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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. 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 also bring about educational advancement for a better society. It encapsulates concerns such as Gender-Specific Use of Social Media Among Agricultural Extension Agents in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria; Theoretical Insights into Gender Relations in Nigerian Religious Beliefs: Examining Cultural Influences, Doctrinal Interpretations and Societal Impact; Sociological Parameters and Gender Differences in the Choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State; Gender Analysis of Academics Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State; Gender Relation in Family Development: Care for the Aged.

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 among individuals of opposite gender. Proper implementation and adaptation of all the submissions embedded in this edition, it is 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.

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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-SPECIFIC USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AMONG AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AGENTS IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

This research examined the gender-specific use of social media among agricultural extension agents in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The study identified the specific social media tools utilized by male and female agents, as well as the constraints they encountered in using social media platforms for agricultural extension purposes. Data was collected using a set of structured questionnaires administered to 211 respondents in the study area. The z-test result showed that there is significant difference in the use of social media between male and female extension agents. Findings revealed that both male and female extension agents in the region employed social media platforms for communication and information sharing, with Facebook and WhatsApp being the most frequently used tools by both sexes. Variations however, existed in the use of other platforms, such as Yahoo, Messenger, YouTube, LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Academia, with male extension agents demonstrating higher usage rates compared to their female counterparts. Constraints experienced by the agents in using social media also differ between sexes. Male extension agents encountered challenges related to the high cost of devices, high repair expenses, and insufficient training on social media usage. In contrast, female agents faced barriers such as unstable power supply, limited income, and poor internet connectivity, which impeded their effective use of social media. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that there should be a comprehensive capacity-building programme on digital literacy and social media usage to enhance extension agents' knowledge and skills.

Keywords: Productivity, Rural Development, Social Media, Agricultural Extension and Information Dissemination

Introduction

In recent years, the rapid advancement of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has revolutionized various sectors and brought about

significant changes in the way individuals and organizations interact, communicate, and access information (Baena, 2015). Among these technologies, social media platforms have emerged as powerful tools for communication, networking, and information dissemination. Social media platforms provide an opportunity for individuals to connect with others, share experiences, and access a wide range of information on diverse topics (Balkrishna and Deshmukh, 2017).

In the context of agricultural development, social media has the potential to play a crucial role in enhancing communication and knowledge sharing among agricultural extension agents (Iwuchukwu, et. al., 2019). Agricultural extension agents are vital intermediaries who bridge the gap between research institutions, policymakers, and farmers, disseminating valuable information and providing advisory services to improve agricultural practices and productivity (Davis, 2016). This vital role played by agricultural extension agents is not gender blind therefore, understanding the gender-specific use of social media among agricultural extension agents is essential for promoting inclusive and effective agricultural extension communication.

Several studies have investigated the use of social media in agricultural extension. Barau and Afrad (2017), and Ifejika, et. al. (2019). However, there are few research addressing the gender dimensions of social media use among agricultural extension agents in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria despite the increasing popularity and potential benefits of social media platforms. Understanding the extent to which male and female extension agents use social media platforms and the challenges encountered, one can gain insights into the gendered dynamics of information sharing, networking, and knowledge dissemination within the agricultural extension system. Identifying the unique obstacles faced by male and female extension agents will enable policymakers, agricultural organizations, and development practitioners to develop targeted interventions and strategies to effectively leverage social media for knowledge exchange and capacity building. It is against this backdrop that this study was conducted to examine the gender-specific use of social media among agricultural extension agents in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

Research Method

The study was conducted in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria which is made up of nine states - Rivers, Bayelsa, Imo, Abia, Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Ondo, from which 3 states were randomly selected (Akwa Ibom,

Cross River, and River's state). The target population comprised all extension agents in extension-based organizations in the selected states. The extension-based organizations were stratified into public and private. The public organization chosen for the study was primarily the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP). The private organizations chosen were the multinational organizations, including the Green River Project (GRP) of Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Agricultural Programme of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), and the Rural Life Project of ELF Petroleum Nigeria Limited.

In the public organization (ADP), 361 extension agents were identified, and 50% (181 extension agents) were randomly selected. In the private organizations (multinationals), 38 extension agents were identified, and 80% (30 extension agents) were randomly selected. In total, 211 respondents participated in the study, consisting of 184 male extension agents and 73 female extension agents. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire which contained information on the use of social media by male and female extension agents in the study area, as well as the constraints they encountered in using social media. The instrument was tested for reliability using a test-retest method, and a reliability coefficient of 0.87 was adjudged sufficient. Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, and mean. A z-test was conducted to compare the differences in social media usage between male and female agricultural extension agents in the study area.

