute to attrition of girls from schools. These factors include some parents regarding education of girls as waste of money, patriarchal culture that prefer boys to girls, giving off girls for early marriage

in order to bring in bride price, dropping out due to sickness of parents or care of siblings, peer group, literacy of parents and dropping out of school due to unwanted teenage pregnancy. The findings supported earlier studies. Wagachira (2015) found that home-based factor like family responsibility, sickness of parents, care of siblings, parental illiteracy and cultural factors such as early marriage, pregnancy, son preference, among others are determinants of attrition of girls from secondary schools. Mudemb (2013) affirmed that the socio-cultural factors that influence girls' attrition from school are limited to pregnancy and sickness of parents. Some of these observations may br attributed to ignorance on the part of the parents and the girls, culture, poverty that will result to giving off the girl to wealthy man to collect bride price.

Economic factors were also found to cause attrition of girls from secondary schools. All the participants agreed that poverty, lack of school fees, lack of parental support, hardship, hunger and subjecting girls to menial jobs and street hawing lead to girls attrition from schools. All these factors can be summarized as poverty. However, the participants disagreed that lack of fund to provide learning resources for girls can make them dropout of school. The findings agreed with those of Wagachira, (2015); Fowler, (2016) who carried out their study in Kenya and with Omoniyi and Oloruntegbe (2014); Mayokun, et al. (2016) who did their in Nigeria. They, in their independent studies found that poverty is the major barrier to parents sending their children to school, girls in particular, as when it come to choice, boys are retained in schools while girls will be subjected to child labour and other menial jobs to get money to care for the family and probably train the boys. The finding on provision of learning resources for girls is surprising since lack of fund to procure those resources entails poverty.

Schools related factors found as influencing attrition of girls from school ware presented as distance school from home, poor academic performance, repetition of class, hostility of some teachers to female students, sexual harassment and unsafe learning environment. Unavailability of necessary teaching and learning resources was not regarded by many, as a factor that could lead to attrition of girls from school. Mudemb, (2013) agreeing with the factors found in this study, also presented other school related factors leading to drop-out such as curricular that reinforce traditional gender stereotype, inadequate sanitation facilities, lack of provision of sanitary materials for girls, insufficient female teachers to act as role models, use of unsuitable teaching method, corporal punishment among others. Maina (2015) and Mayokun, et al (2016) separate studies were also in agreement. The finding on availability of teaching and learning resources is in contrast with Maina (2016), who found that poor learning resources in the school can cause attrition of girls from

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school. Evidently, poor academic performance results in class repetition and it lead to attrition in two ways. On one hand, repetition of class impacts negatively on the girl's self-esteem and self-efficacy, on the other hand, parents may not afford additional school fee for class repetition.

Conclusions

This study identified three major factors that cause attrition of girls from school namely socio-cultural, economic and school-related factors. Each category presented prominent emerging factors. From socio-cultural, unwanted teenage pregnancy emerged and sickness or death of parent(s), from economic, poverty and lack of parental support emerged and from school-related factors, sexual harassment, poor performance and class repetition emerged. The most prevalent causes of attrition of girls from the aforementioned are unwanted pregnancy followed by sickness/death of parents and then lack of parental support. Admittedly, other emerging factors predispose the girls to unwanted pregnancy.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Enlightenment programmes should be intensified for parents by the government and Non-Government Organization (NGO) on the relevance of girl-child education in nation development and eradication of poverty.

2. School guidance counselors should expose female students to sexuality education in order to avoid activities that could lead to premarital sex and consequently, unwanted pregnancy.

3. Stakeholders in education and good spirited individuals should give bursary awards and scholarship to indigent and hardworking female student as a motivation for them.

4. Government should to be proactive in implement the policy of inclusive education which is the thrust the SDGs – 4.

5. Government should put every mechanism in place to ensure the Universal Basic Education, which implies free and compulsory education up to first three years in the secondary school, is implemented to the letter.

6. NGOs should participate in promoting the right of the girl-child in matters relating to their education particularly in cultures where patriarchal structure is practiced.

7. Government through the Ministry of Education should develop and implement policies that will re-absorb into the school system, post-attrition girls due to pregnancy.

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THE OPEN SPACE: RE-THINKING GENDER, DEVELOPMENT AND URBANIZATION

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Abstract

Urbanization is a development parlance closely related to gender equality and empowerment. These three are intricately linked in the way they interact and affect all aspects of gender considerations; gender roles, gender identity, gender equity and equality and so on. Urbanization is of immense benefit to women particularly as it opens up opportunities for women to participate and excel in economic, social, political activities. In developing countries such as Nigeria, discussions around urbanization are expected to deepen considering the shifting dynamics of socio-economic as well as political roles and impact of urbanization. However, issues arise in finding a balance in gender roles, responsibilities and opportunities as well as access to amenities and resources. Even with the notable advancement women in urban centres record, there is still the considerable evidence to indicate widespread issues. This paper seeks to among other things, explore the nature of gender, urban development using the strategy of drama. The paper posits drama as an effective means of communication, communicating societal issues and proffering solutions through its handling and interrogating themes and social realities. We conclude that drama and theatre contribute immensely to deepening the discussion around the various vulnerabilities that surround women within the context of diverse cultures, social and occupational strata and political affiliations.

Introduction

This paper discusses the potency of drama in interrogating development and its gendered perspective. Urbanization and its attendant issues is implicated in the subject of gender equality. Urbanization as a term is closely related to people lives as it defines a certain social class. Even though it is a more of a geographical term, this paper seeks to interrogate urbanization as a sociological term that is closely associated with the social lives of people, thus is also what qualifies it to be seen and considered in gender perspectives. Urbanization is often associated with independence for women. This is as a result of better opportunities it affords women than in rural areas to engage in

paid employment outside the family, better access to services, lower fertility rates, and some relaxation of the rigid social values and norms that define women as subordinated to their husbands and fathers and to men generally. Yet, in most urban areas, women are more vulnerable as they experience profound disadvantages compared to men in their daily lives. So many shocking, horrific stories characterize the lives of urban women in spite of class, age and educational qualification. Urban women especially the younger ones in Nigeria as in other parts of the world, are victims of abduction, kidnapping, rape, ritual killing, which unfortunately is the trend bedeviling young women in cities across Nigeria. Gender based violence especially against women is the norm and this violence is often perpetrated by intimate partners.

Many women in Nigeria are victims and often experience increasingly high levels of sexual harassment in the workplace, religious organizations and their communities. Fear for personal safety is an essential and pervasive element of urban life for women. Such widespread levels of threat reflect the deep gender-based inequalities that persist in urban centres, even as gender relations are transformed by the economic, social and political changes linked to urbanization.

This paper analyses a play, *'The Open Space'* by the author which is a statement on the dangers different classes and categories of women face especially due to their gender. In this epic that threatens the very lives of these young women caught in this web of deceit, lies, injustice, victimization, violence and socio-economic and political interplay, the play epitomizes the dire place of the African/black woman despite educational or social class. The fire rages engulfing the innocence of womanhood.

Statement of the Problem

Women's massive contributions to societal development cannot be over looked as they contribute to their households, neighbourhoods, communities, the society at large through their paid and unpaid labour, building and consolidating shelter and compensating for shortfalls in essential services and infrastructure, they face persistent inequalities in terms of access to decent work, physical and financial assets, mobility, personal safety and security, and representation in formal structures of urban governance. Women face a lot of threat and actual violence that threaten their lives as well as circumstances that even cost women their lives due to living in the urban centres.

Objectives
- This paper seeks to explore the nature of gender-based issues associated with urbanization vis a vis development.

- The paper also discusses the nature and pervasiveness of Gender based violence against women in typical urban centres.
- The paper seeks to examine theatre through the play text as an effective tool of communication prevalent societal issues using the play *The Open Space.*

Literature Review

Urbanization is among the defining features of current times, but it can mean different things for men and women' Unless policymakers, urban planners and development agencies understand these differences urbanization will fail to meet its potential to improve the lives of all urban citizens'. Cecilia Tacoli…

Feminist perspectives have now become part of urban studies since urbanization reflects not only the workings of the political economy but patriarchal sensibilities as well. Cities in different parts of the world have prevailing ideologies of how women and men should think, act and feel, how access to social positions and control of resources should be managed and how relationships between men and women should be conducted. Due to the population of most urban cities, as well as the social diversities and paradigms, they serve as paradoxical challenge to private patriarchy found in the home and work places in lower-density, homogenous areas such as suburbs and rural areas. Private patriarchy is based on strongly gendered division of labour in the home, gender-segregated paid employment and women's dependence on men's income.

At the same time, urban areas seem to foster public patriarchy in the form of women's increasing independence from parents and men and dependence on paid work and the government for income as well as their decreasing emotional inter-dependence on men. This paper will look at the impact of and gender effect of urbanization, the opportunities women enjoy in urban centres and the persistent inequalities they face in terms of access to decent work, assets, mobility, security, violence, etc.

Schaefer (2008) using the interactionist theorists' view, see men as majorly influencing the urban space. The fast paced city life, the pervasiveness of the economy according to Ityavyar (2002) are all characteristics of the city life, most men are wary of women because most gender interactions are seen to be in economic terms rather than social. Another gendered impact of urbanization is that women and men experience city life differently. Some men view the city as a sexual space in which women based on their sexual desirability and accessibility are categorized as prostitutes or seductresses in need of men to protect and cater for them. Schaefer (2008) submits that women

are trying to change without a corresponding change in how society views them.