Model Specification

Z statistic was employed in testing differences between male and female extension agents in terms of social media usage. The mathematical expression of Z-test is given as

$$Z_1 = \frac{X_1 - X_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

Where:

Z_1 = the value by which the statistical significance of the mean difference of the pair of variables is adjudged

X_1 = mean number of male extension agents in Extension organization

X_2 = mean number of female extension agents in Extension organization

S_1^2 = variance from the mean value of sample 1
 S_2^2 = variance from the mean value of sample 2
 n_1 = frequency of male extension agents in extension organization
 n_2 = frequency of female extension agents in extension organization

Results and Discussion

Use of social Media by Male and Female Extension Agents

Table 1: Distribution of male and female extension agents based on the use of social media

Social media	Male (n=138)		Female (n=73)	
	Mean (SD)	Rank	Mean (SD)	Rank
Facebook	2.99(0.85)	1 st	2.81(0.52)	1 st
LinkedIn	0.97(1.27)	6 th	0.05(0.23)	15 th
e-wallet	0.21(0.72)	15 th	1.08(1.12)	10 th
WhatsApp	2.93(0.39)	2 nd	2.42(0.58)	2 nd
Telegram	0.80(1.19)	9 th	0.10(0.29)	12 th
Blogs	0.87(1.15)	7 th	0.08(0.28)	13 th
YouTube	1.88(1.26)	5 th	1.59(0.94)	4 th
Academia	0.85(1.15)	8 th	0.03(0.16)	17 th
Flickr	0.2(0.716)	16 th	0.92(1.16)	11 th
Messenger	1.91(0.51)	4 th	1.67(1.43)	3 rd
Twitter	0.14(0.61)	17 th	1.27(1.29)	8 th
ResearchGate	0.70(1.11)	10 th	0.04(0.20)	16 th
Yahoo	2.74(0.68)	3 rd	1.40(1.15)	7 th
Skype	0.44(1.03)	12 th	1.40(1.05)	6 th
Friend feed	0.64(1.05)	11 th	0.07(0.25)	14 th
Google+	0.25(0.79)	14 th	1.42(1.28)	5 th
Snapchat	0.32(0.87)	13 th	1.12(1.31)	9 th

Mean Score derived from always used=3, sometimes used=2, rarely utilized=1, never used=0
Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 shows the frequency of social media usage by male and female extension agents in the study area. A total of 17 social media tools were presented to the respondents to indicate their frequency of use on a four-point Likert scale of - Never Used (0), Rarely Used (1), Sometime Used (2) and Always Used (3). Due to the rating scale used, a mean of 1.5 was used to categorize the respondents' use into frequently used and not frequently used.

Male Agricultural Extension Agents:

The frequently used social media tools among male extension agents were as follows: Facebook (mean = 2.99, rank = 1), WhatsApp (mean = 2.93, rank = 2), Yahoo (mean = 2.74, rank = 3), Messenger (mean = 1.91, rank = 4), YouTube (mean = 1.88, rank = 5). Among the male respondents, the remaining 12 social media tools were not frequently used. The three least frequently used social media tools were: E-wallet (mean = 0.21, rank = 15), Flickr (mean = 0.20, rank = 16) and Twitter (mean = 0.41, rank = 17).

Female Agricultural Extension Agents:

The frequently used social media tools among female extension agents were as follows: Facebook (mean = 2.81, rank = 1), WhatsApp (mean = 2.42, rank = 2), Messenger (mean = 1.63, rank = 3) and YouTube (mean = 1.59, rank = 4)

Among the female respondents, the remaining 13 social media tools were not frequently used. The three least frequently used social media tools were: LinkedIn (mean = 0.05, rank = 15), ResearchGate (mean = 0.04, rank = 16) and Academia (mean = 0.03, rank = 17).

Table 2: Analysis of differences between male and female agricultural extension agents in terms of social media usage

Category	N	Mean	Df	SD	Z-value
Male	138	1.11	209	.322	-0.02 ^S
Female	73	1.03		.338	

Source: Field survey data, 2022
S = z-value is significant at 0.05 level

The z-test result as shown in Table 2 reveals that there is a significant difference in the frequency of social media use between male and female extension agents in the study area. It implies that there are gender disparities in the adoption and frequency of social media use among agricultural extension agents. This tally with the findings by Ma, *et al.*, (2018) which indicated that men far outnumbered women in the use of information technology. This may have also resulted in male farmers using social media more than their female counterparts as observed by Barau and Afrad (2017).