Women in the urban centres and cities are faced with varieties of issues and problems and are therefore seen as vulnerable. This is in spite of the huge economic, social, educational and many other contributions women make to ensure the continuity and development of these cities.

Women are faced with health issues like HIV/AIDS. Women's dependence on men for financial upkeep, payment of rent, feeding, job opportunities often open them up to unprotected and unsolicited sexual relationships that can lead to such health problems as HIV/AIDS.

Women are faced with physical violence that are mentally, emotionally, physically and psychologically harmful to them. Domestic violence by intimate partners who are responsible for their financial upkeep, sexual violence and abuses.

While urban life may have far reaching negative effects on women especially because of their peculiar vulnerabilities, there are also many advantages and benefits to women in the cities. Urban life has a liberating effect on people due to the social atmosphere. The infrastructural development in the cities also make living easier since there is adequate and easy mobility and accessibility to educational and health facilities and businesses. Women also tend to be more visible and are able to participate in socio-economic and political and leadership activities.

There is a high prevalence of gender based violence especially violence against women in urban centres. There exists a high sense of vulnerability to attacks felt by women and girls, both in public and private spaces and within the home. But as Cathy McIlwaine notes, cities themselves do not generate gender-based violence. Rather, processes of urbanization can heighten the risk factors for women, making them more vulnerable to violence while simultaneously creating opportunities for them to deal more effectively with it, whether through informal or formal means.

Urban centres can provide access to economic resources and institutional support to help women cope with violence. Yet, a number of urban-specific factors can lead to greater incidence of violence in those areas. These include more fragmented social relations, which erode support for the most vulnerable as noted by Walker, Frediani and Trani. Engagement and involvement in certain types of occupation such as the entertainment, finance sectors also exposes women to gender-based violence. In urban centres, sex workers are particularly vulnerable to attacks, but the trend these days, most women in virtually all sectors are vulnerable to attacks. For a very large number of women in urban areas, the constant threats, from verbal harassment to outright

violence whenever they leave the home, are an unwelcome reality. This, as McIlwaine describes, can significantly affect women's health and their ability to work

Paid employment and the generally greater opportunities for income generation offered by urban centres critical to transformations in gender relations. Between men and women, women are more likely to work in less remunerated and more insecure jobs. Women are more likely than men to be employed informally and to earn less. Even in emerging new powerful and lucrative economic sectors such as information technology and communication services, women tend to be concentrated in low-end occupations as labour markets remain heavily segregated along lines of gender, ethnicity and class.

Despite these limitations, paid employment is widely seen as providing opportunities for independence and self-development. In her paper, Sarah Bradshaw describes how this does not necessarily translate into more equal relations between men and women within the household, especially with regard to decision-making. Comparing the perceptions of rural and urban women and their male partners, she suggests that it is not so much income and earnings but, rather, the value attached to women's contributions to the household that is important. Crucially, a large proportion of men and rural women do not recognize unpaid care work as a contribution, unlike urban women who also appear to understand the opportunity costs of paid work.

However, as Banks observes, it is important to take into account the fact that, in many cases, women's work is not so much a choice but rather a case of what is available. Women's work and participation contributes immensely and is essential for the survival of the urban poor. Women mostly run small businesses that cater for the urban poor and lower class and is especially needed among the poorest households.

Research Methodology

The methodology adopted for this paper is the textual analytical method. This method is necessary for a paper such as this to interpret and describe as well as situate the play text used to draw the conclusions for this paper. The author analyses the play *The Open Space* and its relationship with subject matter.

'The Open Space'

The play is a critical statement on gender inequality and the vulnerabilities women face in a world that they were also meant to occupy freely. The prologue sees the major character Rosleyn giving a long monologue

on womanhood and the need to celebrate her as the crown of God's creation.

The play begins as flashback. It is a reunion of the ladies. It is a birthday party organized for Pastor Grace. Her former friends and classmates decide to use it as a reunion. They reminisce about their past, the challenges they faced as young ladies in the university and growing up in the city of Abugari.

The next scene opens with Grace arriving to join the three ladies already living in the one room self-contained apartment in Gbalada. She has just been given admission and she is a cousin to Roselyn. Grace is the religious type and is so appalled and shocked at the life style of Roselyn and her friends and so she tries to preach to them. The other girls live rough, deceitful, extravagant lives and depend on men to feed them. Later one of them lands a rich sugar daddy who rents a two bedroom flat for her in Suwe 2 and the whole bunch relocate to live there only to discover they were trapped in a form of slavery which they had to endure because they had no other alternative The play features violence and physical assaults, sexual slavery, drugs and alcoholism and crime. The millionaire Don Jeff is set up by the girls and is arrested for various crimes including murder of his friends who tried to rape one of the girls. The girls go their separate ways at the time with pains and hurts and scars. With time they are healed of the scars and can only remember and laugh over them. The birthday party held in an open space become a rallying point for women to raise their voices as Roselyn announces her plan to run for senate and hopes to become the senate president.

Conclusion

The Open Space is a critical statement on the many inequalities and vulnerabilities women are still grappling with. The play reveals through its handling of the subject of survival in the harsh, dangerous environment urban centres and cities present, the many issues women face daily as they try to earn a living, get an education and take care of their families. Urbanization is intricately linked to development of societies. Urbanization provides and show most indices of development such as infrastructures and social amenities that enhance and contribute to better living conditions. Despite the advantages it brings, there is the gendered perspective that cannot be ignored. Development is expected to reduce and mitigate gender inequalities by providing opportunities for inclusivity and a level playing field for both men and women. Security apparatus which are a key aspect of the urban centres often through their mis-handling of issues related to women drive violence against women which is a common phenomenon in the urban centres. Drama and theatre can present effective platform to interrogate issues women and development. Despite a stormy past, a woman rises to become a voice to reckon with in the

political sphere. Such feat came through her contact and interaction with the urban centre. The city life can be a blessing after all.

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ISSUES AFFECTING GENDERED ROLES OF PROFESSIONALS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Urbanization and attendant challenges affect urban residents differently. There is also a consensus that these challenges affect men and women in diverse ways. This includes gender-based differentials observed in access to decent work opportunities, access to financial assets and housing security, fair tenure rights, access to services, use of open space, engagement in public governance structures and personal security. Studies reveal that these challenges and perceived gaps are further exacerbated gender defined factors that assign roles in all spheres of the society. The study examined gender issues as they affect performance of professionals in the town planning profession. Results were obtained by subjecting the field data to analysis on a 5-point likert scale. Findings reveal that masculinity norms and culture (with a mean score of 3.60) as well as definitive gender roles set aside by our culture and tradition (with a mean score of 3.50) constitute gender issues of concern among town planning professionals. The study recommends gender mainstreaming as a panacea for improved inclusiveness of women.

Keywords: Gendered Roles, Urban Planning Profession, Built Environment

Introduction

Urbanization has been conceptualized as the demographic process whereby an increasing share of the national population lives within urban settlements (Aroura, Youssef, Nguyen-Viet and Soucat, 2014). Urbanization result from the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas, both within their own countries and trans-nationally; arising from attraction of the population to economic, cultural, social and educational opportunities, along with the quality of life that a city provides (Hoornweg, Freire, Baker-Gallegos,

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and Saldivar-Sali, 2013). UNDESA (2018) observed that in 2018, 1.7 billion people (23% of the world's population) lived in a city with at least 1 million inhabitants. In 2030, a projected 28% of people worldwide will be concentrated in cities with at least 1 million inhabitants. Currently, cities with more than 10 million inhabitants are termed 'megacities', and globally, the number of megacities is projected to rise from 33 in 2018 to 43 in 2030. In the past few decades, urbanization and urban growth have accelerated in many developing countries. In 1900, 10% of the world's population lived in cities. Today, the figure is over 50%, and it will reach 75% by 2050. Urban populations are growing quickly - 2.5 percent a year in Latin America and the Caribbean, 3.3 percent in Northern Africa, 4 percent for Asia and the Pacific and 5 percent in Africa. But international comparisons are complicated by differing national definitions of urban areas. In Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the overall ratio of women to men is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, and the inverse is true for Africa and Asia.

There is increasing evidence that men and women experience cities in diverse ways in terms of access to decent work opportunities, access to financial assets and housing security, fair tenure rights, access to services, use of open space, engagement in public governance structures and personal security. Impliedly, that is to say that although cities and towns, compared to rural areas, generally offer women more diverse work opportunities to increase financial independence, they do not benefit from urbanization and the opportunities in cities equally (WUNRN, 2014). Beyond the fears and risks of outright violence and assault, women and girls face gender-based discrimination across all aspects of daily life. These ranges from gender-based violence to more subtle discrimination, including exclusion from political and socio-economic participation and limited access to services in the context of economic development and privatization. The sheer lack of inclusiveness, gender-sensitive and poor policy frameworks have resulted in exclusionary trends in development generally and in professional development particularly. These issues are predicated on gender construct and society's definition of gender-based roles. Thus, recent researches focus on the significance of entrenching gender perspectives in all aspect of issues affecting urban governance in order to uncover existing patterns in work place disparities and effects of such disparities (Onwuemele and Coker, 2017). Similarly, the inherent insensitivity to gender differences in the way the city is perceived and used also affect residents' ability to make more informed choices has received widespread investigation (Commonwealth Association of Planners, 2009). Gender perspectives in the urban planning profession is based on the concept that those who are affected by decisions have the right to be involved in the

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decision-making process. Hence, this paper seeks to explore the various issues affecting gendered roles among professionals in the built environment sub sector in Nigeria.