The result also highlights significant differences in social media tool preferences between male and female extension agents. The use of Facebook and WhatsApp was common, indicating their popularity and potential as communication channels for extension activities. This agrees with the findings

by Suchiradipta and Saravanan (2016), and Thakur and Chander (2018) which indicated that Facebook and WhatsApp were the most used social media. The popularity of Facebook, WhatsApp, and YouTube among both male and female extension agents indicates their potential as effective channels for disseminating agricultural information. These platforms can be leveraged to share best practices, provide timely updates, and foster dialogue between extension agents and farmers. Encouraging extension agents to maximize their use of these platforms could contribute to improved knowledge transfer and capacity building within the agricultural community. However, male respondents showed a higher preference for Yahoo and YouTube, while female respondents preferred Messenger. These gender-specific preferences should be considered when designing communication strategies and training programmes for extension agents.

The low frequency of use for tools like E-wallet, Flickr, LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Academia suggests that agricultural extension agents, especially males, may not be actively using specialized platforms for agricultural knowledge sharing and professional networking. This may be attributed to the observation of Suchiradipta and Saravanan (2016) which revealed that LinkedIn, Academia.edu and ResearchGate are used more by academicians, researchers and other professionals for the purpose of creating peer network. Efforts should be made to raise awareness among extension agents about the benefits and opportunities provided by these platforms, as they can enhance collaboration, access to research, and engagement with relevant stakeholders. . The research findings suggest the need to address gender disparities in social media usage among agricultural extension agents, which may be attributed, at least in part, to differences in preference for specific platforms. The variations in social media tool preferences between male and female respondents indicate the importance of understanding their distinct needs, interests, and professional objectives when designing interventions or initiatives to promote equitable and inclusive use of social media in the agricultural extension service. Efforts should be made to ensure equal access to and training in various social media tools, allowing both male and female extension agents to benefit from the advantages offered by digital communication platforms. Promoting gender equality in social media usage can contribute to more inclusive and effective extension services.

Constraints to the Use of Social Media by Male and female Extension Agents

Table 3: Constraints to the use of social media among male and female extension agents

Social media	Male (n=138)		Female (n=73)	
	Mean (SD)	Rank	Mean (SD)	Rank
Time constraint	2.29(0.56)	6 th	2.26(0.97)	4 th
Inadequate technical knowledge/skill	1.93(0.97)	8 th	2.22(0.42)	6 th
High cost of devices	2.86(0.47)	1 st	2.05(0.82)	7 th
Poor internet connectivity	1.74(0.44)	10 th	2.64(0.77)	3 rd
Poor government policies	1.50(0.74)	11 th	1.79(0.41)	11 th
Distraction	1.77(0.57)	9 th	2.23(0.98)	5 th
Unstable power supply	2.14(0.47)	7 th	2.78(0.63)	1 st
Lack of training on the usage of social media	2.78(0.59)	3 rd	2.14 (0.81)	8 th
High cost of repairs	2.80(0.54)	2 nd	1.88(0.84)	10 th
limited income	2.49(0.86)	4 th	2.70(0.46)	2 nd
High cost of data	2.35(0.79)	5 th	1.90(1.00)	9 th

Mean score derived from most severe=3, severe=2, least severe=1

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 3 shows the constraints encountered by male and female extension agents in the use of social media. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent of severity of the constraints they encounter in the use of social media on a 3-point Likert scale of most severe=3, severely=2 and least severe=1. Due to the rating scale used, a mean of 2.0 was used to identify the prominent constraints to social media usage in the study area.

Male Agricultural Extension Agents:

The most severe constraints to social media usage were the high cost of devices (mean=2.86) and the high cost of repairs (mean=2.80), indicating financial limitations as significant constraints. Lack of training on social media usage (mean=2.78) was also a prominent constraint, suggesting a need for capacity-building programmes to enhance digital literacy among male extension agents. The least severe constraints reported by male respondents were distraction (mean=1.77), poor internet connectivity (mean=1.74), and poor government policies (mean=1.50).

Female Agricultural Extension Agents:

The most severe constraints were unstable power supply (mean=2.78), limited income (mean=2.70), and poor internet connectivity (mean=2.64), reflecting infrastructure and economic challenges that hinder their use of social media.

High cost of data (mean=1.90), high cost of repairs (mean=1.88), and poor government policies (mean=1.79) were the least severe constraints reported by female respondents.

The study revealed some gender-specific constraints faced by male and female extension agents in the use of social media. Male extension agents were primarily impeded by financial factors and lack of training, while female extension agents faced challenges related to infrastructure and economic limitations. Tailored interventions should address the specific constraints faced by each gender group. For male extension agents, providing affordable devices, repair services, and comprehensive training programmes can enhance their social media engagement, while female extension agents will require interventions that address power supply issues, income limitations, and improved internet connectivity.

The high cost of devices and repairs emerged as significant constraints for male extension agents. This suggests that the upfront and maintenance expenses associated with accessing and maintaining social media tools hinder their effective usage. This result is in line with Iwuchukwu, Eke and Nwobodo (2019) who also noted that high cost of devices and high cost of repairs were significant factors that hinder the use of social media by agricultural extension agent. Initiatives such as subsidies or loan programmes for devices, repair services, or partnerships with private sector entities can help mitigate the financial burden on male extension agents.

Unstable power supply and poor internet connectivity were prominent constraints for female extension agents. These limitations hinder their access and use of social media platforms, limiting their ability to effectively disseminate agricultural information. This result is in line with Barau and Afrad (2017) who reported that electricity and poor internet connectivity were the major hindrances that inhibited the integration of social media into agricultural extension delivery. Similarly, Ifejika *et al.*, (2017) observe that persistent power outages are one of the factors that negatively affect access to ICTs by extension agents in North Central Zone, Nigeria. Collaborations with government agencies, telecommunications companies, and relevant stakeholders are necessary to improve power supply and internet connectivity

in rural areas, thereby enabling female extension agents to use social media more efficiently.

Both male and female extension agents expressed a lack of training on social media usage. This highlights the importance of providing comprehensive training programmes tailored to their specific needs, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills to leverage social media platforms effectively. This corroborates Thakur and Chander (2018) who noted that lack of necessary skills and knowledge scare the extension agents from using some of these social media applications in agricultural extension service.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the major findings of this study, it can be concluded that both male and female extension agents in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria use social media platforms for communication and information sharing, albeit with some variations. Facebook and WhatsApp were the most frequently used social media tools by both sexes, indicating their popularity and effectiveness for agricultural extension purposes. However, there were notable differences in the use of other social media tools between male and female respondents. Male extension agents showed a higher frequency of using platforms like Yahoo, Messenger, and YouTube, while female extension agents reported a lower usage of these platforms. Additionally, female agents showed limited use of professional networking sites like LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Academia.

Regarding the constraints faced by agricultural extension agents in the use of social media, both sexes encountered various challenges. For male extension agents, the high cost of devices, the high cost of repairs, and the lack of training on social media usage were the most significant constraints. On the other hand, female extension agents faced constraints such as unstable power supply, limited income, and poor internet connectivity, which posed barriers to their effective use of social media.

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

1. **Capacity-building programmes:** To address the constraints faced by both male and female extension agents, a comprehensive capacity-building programme on digital literacy and social media usage is recommended. This programme should focus on providing training and workshops to enhance extension agents' knowledge and skills in the use of social media platforms effectively for agricultural extension purposes.

2. **Access to affordable devices and repairs:** Given the financial limitations reported by male extension agents, efforts should be made to provide them with access to affordable devices and affordable repair services. This can be achieved through government support programmes, partnerships with technology providers, or the establishment of device repair centers within the region where devices are repaired at subsidized rates.
3. **Infrastructure development:** To overcome the infrastructure challenges faced by female extension agents, there is a need for infrastructure development, particularly in terms of stable power supply and improved internet connectivity at affordable rates. Collaboration between government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and international organizations can help address these issues and provide better access to reliable infrastructure.
4. **Policy support:** Both male and female extension agents reported poor government policies as a constraint. It is crucial for policymakers to recognize the significance of social media in agricultural extension and create supportive policies that facilitate its usage. This can involve measures such as reducing data costs, improving internet infrastructure, and promoting digital literacy programmes.
5. **Gender-specific interventions:** Recognizing the variations in the use of social media between male and female extension agents, gender-specific interventions should be developed. Efforts should be made to encourage female extension agents to explore and use professional networking platforms like LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Academia, as these platforms can provide them with access to valuable agricultural knowledge and opportunities for collaboration.

Implementing these recommendations, the gender gap in the use of social media among agricultural extension agents in the Niger Delta region would be reduced. It will also enable them to harness the potentials of social media for effective knowledge sharing, networking, and information dissemination in the agricultural sector.