GENDER AND THE QUESTION OF SOCIETAL CONSTRUCT

Although often used interchangeably, the terms sex and gender do not mean the same thing. Though loosely interconnected, both refer to two different connotations in our society. UNESCO (2003) posit that sex has an exclusively biological connotation, whereas gender refers to socially constructed notions about masculine and feminine roles that may or may not coincide with notions of a person's sex. More specifically, gender refers to the social attributes, roles, and responsibilities associated with being male or female. In that regard, gender is a social and cultural construct that assigns roles, behaviors, identities, and responsibilities, and at the same time, limitations, to girls, women, boys and men (Escalante and Valdivia, 2015). It also refers to the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relationships between women and those between men. It describes expectations about the characteristics, aptitudes, and likely or appropriate behaviours of both women and men, including what it means to be masculine or feminine. Thus, gender roles and expectations attributed to being male or female are learned. Such roles are not fixed but can and do change over time.

The place of gender in broad social and political issue therefore determines men's and women's rights, participation, access to power, and social and political status. Impliedly, the concept of gender is vital to examining systems of subordination and domination and understanding how such systems are socially constructed. Gender roles, responsibilities, norms, expectations, and stereotypes that are accorded to men and women in different ways directly affect power relationships in society, such as division of labour and decision-making structures. Gender becomes relational when it does not exclusively refer to women or men but rather to relations between them. Socialization and stereotypes teach and reinforce these ideas and expectations thereby making gender consideration a key factor in examining the power relations in various groups of people. Gender effects in the built environment sub sector throughout the world has resulted in, amongst other things, a steady growth in studies aimed at analyzing and highlighting the "gender" factor and bias within the nature of housing and urban planning legislation (Wang, 2008).

Gender perspectives in the Built Environment Sub sector

The effects of gender have rarely been sufficiently addressed in the urban planning profession just like in any other built environment profession.

Urban planning profession has traditionally been "gender blind" and such challenge poses a great need for reinventing planning ideals to make it an inclusive process. The unequal representation of each gender in the profession plays a hindering role to this need (CAP, 2009). This assertion is in agreement with the views of Clarke et al (2005) who observed that in most developed countries; the built environment profession is the most male dominated and one of the biggest industrial employer as well as major contributor to the gross domestic product. Jimoh et al (2016) also noted that in the UK, between 1990 to 2005, the percentage of women employed in the built environment has remained broadly stable between 10% to 12% of the entire workforce. Similarly, Bicquelet-Lock, Divine and Crabb (2020), also notes that the Royal Town Planning Institute comprises of 39% female membership and 61% male membership in the UK, while having final year student membership of 45% male and 55% female. The persistent unequal gender representation in urban planning has led UK government exploring ways of utilizing the skills of women and also examining ways to encourage women's entry into male-dominated jobs (op. cit, 2016).

Aside from the UK, the majority of the European countries employ an average of 10% female workforce, while women constitute 8% of all employees in the construction sector (Aulin and Jigmond, 2011). However, in recent times there has been an increase with Austria and Germany having 13.5% and 12% respectively of active women participation in their construction sectors indicating the highest female employment rate among European countries. On the contrary, women participation is the lowest in Greece with only 2%, while Malta and Portugal have 4.3% of women participation in the construction sector. Most of the member countries have high level of participation ranging between 5% and 9%. Countries such as Romania, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Lithuania and France have between 9% and 10% of women in the construction industry (Jimoh et al, 2016). A cursory look at statistics reveals that most women in the construction industry within the European Union serve as administrators, technicians and professionals rather than skilled laborers. In the UK for instance, 78% of women employed in the construction industry are involved in administrative work. Moreover, women constitute less than 6% of construction workers in the specialized and managerial levels of the industry (Jimoh et al, 2016).

In recent times, over these past years in Europe, the male dominance in the urban and building design profession has become less pronounced and decreasing as the number of female urban design professionals who graduate from university increases (Marita et al, 2018). Overall, the proportion of female architects is 39% among a total of 565,000 architects in Europe.

However, the proportion varies between countries ranging from 15% in Estonia to 58% in Greece and Latvia. Sweden is among the countries with the highest percentage of female architects. For instance, females constitute 53% of members of the Swedish Association of architects (total of 12,393 members), which encompasses architects (48% females of 8733 in total), landscape architects (73% females of 1852 in total) and urban planners (64% females of 1807 in total), according to Marita et al (2018).

The trend is not similar in the United State of America. The unequal representation of each gender is slowly declining in the USA. Warren (2003), noted that in the USA, the built environment profession is the fastest growing industry for women, although only about 3% of the those employed by the industry comprises of women, an increasing number of women are starting new business in the field. Schrum and Geisler (2003) further agreed to this point when they noted that markets tend to not treat women equal to men but to treat women as individuals in their own right and on their merit. Jimoh et al (2016) also observed that the built environment profession is the fastest growing segment for female business owners as it has increased by more than 30% since 1997, and government efforts to award contracts to the less-privileged and women-owned business in the USA are responsible for this trend.

On the other hand, Jimoh et al (2016) noted that despite the glaring need for equal gender representation in the built environment professions, there was limited participation of women in the professions in the developing countries due to perceived factors. In the developing countries, women in the construction sector are generally employed as laborers and helpers unlike in the western countries where women are employed in administrative, technical and professional work (Jimoh et al, 2016). In South Africa, a career in the construction industry has not been a popular choice for women, with only 12.4% of participation as opposed to the social industry where 55% of the posts are filled by women (Statistics South Africa, 2003). Wells (2004) had noted that in some Asian countries like Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, women account for 95%, 88%, and 78% respectively of employees in construction industries but as labourers rather than professionals. In Nigeria women in the construction industry make up just 13.3% of the overall workforce and 60% of them employed as clerks, sales and service persons, a mere 1.6% of the largest occupational group tradesperson and related workers are women. Women also represent 9% of the total number of architects in Nigeria (Enwerekowe and Mangden, 2019). In quantity surveying profession, the ratio of female to male participation is 1:8 in the South-East part of Nigeria (Nnamdi et al, 2019).

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These global attestations to unequal representation as well as the low participation of women in the built environment professions in Nigeria portend that certain factors need to be investigated. Such could be generated by a number of cultural ethics and values existing among the people groups and which differ from place to place. In Nigeria, Adeyemi et al, (2006) observed that the amalgamated ethnic groups that make up Nigeria as well as low level of orientation about the professions such as family obligations, fear of competition with men, female preference for other jobs, gender discrimination, lack of mentoring, lack of career progression, orientation on the nature of the industry, socio-cultural perceptions as well as sexual harassment could be responsible. The fear of competition with men is a deterring factor as Marita *et al* (2018) in their research observed that female professionals in the built environment industry rated their possibility to influence environmental aspects low unlike the male professionals who rated their own possibility to influence the environmental aspects high. The female professionals however placed great importance on environmental aspects even though they felt their possibility to influence was low. Conversely, the male participants felt they had greatest possibility to influence the environment although some males rated the importance of environmental aspects the lowest. The gender differences identified are important from an equality and environmental perspective as they may influence pro-environmental behaviour among professionals and ultimately influence the environment performance of the built environment (Marita et al, 2018). Enwerekowe and Mangden (2019) also stated that low female participation in the built environment professions in Nigeria was also associated with poor work-life balance, client perception, pay disparity, incompatible work culture, unemployability, recession, discrimination and sexism (more on site than in the office) and definitive gender roles that has long been held as deterring factors for women.

Gender discourse has also been entrenched in urban planning studies. Central to popular arguments is the notion that urban planning professionals do not take the unpaid work of women and girls such as domestic and care work into consideration when planning and managing cities. Women not only perceive and experience cities in different ways to men, but also use public spaces in different ways (UN Women/Safe Cities Global Programme, 2009). Women living in insecure neighborhoods are more likely to need to commute in the early or late hours to and from work, school or market. These routines may result in them being exposed to the risk of sexual assault especially if water collection is involved (UN Women /Safe Cities Global Programme, 2009). Additionally, traditional planning based on land use separation has led to fragmented urban environments where districts are in separate places linked by

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extensive roads and transportation systems. These practices have long been criticized for isolating women at home, making access to services and facilities inconvenient, and discouraging home-based work (Commonwealth Association of Planners, 2009) because for many women, especially the poor, the home is a productive space where they work to earn a living. This has implication not only for zoning but also for plot size and design of housing. Planners oftentimes fail to understand how and where to best provide services and infrastructures to enable women to live efficiently and effectively (Commonwealth Association of Planners, 2009).

Work-place gender issues have also been in the front burner of recent researches. Such investigations are aimed at measuring discrepancies in wages, victimizations, unequal treatments and glaring biases.

Methodological Investigation into the Factors affecting gendered roles in Urban Planning Profession in Akwa Ibom State

Despite the increasing proportion of women in Town planning, women still face gender bias in variety of ways. Women in the planning profession still face a significant wage gap and they experience subtle or blatant forms of harassment and discrimination (Wang, 2008). Despite the glaring bias, planners have been unable to adequately cater for the problematic nature of gender perspectives (Wang, 2008).

In Nigeria, women in the built environment professions are under-represented and have slower practice development in recent years (Enwerekowe and Mangden, 2019). This was blamed on issues such as sheer lack of desire to progress, lack of mentors, wage gap, client perception, gender discrimination, definitive gender roles and so on. Nnadi et al (2019) observed that the male dominated nature of the professions also prevented higher participation by women as well as translation of qualifications into employment. They also asserted that the conservative nature of women in the built environment profession is a big hindrance to the awareness level of female professionals in Nigeria. Various traces of the conservative nature include the lack of good marketing strategy, sub-consultant status, inability to embrace change and inability to invest in the necessary technology. Due to the importance of gender perspectives in the urban planning and other built environment professions, this study seeks to investigate the gender differences in the urban planning profession in Akwa Ibom state, factors behind the differences and possible ways to reconcile the differences.

The study used data obtained from 113 respondents who are registered members of the Nigeria Institute of Town Planners (NITP) to examine the perception of respondents with respect to socio-cultural factors and job

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performance factors as they affect gendered roles of professionals in the town planning profession in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

Using data obtained from field survey, this study investigated the dominant factors that affect gendered roles in the urban planning profession in Akwa Ibom state. The study surveyed 113 respondents who were registered members of the Nigeria Institute of Town Planners (NITP). The male respondents were 96 (85%) and female respondents were 17 representing only 15%; The result revealed that there were more male respondents than the female respondents in town planning profession in Akwa Ibom state. The mean and median age of respondents were 43 years and 44 years respectively with a standard deviation is 7.720 suggesting a young population of town planners.

Planners with M.URP/MSc constituted a total of 60 town planners (53.1%) which makes it the educational qualification with the highest number of town planners in the state. This is explained by MSc/MURP being requirement for professional registration into the Town Planners Registration council (TOPREC). Those with B.URP were total 31 persons (27.4%), 12(10.6%) hold PhD while those with HND/B.Tech were only 3 town planners. A greater percentage of town planners in the state (50.4%) work as public servants while those in the private sector constitute 36.3%. Those in the academia constitute the lowest category that is 13.3% of the total number surveyed.

The study also investigated the current head of planning agencies among practicing town planners. 92.0% of male the respondents indicated to have headed functional planning agencies while only 8.0% of the females indicated to have headed a functional planning agency in the state. In other words, survey shows a dominance of males in the administrative cadre of most planning organizations.

The survey further examined the factors affecting gender roles in the urban planning profession in Akwa Ibom State. Using a 5-point likert scale of basis of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree as well as their weights of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1; the study assessed the perceptions of the town planning professionals on gendered roles as they affect planning practice in the state. Weighted values were obtained for each of the factors and tested against established decision rule as put forward by Wole (2006). According to Wole (2006), the following can be used as the length in each of the scale for interpretation:

Strongly Disagree   =   1 - 1.5
Disagree   =   1.51 - 2.49

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Undecided   =   2.50 - 3.49
Agree   =   3.50 - 4.49
Strongly Agree   =   4.50

Thus, the sum total of each of the factors was divided by 113 which is the study population to arrive at interpretation. Table 5.1 -5.4 shows the criteria for assessment, frequency and weighted scores obtained.

Table 1.   Perceptions Affecting Gender Roles in The Urban Planning Profession

Perceptions on Gender	SA (5)	WV	A (4)	WV	UD (3)	WV	D (2)	WV	SD (1)	WV
Masculinity norms and culture has a serious impact on the gender roles in Town Planning in the State	9	45	79	316	2	6	17	34	6	6
Gender discrimination plays a part in reducing the prominent role of female town planners in the State	9	45	33	132	2	6	49	98	20	20
Definitive gender roles set aside by our culture and tradition influences the roles of Town Planners in terms of their gender	21	105	52	208	13	39	17	34	10	10
Sexism and sexual harassment has affected the roles our women play in the town planning profession	2	10	10	40	12	36	58	116	31	31
Socio-cultural perception influences the roles of gender in Town Planning	16	55	27	108	8	24	42	84	20	20

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 1 above presents respondents perception on how socio-cultural and gender defined roles affects town planning practice. On the 'agree' scale, more respondents agreed that incompatible nature of work and family life of women (with a frequency score of 66) and the unemployability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions (with a frequency score of 65) constituted a factor that explains gender perceptions among practicing town planners the state.

On the undecided scale, client's preference to deal with male over female planners had the highest frequency of 33 while on the disagree scale, pay

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disparity had the highest frequency of 70 while incompatible nature of work and family life had the lowest frequency of 13. Client's perception, perceived inability of female town planners to influence environmental aspects, incompatible nature of work and family life, un employability nature of the profession outside planning agencies had the lowest frequencies of 0 each while pay disparity had the highest frequency of 12. The perception of the respondents tilting towards Undecided for observed factors indicate that such factors do not constitute glaring issues of concern as regards gender issues among the sampled population.

Table 2.   Socio-cultural Factors Affecting Gender Roles in The Urban Planning Profession

Factors	Sum	Mean (sum/113)	Consensus Opinion
Masculinity norms and culture has a serious impact on the gender roles in Town Planning in the State	407	3.60	Agree
Gender discrimination plays a part in reducing the prominent role of female town planners in the State	301	2.66	undecided
Definitive gender roles set aside by our culture and tradition influences the roles of Town Planners in terms of their gender	396	3.50	Agree
Sexism and sexual harassment has affected the roles our women play in the town planning profession	233	2.06	Disagree
Socio-cultural perception influences the roles of gender in Town Planning	291	2.58	Undecided

Source: Field Survey, 2021

As presented above, a significant number of respondents (407) with a mean score of 3.60 agreed that masculinity norms and culture as well as definitive gender roles set aside by our culture and tradition has serious impact on the gender roles in Town Planning profession in the State. This further explains how factors such as client's preference to deal with male town planners than their female counterparts as well as fear of rejection of the female Town Planner's services influences their performance in the profession. (See table 4)

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Table 3: **Factors affecting gender roles and Performance in Town Planning Profession**

Factors	SA (5)	WV	A (4)	WV	UD (3)	WV	D (2)	WV	SD (1)	WV
Client perception on a Planner's ability based on gender affects their professional practice ability	13	65	66	264	11	33	23	46	0	0
Pay disparity between Town planners discourages equal participation of both genders in the profession	7	35	4	16	15	45	70	140	12	12
Disorientation on the nature of the Town Planning industry means that there is no level playing ground for both genders with the male having advantage over the female	7	35	35	140	28	84	37	74	6	6
Fear of rejection on the part of female Town Planners influences their performance in the profession	10	50	45	180	15	45	38	76	5	5
The perceived inability of female town planners to influence environmental aspects affects their performance in the profession	7	35	51	204	21	63	29	58	3	3
Incompatible nature of work and family life restricts the efficiency of female Town Planners	29	145	65	260	5	15	13	26	0	0
Un-employability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions affects efficiency of the female gender in the profession	23	115	49	196	25	75	15	30	0	0
Generally, clients prefer to deal with male town planners than their female counterparts	9	45	23	92	33	99	46	92	2	2

Source: Field survey, 2021

The survey further investigated workplace factors as they affect the town planning practice

From table 3 above, on the agree scale, more respondents agreed that incompatible nature of work and family life of women (with a frequency score of 66) and the unemployability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions (with a frequency score of 65) constituted a factor that explains gender perceptions among practicing town planners the state.

On the undecided scale, client's preference to deal with male over female planners had the highest frequency of 33 while on the disagree scale, pay disparity had the highest frequency of 70 while incompatible nature of work and family life had the lowest frequency of 13. Client's perception, perceived inability of female town planners to influence environmental aspects, incompatible nature of work and family life, unemployability nature of the

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profession outside planning agencies had the lowest frequencies of 0 each while pay disparity had the highest frequency of 12.

Table 4: **Weighted Values, Mean Scores and Consensus Opinion of Respondents' perception on Selected factors affecting gender roles and Performance in Town Planning Profession**

Factors	Sum	Mean (Sum/113)	Consensus Opinion
Client perception on a Planner's ability based on gender affects their professional practice ability	408	3.61	Agree
Pay disparity between Town planners discourages equal participation of both genders in the profession	248	2.19	Disagree
Disorientation on the nature of the Town Planning industry means that there is no level playing ground for both genders with the male having advantage over the female	339	3.00	Undecided
Fear of rejection on the part of female Town Planners influences their performance in the profession	356	3.15	Undecided
The perceived inability of female town planners to influence environmental aspects affects their performance in the profession	363	3.21	Undecided
Incompatible nature of work and family life restricts the efficiency of female Town Planners	446	3.86	Agree
Un-employability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions affects efficiency of the female gender in the profession	406	3.95	Agree
Generally, clients prefer to deal with male town planners than their female counterparts	416	3.68	Undecided

Source: Field Data Analysis, 2021

From table above, consensus opinion on the various factors showed that most respondents agreed that incompatible nature of work and family life with a weighted value of (446) and mean score of (3.86) significantly affect the efficiency of female Town Planners. Other factors that also affect performance are unemployability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions as well as clients' perception of a planner's ability based on their gender affect their professional practice ability. Respondents were however undecided on how fear of rejection on the part of female Town Planners, perceived inability of female town planners to influence environmental aspects or clients prefer to deal with male town planners than their female counterparts affect the performance of female town planners

Conclusion and Recommendation

The paper has x-rayed the various factors affecting the performance of town planning professional in the built environment sub sector. A regards socio-cultural factor, in the wider societal context, such factors as masculinity norms and culture as well as definitive gender roles set aside by our culture and tradition constitute gender issues of concern among the target population. Other factors such as sexism and sexual harassment as well as socio-cultural perceptions are not deeply entrenched as gender issues among the sampled population. Outcome of the analysis further reveal that at the micro workplace context, factors such as client's perception on a planner's ability based on gender significantly affects their professional practice. Other factors with significantly high perception include incompatible nature of work and family life restricts the efficiency of female Town Planners and the high unemployability nature of the profession outside planning agencies and academic institutions.