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THEORETICAL INSIGHTS INTO GENDER RELATIONS IN NIGERIAN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS: EXAMINING CULTURAL INFLUENCES, DOCTRINAL INTERPRETATIONS AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

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Abstract

This paper provides an exploration of gender relations within the realm of religious beliefs in Nigeria. Nigeria's diverse religious landscape serves as a unique backdrop to investigate the intricate interplay of cultural influences, doctrinal interpretations and their profound societal ramifications. Drawing from academic research and theoretical frameworks, this article offers a nuanced examination of how deeply entrenched cultural factors in Nigeria contributes to the construction of gender roles within religious contexts. It highlights the intersections between indigenous traditions and global religious influences, illuminates their impact on gender norms. The paper also critically assesses doctrinal interpretations across various religious traditions in Nigeria, including Christianity, Islam and indigenous belief systems. Scrutinizing theological discourse and religious teachings, it unveils the ways these interpretations both shape and reinforce gender relations, both positively and negatively. Furthermore, this article looked into the societal consequences of these gendered religious beliefs, education, politics, economic participation and family structures. The potentials for these beliefs perpetuate inequalities and hinder progress towards gender equity. In conclusion, this work offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the intricate relationship

between gender relations, culture, religious doctrines, and societal outcomes within the Nigerian context. It emphasizes the need for critical engagement with these factors to foster a more inclusive and equitable society.

Keywords: Gender Relations, Religious Beliefs, Nigeria, Cultural Influences, Doctrinal Interpretations

Introduction

Nigeria, known as the "Giant of Africa," boasts a diverse religious landscape, making it a compelling case for studying gender relations within religious beliefs. This diversity, discussed by influential scholars underscores the coexistence of indigenous African traditions with Christianity and Islam. This shapes the complex tapestry of religious beliefs in Nigeria. These intersecting influences have a profound impact on various aspects of Nigerian society, particularly in relation to gender roles.

Cultural Influences on Gender Relations in Nigeria

Nigeria's rich cultural tapestry woven from the threads of over 250 ethnic groups and myriad languages, profoundly impacts religious beliefs and the corresponding gender roles within society. This diversity serves as a cornerstone for understanding the intricate interplay between cultures, religion and gender dynamics in Nigeria. This work delves into the enduring effects of colonialism on African societies, Nigeria included. It reveals how the aftermath of colonial rule has led to the emergence of diverse post-colonial identities, each characterized by its unique cultural practices, languages and belief systems.

To truly grasp the nuances of gender relations within religious beliefs in Nigeria, one must first fathom the depth and breadth of the nation's cultural diversity. This diversity extends its reach to encompass various aspects of life, from family structures to social norms and religious rituals. Recognizing this richness is fundamental in understanding the intricate dance between culture, religion and gender roles within Nigeria, as explored in this paper. Makama (2013) emphasized the dynamic interplay of culture, religion and gender in shaping Nigerian society. The work sheds light on how cultural diversity exerts its influence on gender norms and expectations within different communities (Olonade, et. al. 2021)

Shanguhya and Falola (2018) underscored the influence of Nigerian cultural diversity in shaping the interpretations of religious teachings. The authors further emphasized that different ethnic groups possess distinct cultural practices and belief systems. These unique cultural underpinnings significantly influence how religion is integrated into daily life. In essence, understanding the impact of culture on the construction of gender norms, especially within the realm of religious beliefs, necessitates an exploration of the intricate relationship between culture, religion and gender dynamics. This multifaceted interplay, as exemplified by a myriad of scholarly works, serves as the backdrop against which gender roles are defined and negotiated in Nigeria's diverse religious landscape. It is within this complex framework that societal expectations, religious teachings, and cultural values converge to shape the roles and experiences of men and women in Nigerian society.

Doctrinal Interpretations and Gender Relations

Examining doctrinal interpretations within Nigerian religious traditions; Christianity, Islam and indigenous belief systems is pivotal for comprehending the intricate interplay of gender dynamics, culture and religion in Nigeria.

i. Christianity: A nuanced exploration of doctrinal interpretations within Nigerian Christianity unveils a complex tapestry of beliefs influencing gender dynamics. O'Connor (2010) highlighted the wide-ranging interpretations, with a particular focus on the influence of Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. These movements have ushered in shifts in traditional gender roles, sparking discussions and transformations within Nigerian Christian communities. Abiodun (2010) pinioned that scrutiny of gendered interpretations within Catholicism offers critical insights into the challenges and opportunities women face within the Catholic doctrine. The diverse landscape of Christian denominations in Nigeria necessitates a thorough understanding of how these interpretations impact gender relations, highlighting the importance of context and theological perspectives.

ii. Islam: Enquiring into doctrinal interpretations within Nigerian Islam provides valuable insights into how religious beliefs shape gender dynamics. Ngom, et. al. (2020) reported that the spread of Islam in Africa, including Nigeria, unravels the historical transmission of Islamic teachings and traditions, emphasizing their impact on gender roles within Muslim

communities. This historical perspective provides essential context for understanding contemporary gender dynamics influenced by religious interpretations.

iii. Indigenous Belief Systems: Indigenous belief systems form an integral part of Nigerian culture, influencing worldviews and societal norms. African religions and philosophy underscores the pervasive influence of indigenous beliefs on cultural values, including those pertaining to gender. This understanding lays the groundwork for comprehending how these beliefs intersect with and inform gender relations in Nigerian society. Amadiume (2015) exploration of the Igbo indigenous belief system challenges conventional gender norms. By examining the dynamic roles within this belief system, Amadiume highlights how indigenous beliefs provide alternative narratives offering valuable insights into gender relations beyond established norms.

These studies emphasize that doctrinal interpretations, whether within Christianity, Islam, or indigenous belief systems, hold significant sway over gender dynamics in Nigeria. By scrutinizing these interpretations, scholars gain a deeper understanding of how religious beliefs intersect with cultural contexts, shaping societal norms and expectations. This intersection serves as a pivotal area of study for comprehending the multifaceted nature of gender relations within religious beliefs in Nigeria.

Ahmed (2021) explored Islamic interpretations in "Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate." Ahmed's work provides a historical analysis, revealing diverse interpretations that lead to varying gender dynamics within Muslim communities. Makama (2013) investigates how doctrinal interpretations within Nigerian religious traditions historically reinforced gender hierarchies. This research underscores the role of religious teachings and theological discourse in shaping gender norms. Olajubu (2012) provides insights into how religious doctrines influence gender relations within African religious ecosystems. The author further highlighted the intricate interplay between indigenous traditions and global religious influences.

Scrutinizing Theological Discourse and Religious Teachings

Examining the theological discourse and religious teachings within Nigerian religious traditions is a pivotal endeavour for grasping the intricate construction and reinforcement of gender relations. Ahmed (2021) extensive

exploration in "Women and Gender in Islam" unfurls the historical context of Islamic teachings, emphatically underlining their dynamic nature and far-reaching implications for gender roles. Makama (2013) incisive treatise, "Patriarchy and Gender Inequality in Nigeria," underscores the formidable impact of religious doctrines on individuals' perceptions of gender roles, unearthing the nuanced interplay between religious teachings and societal expectations. The analysis of sacred texts, theological discourse, and religious teachings offers a crucial vantage point into the complexities of gender dynamics within Nigerian religious beliefs: For example, at the core of Nigerian Christianity lies the Bible, a compendium of texts that provide the foundational framework for understanding gender roles, marriage dynamics and ecclesiastical leadership.

The Qur'an stands as the cornerstone of Islamic teachings. A meticulous examination of verses pertaining to gender, family structures and broader societal roles unveils the intricate tapestry of interpretations that shape norms within Nigerian Muslim communities. Furthermore, rooted in oral tradition and steeped in mythological narratives, indigenous belief systems' narratives, rituals, and cosmological paradigms intricately mould prevailing gender roles and societal expectations.

Theological discourse encapsulates a rich tapestry of interpretations and spirited debates. Theological debates within the Christian sphere, whether manifesting in sermons, doctrinal teachings, or scholarly discourses, offer profound insights into interpretations related to gender. Exploring critical topics such as women assuming leadership roles and the pursuit of gender equality constitutes an imperative area of inquiry. In Islam, the written and oral contributions of Islamic scholars in Nigeria furnish invaluable insights into the ways gender-related issues are discussed, interpreted, and debated within the sphere of Islamic theology. However, religious teachings radiate beyond the confines of the pulpit.

In Christianity, beyond the hallowed halls of worship, religious education, Sunday schools, and counselling sessions serve as conduits through which teachings on gender-related topics are disseminated, leaving an indelible mark on individual beliefs and practices. In Islam, within the realms of madrasas and educational institutions, Islamic instruction profoundly shapes perceptions of gender roles. A meticulous analysis of the curriculum offers poignant insights into how prevailing norms are transmitted to the younger generation.

For the indigenous belief systems embedded in oral tradition and ritualistic practices, conversations with revered elders and a discerning analysis of mythological narratives illuminate the teachings and values related to gender within these belief systems, underscoring their enduring significance in shaping individual world views and cultural practices.

Societal Impact of Gendered Religious Beliefs

Many studies highlight that gendered religious beliefs shape women's access to education and participation in formal systems, either reinforcing traditional gender roles or providing avenues to challenge them. Understanding these effects is crucial for understanding the broader societal impact of these beliefs.