There is therefore need for a gendered planning practice where sensitive gender differences are addressed. The panacea is the entrenchment of gender streaming principles and an understanding of such programmes as complex processes with political, socio-economic, socio-cultural dimensions that affect men and women in important and diverse ways within and between professions. Such processes provide a framework whereby the views of women and men, boys and girls are taken equally when undertaking budgeting, consultation, design and evaluation of physical and social infrastructure such as housing, employment generation schemes, community services, transport as advocated by Commonwealth Association of Planners (2009).

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GENDER AND URBANIZATION

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Abstract
Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural in urban areas, resulting in decrease in the proportion of people living in the rural areas and ways in which societies adapt to this change. Urbanization is also generally associated with increased prosperity, enhanced social, economic and political opportunities for men and women. This paper outlines the push and pull factors in urban settings and the barriers faced by urban women which are different from those of urban men. It also explains strategies that women can adopt to increase their political voice, and the importance of gender mainstreaming in policy making and planning in order to build sustainable city environments that can effectively support growing urban populations. It also examines the push and pull factors for rural to urban migration, challenges faced by urban women in the areas of Employment, Education, Health and Safety, Service Delivery and Infrastructure, women and urban political participation, and strategies to increase women's political voice through collective action, power of votes, gender quotas political literacy. The recommendation was that women must unite! Eliminate the unnecessary rivalry and hostility towards fellow women, to conquer their common enemy - the society.

Introduction

Urbanization is linked to progress in a number of areas, including increased legal protection and a narrowing gender gap in schooling. Also urban women on the whole, have greater access to services and infrastructure, more opportunities to engage in paid employment and a relaxation of gendered sociocultural restrictions when compared with their rural counterparts. Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural in urban areas, resulting in decrease in the proportion of people living in the rural areas and ways in which societies adapt to this change. Urbanization is also generally associated with increased prosperity, enhanced social, economic and political opportunities for men and women, (UNDESA 2014), better access to social services and healthcare and a reduction in overall poverty. With $2/3^{rd}$ of the world's population predicted to live in urban areas by 2050, the global landscape is changing.

Inequality within and between cities and marginalization of a group of people especially women will make it difficult to access the increased social, economic and political opportunities available in the cities. This is because some governments lack accountability, transparency and credibility to include women as stakeholders in the decision making process. When women's voices are incorporated in policy and planning, it will help build cities that allow urban inhabitants to thrive equally.

Applying a gender lens to the development of a sustainable Urban environment can help mitigate urban vulnerability to climate change. Gender is used to describe the characteristics of women and men that are socially constructed, while sex refers to those that are biologically determined. People are born female or male, but learn to be girls and boys, who grow to become women and men.

This paper outlines the push and pull factors in urban settings and the barriers faced by urban women which are different from those of urban men. It also explains strategies that women can adopt to increase their political voice, and the importance of gender mainstreaming in policy making and planning in order to build sustainable city environments that can effectively support growing urban populations.

PUSH AND PULL FACTORS FOR RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

Rural to urban migration, within or between countries play an important role in the increased urbanization of the global landscape. Migration to urban areas in influenced by a number of push and pull factors.

Pull Factors

Many migrants seek the economic opportunities offered by urban areas as a way to escape rural, poverty and insecurity. Urban jobs either in the formal or informal sector, are more numerous and reliable and often provide higher and more stable incomes than rural jobs, which are often prone to fluctuation due to seasonal changes, environmental stress or market mechanisms (Tacoli 2012). Expanded independence, the possibility for social mobility and the economic opportunity associated with city life are often viewed as a potential path to a better standard of living for women and their families Urban areas offer an escape from restrictive gender roles and heightened risks of violence that can characteristic rural women's lives; while also providing increased opportunities for paid work, property ownerships, improved health and education. Formal employment is more abundant for women in cities, stemming from trends like the preference for female labour in export – oriented industries and the growing need for domestic care workers.

Push Factors

Rural women migrate to urban areas because they are particularly disadvantaged in comparison with their male counterparts, as well as in comparison with urban men and women. Rural women are faced with greater unpaid reproductive and household responsibilities that significantly limit their opportunities for employment in comparison with women in urban areas. When able to find a paid work, rural women are typically relegated to menial work that have fewer protections than those held by men. Such jobs are temporary in duration, lower paid and often involve non-flexible work hours that leave little time for them to attend to their home and care duties. Women in rural areas often face difficulties accessing assets, especially land, credit and information essential to their ability to enter the agricultural industry or other areas of entrepreneurship common to rural settings.

CHALLENGES FACED BY URBAN WOMEN
Employment

As women's employment in urban settings has increased, women have become better able to provide for themselves and their families; while also experiencing a relaxation of the gendered social norms that have traditionally subordinated women to men. According to World Bank (2013), the potential of urbanization to close the gender gap in earnings and enhance women's empowerment is enormous. However, the economic opportunities for women are often still limited, especially when age, education and socio-economic status are taken into consideration. Domestic service employs between 4 and 10% of the workforce of developing nations with women making up to 74% to 94% of domestic workers. (World Bank 2011). Caregiving and domestic work however are often underpaid and undervalued, because gender discrimination has led society to devalue jobs that are seen as traditionally "female" work (World Bank 2014).

Globalization has also brought about a rise in employment of women in the manufacturing sector. Women are the preferred labourers for job that are traditionally low-paid, low skilled, labour intensive and precarious because they are stereotypically seen as docile, cheap and efficient. Women, especially poor women are less likely than men to learn advanced computer skill. Thus, the emerging opportunities in developing countries for formal employment in the ICT industry are limited and only benefit the more advantaged subsets of urban women.

Women's informal employment include work such as street vending, waste picking which are poorly paid, and lacking in social protection. Women who are waste pickers often work in deplorable conditions and are subject to

street harassment. Land and property can be key to women's ability to start a home-based business as most lending is dependent on the use of land or property as collateral for loans or other financial services. More so, some cultural norms restrict women's right to own property or land.

Education

Education can play an important role in increasing a woman's access to quality employment. Educated women are more likely to delay marriage and child birth, are generally healthier and less vulnerable to diseases such as HIV/AIDS and are more likely to have the number of children they are able to cater for. Even in countries where women outnumber men in tertiary enrollment, there are still fewer women who choose to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (STEM), fields which often lead to better quality and higher paying jobs. Through urban women have higher literacy levels than the rural dwellers, girls who live in slums tend to face the greatest difficulties studying due to domestic chores and activities that interfere with school, lack of space, light, security or basic infrastructure in their homes. They are also likely to drop out of school often as a result of early pregnancy or child labour.

Health and Safety

The nature of women's daily activities can involve significant physical strain. Women typically hold the responsibility of providing the water, fuel, food and other household needs for their family. Women in health care roles experience heightened health risks, such as increased likelihood of contracting infectious diseases, being exposed to chemical hazards and so on. Without electricity, poor urban families tend to rely on fuels such as coal or charcoal which are detrimental to respiratory health. Women and children are most likely to be affected by low quality internal air given the amount of time spent in the home. Health care services are not within reach for the urban poor due to cost. This makes them vulnerable to unplanned pregnancies, poor maternal health outcomes, high fertility rates and high rates of sexually transmitted diseases (Mberu *et al* 2014).

Rates of violence are higher in cities than in rural areas and women are at a greater risk. Gender-based violence comes in multiple forms, including physical violence, sexual violence and psychological violence. Violence against women is especially likely in urban areas characterized by insecure housing and inadequate access to basic services. Walking long distances to conduct household chores e.g. fetching water, as well as poor lighting and overcrowding can heighten risk. Inability to secure safe housing plays a role in whether women feel able to leave their husbands or homes in case of abuse.

Service Delivery and Infrastructure

Spiking urban population growth, building capacity to support the livelihoods of urban residents is critical. Poor urban women face particular barriers to secure housing for themselves and their families. This factor is inextricably linked to health outcomes, child mortality, safety etc. Housing policies can prioritize the ownership rights of men, restricting women's ability to purchase or own land or housing even if they have the funds to pay. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation was identified by the United Nations as a basic human right (UN HABITAT 2013), yet millions of poor urban residents do not have piped water or cannot afford privatized water services. Women and girls are saddled with the responsibility of getting water for cleaning, bathing and washing. Trips to fetch water impacts negatively on women's physical and mental health. Tightly linked to water is sanitation that allow for clean, safe living environments. Without it, the residents are exposed to wastes, decomposing rubbish, poor drainage systems with their attendant health risks. The lack or limited supply of electricity can create additional work for women. Women trek to collect wood for fires, heat water, cook and buy food items daily due to absence reliable refrigeration.