Effects on Education and Knowledge Access

Scholars have examined the influence of gendered religious beliefs on education and knowledge access, particularly in the Nigerian context. They recognize the significant implications for women's educational opportunities and information access. Frimpong (2022) in "The Role of Women in the Church of Pentecost: A Case Study of the Kwadaso Area" explores the impact of religious beliefs, including gendered interpretations, on women's roles in the church and education in Ghana, offering insights applicable to broader West African contexts. Olajubu (2012) discusses how religious beliefs intersect with education for women in Nigeria and Africa, underscoring their influence on women's knowledge access.

Perpetuating Gender Inequalities through Beliefs

Religious beliefs wield significant influence over societal norms and structures. Makama (2013) asserted that these beliefs serve as a potent tool for reinforcing gender inequalities is supported by extensive research. The nexus between culture and religion in Nigeria intensifies this dynamic. Cultural underpinnings embedded within religious contexts often relegate women to subordinate roles, upholding entrenched gender norms. Thompson (2019) insighted into the variability of doctrinal interpretations resonates powerfully. The spectrum of interpretations, including conservative readings of religious texts, can inadvertently contribute to and sustain gender disparities. Ntoimo et. al. (2022) emphasis on the societal impact of gendered religious beliefs is pivotal. These beliefs are not confined to theoretical or doctrinal realms; they permeate attitudes and behaviours. These channels exert a tangible influence

on the overall status and well-being of women in Nigeria. This impact ripples through various facets of life, from educational opportunities to economic participation, from political engagement to family roles.

Analysis and Discussion

Examining gender relations in Nigeria reveals a complex landscape influenced by a myriad of factors. Cultural, religious, and doctrinal teachings intersect, defining gender roles. Christianity, Islam, and indigenous belief systems all play roles in shaping these dynamics. The deeply entrenched nature of gender inequality in Nigeria, rooted in religion and culture, poses a formidable challenge. Global calls for gender equality clash with longstanding doctrinal teachings, reinforcing existing norms. Addressing this issue requires engaging religious and cultural institutions, fostering mutual understanding and advocating for balanced gender roles. Critical engagement with cultural and religious factors is pivotal for advancing gender equity and social inclusion within Nigerian society.

Strategies for Promoting Gender Equity in Religious Contexts

The pursuit of gender equity within Nigerian religious contexts has been spearheaded by a diverse coalition of scholars, activists, and religious leaders. These strategies hold profound implications for inclusivity and social integration:

- 1. Fostering Women's Leadership:** Gillard and Okonjo-Iweala (2022) emphasised on enabling women to assume leadership roles within religious institutions signifies a transformative shift. This strategy transcends conventional gender boundaries, encouraging the appointment of women as clergy, scholars, and decision-makers. Such representation not only provides role models but also challenges existing hierarchies.
- 2. Interfaith Dialogue and Collaboration:** Olajubu (2012) opined recognition of interfaith dialogue as a catalyst for reshaping gender norms reflects a bridge-building approach. By bringing together diverse religious traditions, this strategy creates an environment for mutual learning and re-evaluation of established gender dynamics. It fosters an atmosphere of shared understanding and cooperation.

3. **Advocating for Gender-Inclusive Religious Practices:** Ahmed (2021) advocated for gender-inclusive practices within religious spaces is a call to action against discriminatory customs. By challenging established norms like gender-segregated prayer spaces, this strategy seeks to establish a more inclusive and egalitarian religious environment. It paves the way for a space where all individuals can worship without constraints.
4. **Promoting Intersectional Perspectives:** Makama (2013) emphasised on recognizing the inter-sectionality of gender with other social identities underscores the importance of inclusivity. This approach acknowledges that experiences of gender are intricately linked with factors like race, class and sexuality. Addressing this complexity, efforts towards gender equity become more comprehensive and reflective of diverse realities.

These strategies represent a transformative force in the pursuit of gender equity within religious contexts. These challenges existing norms and practices, offering a vision of a more inclusive and equitable religious landscape. Through their implementation, a more just and balanced religious environment can be fostered in Nigeria, offering a beacon of hope for future generations. This section of the research article provides concrete and actionable insights for promoting gender equity within religious contexts.