Urban Mobility and Gender

In some cities, people have to leave home before dawn just to be able to reach their place of work. The types of transport used reflect differences in income, education and location, and are heavily shaped by gender responsibilities. Women are more likely to use public transport or walk and their mobility is related to a variety of activities e.g. work, shopping, school runs etc. unlike men who are more likely to move between their homes and workplace. Balancing paid work with domestic responsibilities increasingly requires mobility in urban spaces where home, workplace, production and consumption are separated. Women bear the cost of transport as well as the threats of physical or sexual violence for women travelling alone or walking alone.

WOMEN AND URBAN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Relegated to the private, domestic domain of home and family, women are often excluded from the ability to negotiate for their interests.

Gendered stereotypes extend to the idea that women do not have the capacity for leadership, decision making, or political participation. Ensuring that women have voice and are part of the decision-making processes through voting, local organizing, advocacy or working in government is key to making sure women's issues are at the forefront of urban policy and planning. Yet,

many women do not have the access to the needed information regarding politics and decision-making processes. Poor women often lack access to political rights, including the right to vote, right to access basic services or where to go when seeking justice. Women attempting to enter the political sphere also often lack a basic understanding of political networks and systems needed to negotiate the political landscape as a candidate.

Gendered Divisions of Labour in the Urban Economy: Although women's involvement in remunerated activity has increased, this has not been accompanied by a notable increase in men's participation in unpaid domestic labour or care work. As such, women continue to bear the weight of a "***reproduction tax***" which combines with other discriminatory processes within the home and in the labour market to limit the type of income – generating options available to women as well as leading to a lower value being placed on "***women's work***".

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE WOMEN'S POLITICAL VOICE

(i) **Collective Action:** This can be used to influence policy, make demands, and to call institutions of government that impacts on their lives to order. Collective action in form of women associations, grassroots women's movement, social justice movements and digital technologies and social media are important tools that can be used to navigate existing social, economic and political restrictions and for making women's concerns known in ways that lead to meaningful policy change. The internet enables women's voices to enter the larger public sphere despite cultural restrictions on physical movement, which otherwise limit and silence their voices

(ii) **Power of Votes:** Women's engagement in the democratic process through voting gives individual women the opportunity to vote their opinions regarding policy and to keep politicians accountable to their concerns. When women come together as voters, they can more effectively push a gender-inclusive agenda and position themselves to affect election outcomes.

(iii) **Gender Quotas:** Quotas has proven to be the most effective means of getting women into elected office e.g. in America there was an increase in the number of women in parliament from 18.4% in 2003 to 24.8% in 2013 mainly as a result of the wide spread use of gender quotas. The Quotas must cut across local, regional and national levels. On the 6th of

April 2022, the court ordered Nigeran Government to reserve 35% of public offices for women appointees (Affirmative Action).

(iv) **Political Literacy**: Entering the realm of politics demands a level of political literacy that enables one to navigate the existing networks of entrenched relationships and interests that have traditionally governed who can or cannot participate in decision making. Acquiring this literacy requires social know-how, social networks and control over resources. Most women are likely to enter elected office with limited or no political experience and often lack the confidence, skills and connections to resources that men do. (Hubbard 2014). Training on rules and regulations, codes of conduct, among other issues would help build the capacity of women candidates and elected officials.

(v) **Other Strategies:** Other strategies include provision of financial resources for women running for political office, establishment of government bodies (as well as means of accessing them) that are dedicated to the advancement of women's interest in politics. There must be improved social supports such as child care for elected women officials. Most importantly, they should be funded researches on the challenges faced by urban and rural women in politics and in the informal sector. Data from such researches will be used in formulating policies that will encourage women's participation in politics.

Conclusion

Lots of opportunities abound in the urban areas that can meet the diverse needs of traditionally disadvantaged groups such as women, girls and children. These include greater availability to paid work, expanded independence, access to services, infrastructure and technologies that can empower participation in the social, economic and political spheres of urban life. However, urban women continue to face challenges in availing themselves of such opportunities. These include reduced access to better employment, education, gendered divisions of labour, health and safety, political participation, service delivery and infrastructure, mobility and so on. Strategies that can help to strengthen women's participation in the political sphere have been outlined. This will expand women's access to decision making and to positions of power to ensure that cities are able to serve and protect the human rights of all groups equally. The above notwithstanding, women must unite! Eliminate the unnecessary rivalry and hostility towards fellow women, to conquer their common enemy - the society.

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URBANIZATION: GENDER EQUALITY IN SUSTAINING THE FAMILY: THE DISCONNECT

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Abstract

The study interrogated the implications of urbanization on the family unit and the rise of gender equality, and its effect on the family to discharge the instructional, scolding, exhortation and educative roles of the children. The investigation was conducted on the descriptive research design, with focused on scientific analysis, explanation of the present status of the issues and the exploration of the relationship between urbanization and the families. A variant of descriptive research, 'documentary analysis' was applied which reviewed documents on urbanization, urban families and other public records on the nexus between these phenomena. The theoretical framework of inquiry combined Right-Based Approach of every gender and the Zelophdad paradigm, wherein, the creator instructed Moses to give to the daughters of Zelophdad the same thing he gave to male heads of families while sharing the land of Israel to the returning Jews. The study revealed that there is 'urban –economy' which compelled both parents to go out in search of means of livelihood in the urban centers. This creates gaps in the children upbringing filled by other agents of socialization. The values learned here, often conflict with the accepted norms of the families, hence the disconnect. When both parents are out in search for means of livelihood in urban areas, gender equality developed. Responsible parenting, spending time with the children and balancing urban family pressures were provided as conclusion because urbanization is a universal and dynamic phenomenon.

Keywords: Urbanization, Right-Based Approach, Zelophdad paradiggm, Livelihood.

Introduction

It is really intriguing to identify the linkages of how urbanization a universal phenomenon impinges on the quest for 'gender justice' and at the same time affects the family system. While urbanization in its most elementary form involve the movement of families to the city seat of government with it attendant problems, the family have never been mention in all attempts to

address these problems. It is pertinent to state that correcting urban problems would affect the families in the urban centers in several ways.

The processes through which towns and city assume their dominant positions is through the mass movement of families from the rural to the towns and cities where modern facilities which make live much more enjoyable are provided. There are many factors that have accounted for this but two of these stand out which are the concentration of industrialization and modernization. In the planning of an industry all the factors considered for the location of industries account for the transformation of a location to an urban area. These factors attracts or pull people from other areas to the point where facilities are concentrated, they are generally called the 'pull' issues in the 'pull-push' factors.

These 'pull' factors which affect the localization of industries include; availability of raw materials, labor supply, proximity to the market, transport and communication facilities, available energy source to power the industries, external economies (www.tutorhelpdesk.com). When these factors create a 'Pull-Push' pressure, people then move from the rural and adjoining to the areas where the facilities are present. The location then incrementally becomes urbanized.

The positive side of this concentration of population would be that it creates economy of scale in the sense that it brings together economic and human resources that stimulate economic development of the area. It becomes 'cost-effective and efficient to provide social facilities such as water and electricity to a population concentrated in a location such as urban towns. Transport services to move large population around become easy to plan. Town planning becomes necessary and urban government to oversee the rapid development of the area.

It is important to state that while several economy of scale is derived from urbanization, it has several negative effects on families in the cities that may not be easily noticed. At the same time urbanization do have positive effect on 'gender-equality' that is, the quest for gender equity because the urban economy task both the man and the woman to generate income, hence the idea of equality come to play. It is against this backdrop that the study sought to investigate how urbanization engendered the quest for gender justice, and the consequences of urban location on the family unit.

All parents particularly in Africa were born in rural settings characterized by; they are often 'countryside' lying outside the urban areas. (ii) It often has low population density because most of the people must have migrated to the cities in search of better conditions of living. (iii)The major occupation is usually agriculture for both sexes. (iv) About 70 per cent of the population are housed in the rural areas in Nigeria are aged one while the youth

have moved to towns. (v) It is a spatial area often discounted in the development plans in Nigeria. (vi) It produces all food that feed the urban population (vii) it has high deficit of infrastructure which instigate migration. (viii) It is the area where people depend on nature's bounties for survival (Frank, 2016). In the rural area, the family is open and extensive unlike the urban area where it is just the family with no extension.

The first social institution of man is the family (father, mother, children and sometimes members of the extended family. It could be nuclear or extended) The family then perform four (4) basic functions on the children in order for the society to continue in perpetuity These functions are (i) Instructional roles (tutoring the child on the acceptable mode of behavior in public, to greet, clean himself and environment, be respectful, to ask questions when in doubt, learn to listen with understanding, act with decorum, courtesy and humility, defend family name etc.). (ii) Admonishing (when they go against the family and societal accepted norms such as being insolent, using foul language, to be contented with what they are provided with, when they are rude to elders, and to obey orders of constituted authorities). Advisory roles **(**speak inspiring words to uplift the spirit of their children, appreciate them for good deeds, reward and punish misconduct, look into their school assignment and help where necessary). Educative roles (teach them how to live honest life style, how to love and appreciate others, how to be fair to all by sharing what they have, how and why they should obey rules, how to live in dignity, how to plan their future and above all how to worship the lord, avoid bad friends and avoid malpractices, how to appreciate and say thank you and the consequences of disobedience). The fundamental of all these is that the parents must be seen to be practitioners of all these family codes. Children learn about 70 per cent by seeing and 30 per cent by hearing, which is why in-person teaching is much more advantageous than online-learning. Whether adult or children learning more by seeing than hearing. The outcome of all these is stopping the child from being a deviant, but more of acceptable society member though these combined process of socialization.

The Rural Area and the Child

In the rural areas particularly in Africa where most of the parents grew up, the child is given birth to by the parents, but he/she belongs to the entire community. Every elder in the community have the duty of performing the four critical roles of the family earlier spelt out on the child wherever he/she may be found acting against the societal accepted norms. Consequently, whether the parents are there or not, every child was subjected to society's pressure to act accordingly. The four basic functions of the family were performed both by the

nuclear and extended family, as well as the community. These were the three sources of pressures in which every African child was subjected. The children grew up on these community pressures to be 'conformists'. This changed when the parents moved to the urban cities. This discourse then sought to establish the impacts of urbanization disconnect on the family.

Research Questions

The questions that guided this study were;

i) Does the transition from rural to urban settlement vitiate the basic functions of the families?

ii) Are there stronger 'peer-pressure' in the urban centers than the rural areas, which urges the children to act in ways and manner contrary to norms forbidden by the society?

iii) Consequent upon the (ii) above, the children may be at a loss which value/ norms is more acceptable hence they subject themselves to trying out behavioral norms such as smoking and unacceptable dressing codes.

iv) Does urban culture create a gap in the upbringing? These questions would be validated qualitatively in the narrative analysis below.

Aims and objectives

i) The main aim of this discourse was to bring to the fore the gaps created by urban life-style in the family.

The subsidiary objectives were;

ii) That the urban-economy create a situation where both parents go out in search of livelihood and transfer the care of the children to 'significant others' with negative consequences.

iii) To illustrate that urban-economy generate forces which disconnect the children from effective parental care.

iv) The urban environment exposes the children to several sources of social pressure which fill the gaps created by the parent's absence thereby disconnecting them from the societal and family values.

v) That both parents going to work generate the quest for 'gender justice' (gender equality).

vi) To propose how to achieve sustainable family in an urbanized system.

vii) To advocate the modalities for Responsible Parenting in an urban setting.

Scope of the Study

The essence of the study was to evaluate the effect which urbanization a form of modern community organization has on the families. We sought to

appraise how urbanization had engendered the quest for gender equity which was almost a taboo in the rural settlements where the families migrated from to the cities. The latitude of the study also covered the phenomenon of assessment of the disconnect which urbanization had caused in the families in the cities. In the final analysis, the discourse sought innovative ways to ensure that the urban families are sustained to perform their traditional roles in the society. In every discourse of the problems of urbanization no one ever incline the mind to the negative consequences it has on the family institution as a victim. This was why the discourse was of particular interest and novelty.

Statement of the Problem

The problematic of the discourse was that Urbanization break down family values and erodes the basis of family hood incrementally. The urban social forces which include high cost of living arising from numerous direct and indirect taxes creates the economic pressures wherein both parents have to go to work, they either leave the children on their own, entrust them to 'significant others', send them to day care and above all send the children to 'hawk wares' all of which are aimed at augmenting the family income to be able to cope with urban pressures.

The situation invariably create gaps in the family upbringing which are filled by 'peer-pressures, television programs, social media and 'irresponsible significant others' who take advantage of the situation to rape hawking gild-child, peer-pressure expose the children to unwanted norms and culture (smoking, drugs, cultism and irresponsible dressing habits), while unrestrained television channels corrupt the children sexuality and introduce them to violence. The social media on the other hand corrupt their sexuality further and some day care centers indulge in several unwanted activities with the children.

The children then become loss as to which of the values is more acceptable. The values from these various social pressures, supplant whatever the parents introduce to them because they do not spend considerable time with the family whereas, all other sources of pressure weigh on the children. The three sources of pressures on the children at the rural areas are at this point disconnected and the children are expose to new urban pressures.

The situation is critical because urban economy means both 'parents' must go out to work as a result of the harsh economic situation. The majority of sexual violence against the girl and boy child has been found to be caused by foster-parenthood. The foster parents are unable to inculcate into the children more effectively the four cardinal functions (Instructional, Admonishing, Advisory and Education roles) of the family earlier stated in the preceding section of this discourse.

The gaps created are filled with values which challenges those canvassed by the parents. This situation is without prejudice to the fact that the children are sent to school. The events in schools ranging from cultism, bullying, truancy and many other vices associated with students at all levels of education attest to this assertion.

It is instructive to note that the children spend at most eight (8) hours in the school and sixteen (16) hours are supposed to be spend with the parents. However, urban-economy has made it impossible for the entire sixteen (16) hours to be spent with the children. Eight (8) hours of this are spent at work, by the time they return home some of the children would be sleeping. This has made it impossible for the parents to perform the family roles creditably, thereby leaving a Hugh gap in the performance of the family parental roles. This is simply the most intriguing consequence of urbanization in modern time.

It should be stated that another impact of urban area is that it atomizes the individual and families unlike the rural settings, where the entire community owns the child. By this is meant that urbanization create a situation where everyone is to himself or individualism. Homes are fenced so much that neighbors may not know themselves or the children. No one cares for another's child. The urban towns (urban areas) make men free from feudal bondage and clientele, awkward traditional beliefs and obligations, ignorance and timidity of sorts (Igwe, 2005). The urban areas create individualism with particularism, no one cares for another, and hence the children are not only given to peer-pressures but that from social media.

Gender-Justice Imminent in urban economy is gender –equality. The parents in the urban areas all migrated from the rural areas by 'Pull-Push' factors. These parents were brought up under cultural norms of no-gender equality in mostly patriarchal settings. However, urban situation have opened up the system for women coupled with women activism which brought women human right against the old order in patriarchal African state. This was quickened with the universality of human rights versus practices that violated women's human rights but were upheld by cultural norms…When women in 1993 Vienna conference relived the ranges of violence against them it included; systematic rape, genital cutting, domestic violence, high dowry, honor killings, sexual violence to name only a few. This placed violence against the women in the agenda of a major human rights conference… media reported this widely, NGO advocated, urban women latched onto it and women liberation in Africa-Nigeria picked it up.

The urban pressures challenges the culturally stereotypical role of house-keep, child bearing and upbringing, farm cultivation and harvesting often assigned to the women in Nigeria. Urban pressure is causing role

reversal. This in effect is challenging stereotype and seeking gender justice or equality.

Approach of the Study

The topic of the study was basically conceptual and could only be adequately studied through the descriptive study design. The descriptive research approach sought information concerning the current status of urbanization and its impact on the family. Thus, it was basically concerned with the nature of the situation as it existed at the time of this study. The approach also sought to describe events in reference to the variables of the conditions of how urbanization impacted on the families (Frank & Ubeng, 2021). We sought data for decision-making going forward. The descriptive design has various procedures which include 'survey, case study documentary study etc. (Ndiyo, 2005). Though it may not establish causal relationship, it however indicated relationship between variables. The systematic approaches investigated how urbanization affected the family roles of the children and how the children then affect the larger society? We however elected to deploy 'documentary analysis procedure to explore the linkages between 'urbanization, the quest for gender equality and its effect on urban families in Nigeria.

The documentary analysis approach is a qualitative procedure entailed the review of documents on 'Urbanization', the family and juxtaposes these two concepts against the backdrop of gender equality. Consequently, we examined the following documents (i) public records on urbanization and urban policy (ii) Online journals, reports and newspapers were examined. (iii) Publications and training manuals relating to urbanization and its effects were studied (Bowen, 2009). The major component of this study design comprised of observing the phenomena, recording, describing and classifying issues. No variables of these concepts were manipulated; rather they were observed, identified and measured.

The design was considered the most appropriate to the problem because it allowed the study to measure the trend of influence of urbanization on family values. It further allowed for comparison of families in the urban and rural areas in terms of the effectiveness of socialization. The in-depth study allowed by this procedure let to the identification of urban –economy and it impacts on the families.

The documentary review examined several international protocols which Nigeria is a signatory regarding the equality of the womenfolk. They included public documents such as; (i) the convention on the political rights of women adopted 1953, (ii) the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (iii) Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UNDHR) 1948, (iv) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) (v) African charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1981) (vi) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966). (vii) Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) all of which are available on the internet. The other documents looked into included 'Management problems of Rapid Urbanization in Nigeria (1972) edited by Adebayo Adedeji and L. Rowland, University of Ife Press and many others.

Theoretical Framework

In order to firm up the issue, explain the phenomenon and connect to other relevant matter, one of the theories adopted was the Right Based Approach (RBA). The foundation of the theory averred that everyone came into the world with inalienable rights. Part of these rights was given up to create the 'social contract' which resulted in the formation of the human society. Thus, no one gave-up more rights than the other in the formation of the state. Therefore, everyone should have and operate upon equal rights and equal access to the provisions of the state. This foundation formed the basis of Marxist Communist socialism. He assert further that those who are often most marginalized, excluded and discriminated upon do have rights as anyone else. The theory sought to sensitize and empower men/women to claim back their rights and operate at the same level of natural equality. It abhorred inequalities, which lie at the heart of development problems and discriminatory practices, which impede the progress of development in the society especially against the womenfolk (gender inequality). It gives citizens a stake in the political system and a say over the decisions that affect their lives this was the essence of human rights approach as Graca Machel and Frank conveyed in their seminal works at different occasions (Machel, 2001 & Frank, 2015).

The theory pointed to the fact that all were born equal men and women. All surrender a portion of their rights to create the state through social contract; no one gave up more rights than the other. Again, men and women jointly set up the government to superintend over the social contract on equal basis. Any lopsided situation as gender inequality, creation of gender roles is unnatural and a formation by men in society through the cultural route in their interest against the female sex to dominate and control them. This should be corrected through the right assertion by the women and men. It reiterates, if all gave a portion of their inalienable rights in the formation of the society, why should the women be treated in various cultures as second class citizens?

The theocratic theory of civil right known as the Zelophedad Paradigm was combined to give further understanding. This derived from theocracy and divine source. The theme of the theory was drawn from Biblical Numbers 27:1-

7 wherein Zelophedad had five (5) daughters and on their way 'Israelites journey' back from Egypt to the Promised Land, Zelophedad died en-route Israel. On approaching their destination, Moshe started allocating the land to the tribes and families for eventual settlement. The leader Moshe did not allocate any to Zelophedad who had no male child.

The five Zelophedad daughters then went to Moshe who was with prophet Eleazer in the tent to demand their father's share of the land. It was a Jewish culture for women not to inherit their father's property when they die. Moshe brought the demand before Yahwe the Lord. The Lord said, 'the daughters of Zelophdad were right in their demand. Go then and do as they had asked for their inheritance in their father's name. Let Israel know that the daughters should take their father's inheritance when they have no male children.

The lessons from this theory are profound; (i) Zelophedad girls knew their rights and stood to claim it. (ii) The creator approved their request because rights were inalienable (iii) the rights were granted against Jewish culture created by men in a patrilineal/patriarchal society. Everyone should know their rights and stand up for it. This theory reinforced the essence of the Right Based Approach which is here reinforced by this paradigm. If God did not segregate, no one should do on the basis of gender through cultural practices created by men which is subsidiary to God's order...

The agglomeration of these theories produced the following facts; (i) that everyone is imbued with inalienable rights which are not subject to human mutation. (ii) Rights bearers must first know and arise to assert their rights else they would be treated as if they do not exist. (iii) Both sexes have equal rights (iv) That the suppression of the rights of female gender by certain cultures such as the practice of the 'money-woman' in Obanliku Local government Area in Cross River State of Nigeria where 'girl –child' are use to settle debt is not only abominable but a creation of patriarchy or the male dominated society.

Data Presentation: Processes, Characteristics and Consequences
The data drawn from the documentary analysis revealed the following facts;
a) Processes of Urbanization
i)   The processes of population shift from rural to urban cities decrease the population residing in the spatial rural areas.
iii) Concentration of industries in a particular location attracts population there.
iv) The seat of government pulls population together.
v)   Concentration of social infrastructure and commercialization are the 'pull factors which pushes population out of the rural locations to the urban centers.

b) Characteristics of Urban Centers

a) Growing incident of crime (b) Numerous social problems; overcrowding of areas and homes, increased robbery, insufficient health facilities, (c) Traffic congestion (d) High cost of living and increasing taxation by the city government to meet the cost of operation and service delivery (e) High rate of refuse generation and low rate of refuse collection hence pollution. (f) The rate of migration to the urban areas exceed the rate of service and infrastructure provision hence the palpable deficits in urban areas. (g) There are Televisions, ICT, and Advertising, radios Social media which are all agents of socialization of the youth, adolescents and adults.

c) Consequences of Urbanization

i) Urban-Economy –both parents in the family in the urban areas have to work to sustain livelihood to augment family incomes occasioned by the rising taxation in the cities.

ii) Children have to hawk wares to supplement self/family income to be able to cope with city life.

iii) The city environment lead to excessive individualism, the homes are all fenced and you do not know nor care about whom your neighbor is, while everyone is reduce to 'man-alone'.

iv) While the parents are away in pursuit of economic earnings, the children are left to 'significant others' as foster parents (relations, housemaids and daycare).

v) Available data have shown that increasing number of child and sexual abuses are perpetrated by the 'significant others'.

vi) The children are then exposed to social pressure from the mass media and negative peer-pressure which are dysfunctional to the family values.

(vii) Urbanization breaks down the triad social pressures which helped to shape the child in the rural area (family, extended family and the community).

(viii) The useful economic roles of women in the 'urban-economy' gave them a sort of equality with their husbands, as both took paid labor jobs outside the homes and jointly contributed fiscal resources to the maintenance of the home. When the men are out-of-work, the women bear the burden of the families. The spirit of equality is then rekindles in them and demonstrated in the society. Urbanization indeed generates the competitive and the capitalist spirit in both men and the women.

d) Gender Equality

i) The women in the cities had taken to working to sustain their individual and family welfare. This has generated the consciousness of equality

with the men. In many homes, it is the women's resource that sustains the families hence gender inequality become nonsense.

ii)   Several international protocols which Nigeria is a signatory exists to encourage the womenfolk to seek equality in all social spheres unlike the norms in the rural areas. Some of these include the convention of the elimination all forms discrimination against the women. Convention on the elimination against the Women (CEDAW) which are accessible on the internet.

Discussion of Findings and Research Questions

i)   The first research question sought to establish if the transition from rural to urban settlement vitiates the roles perform by parents in the family. The facts from documentary analysis indicated that the concept of 'urban –economy' is characterized by several streams of taxation which render single income inadequate for the family irrespective of the size. Consequently, the mother would have to pick up employment or trading to augment the family means of livelihood. This disconnects her from the children.

The implication of this scenario is that both parents would have to leave the home continuously hence creating very 'low degree of contact between the parents and the children' thereby exposing the children to social forces independent of the parents. These social forces come from 'significant others' who, the children are entrusted, peer-groups, uncontrolled social media and Television channels.

All these tend to displace the values to which the children have been socialized into by the parents and generate behavioral pattern which are at variance to the family and parental values. Behavior such as rape, drug addiction, bullying, and indecent dressing are some of the norms which could not be imparted by the parents but learned from these sources to fill the gaps created by the dynamics of 'urban-economy'.

ii)   There are certainly stronger peer-pressures in the urban towns than in the rural settings. Peer pressures refers to the direct or indirect influence on the children, adolescent and even adult arising from their membership of social groups, observation, effect of telephones and Television sets (Frank, 2016). These pressures eventually cause changes in their attitudes, values and behaviors to conform to the influencers. These pressures come from formal and informal groups which the children, youths and adolescent are members unknown to the parents, facilitated by the parents' absence from the home. Social pressures such as sexual intercourse, substance abuse bullying, abnormal dressing, hair style etc.

are learned from these pressure sources.

iii)   It a truism that massive digital facilities consisting of android telephones, Online social network groups, Facebook, What-Sapp, Instagram advertising commercials/boards are more available in the urban towns than in the rural areas. These sources pressures children, youths, adolescents and adult through fast socialization into new values which are often antithetical to those held by the parents. The way the social media influencers portray themselves in the advertisement lead the younger ones imitating them and eventually trying out the acts. The idea is that they want to belong and should not be left out in the new culture.

iv)   Urban population is subjected to double socialization in the cities. These are pressures from the media which transmit messages different from that communicated by the parents. In the rural setting the children are subjected to the 'dos and don'ts' of the family and the community. The other members of the community also assist in guiding the youth towards accepted norms because in this setting, children belong to the community. This is unlike in the cities where there is impersonality. Here anyone who fined another person child misbehaving does not care to fill the gap for the parents who are unknown to him/her.

Responsible Parenting

Responsible Parenting refers to the 'will' and ability of parents to respect and do the needs and aspirations of the family children. It is the ability of a parent to meet and care for the needs of the family and children according to his or her capability (Ojumu, 2016). Responsible Parenting is characterized by (i)by parents who must spend at last 20 minutes of undivided attention to each of their children on return from their work to interrogate their day and welfare. (ii) Parents must behave properly because children, adolescent youth see, observe, imitate and adapt to the behavior of the parents and learn from their behaviors. Parents need to act in a way they need to children to emulate. (iii) Parents must have the ability to provide for the family to avoid the children from going into wrong hands because of their needs. (iv) Responsible Parent must have the number of children they can provide for and space the children according to their means. (iv) It should be available to the children and detect their emotions and intervene promptly to create emotional balance. Talk to them, listen to them and carefully balance their needs within the available resources. (v) Parents should jointly perform the four categorical imperative of responsible parenthood; instructional, reprimanding, exhortative and educative roles, and establish period of availability at home to attend to the children's need. Above all, they must be wary the company their wards keep. A

balance between urban pressure and family values must be maintain to avoid the gaps and the disconnect arising from urban –economy.

Conclusion

Urbanization is a universal phenomenon that is unstoppable. It would continue to generate social pressures which tend to impinge negatively on the urban family. This must be countered by responsible parenting which out of relative challenges innovate a balance whereby at reasonable interval one of the parents must be in touch with the children to avoid the gaps. The challenges of urbanization on the family could be addressed with responsible parenting and all round gender equality which arises from urban-economic dynamics. All urban families should be made aware of the probabilities of the disconnects with their families because of 'urban-economy' and how to strike a balance as proposed herein. This remains one of the ways to remain in the urban centers and sustain the families with little disconnection. We would continue to be affected by urbanization being a global phenomenon, but we must at the same time be aware of the dynamics of urban economy and alert to how to balance the pressures.

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