6. Implications for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

Achieving gender equity in Nigeria requires more than policy changes; it demands engaging religious and cultural influences. This means fostering mutual understanding, fair gender roles, and reducing chauvinism. Seminars, conferences, and symposia can serve as platforms for this interaction. Critical engagement with cultural and religious factors is pivotal for advancing gender equity and social inclusion within Nigerian society. Ahmed (2021), posited that critical engagement with Islamic texts and traditions is essential for advocating for women's rights and challenging patriarchal interpretations. This process enables the re-evaluation and reformulation of gender roles within Islam. Olajubu (2012), stressed the importance of critically examining the intersections of gender, culture, and religion in African contexts. According to this scholar, such critical engagement allows for the identification of oppressive norms and the promotion of more inclusive and equitable practices.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, it is very obvious that cultural and religious factors could define gender roles in Nigeria. Doctrinal interpretation across religions could have affected gender equity in the country. These factors and influences may have affected complexes of female gender in politics, education, economic participation, family structure and so on. Dialogue in this topic should continue in many forums to address gender dynamics and influences. In addition, the following are recommended:

1. **Discourage Gender Biases in Doctrines:** Strive to discourage doctrines labelling women as inferior, and promote recognition of complementary gender roles. Begin by incorporating gender-sensitive content in foundational education.
2. **Education Reform:** Revise curricula to challenge stereotypes and highlight women's contributions. Ensure equal access to education, addressing barriers like early marriage and resource limitations.
3. **Legal Reforms:** Enforce existing anti-discrimination laws and consider new legislation for added protection. Focus on legislation against harmful practices like female genital mutilation, child marriage, and forced early marriage.
4. **Economic Empowerment:** Establish programs supporting women entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, and financial aid. Enforce equal pay policies and combat workplace discrimination and barriers to advancement.
5. **Healthcare and Reproductive Rights:** Provide affordable and comprehensive reproductive healthcare services. Strengthen programs addressing gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices.
6. **Political Participation:** Implement affirmative action policies and provide support for women seeking political office. Foster an environment encouraging women's active involvement in politics.
7. **Media and Public Awareness:** Encourage diverse, non-stereotypical portrayals of women and men in media. Highlight women's achievements to reshape perceptions. Conduct awareness campaigns to promote gender equality.

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SOCIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE CHOICE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE

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Abstract

The study determined the influence of sociological parameters and gender differences in the choice of financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. Two research questions and two research hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The population for the study consist all the 5642 Senior Secondary one (SS1) students in all the 14 public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government area in the 2021/2022 academic year. Stratified random sampling technique was used to sample 399 SS1 students. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 30 students from each school from each clan in the Uyo Local Government Area. The researchers structured instrument titled Sociological Parameters and Gender Differences in the Choice of Financial Accounting (SPGDCFA) Questionnaire was developed and used to collect data for the study. The research instrument was face validated by the experts. In order to ensure the reliability of the instrument, a test re-test method was used. The Cronbach Alpha reliability test was used to determine the instrument and a reliability coefficient of 0.90 was obtained which made the instrument reliable for use. Out of 399 instruments administered 383 was properly filled and retrieved representing 96% rate of return. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation while the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected when the calculated p-value is greater than the critical p-value. It is accepted when the calculated p-value is less than the critical p-value. The study reveals that parents' occupation, financial status and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State. It was recommended among others that parents should ensure that they do not influence students' career choice because of their occupation.

Introduction

The secondary stage of education is the birth product of the education acquired at the primary level which qualifies an individual for entry into the post-secondary school level usually referred to as the higher education or tertiary level of education. According to the National Policy on Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria FRN (2014), it is the form of education children receive after primary education and before tertiary education. Based on National policies and guidelines on the regulation of educational practices, basic and organized planned curriculum contents are ranging from core subjects like Mathematics, English language, etc. Vocational elective to include Agriculture, Applied Electricity, Auto-Mechanics, Building Construction, Commerce, Computer Education, Electronics, Clotting and Textiles, Food And Nutrition Home Management, Metal Work, Technical Drawing, Wood Work, Shorthand, Typewriting, Fire Art, Music, Book-Keeping and Financial Accounting which is the only subject this study is delimited to.

Financial Accounting as a discipline can be applied in all job specialties. For instance, secretaries apply financial accounting skills to manage the company's cheque book and orders; Auditors have to study financial statements to evaluate the accuracy and integrity of the business, and executive need to judge the success of their business using financial accounting statements from the previous and the present (Amesi *et al.*, 2021). Based on these areas of specialty, students of both gender are observed to be having diverse issues relating to their career choice of financial accounting as to whether it would permit them to practice without any setback that is linked to their gender.

Raburu (2014) observed that career guidance is widely accepted as a powerful and effective method of bridging the gap between education and the world of work. Therefore, the goal of career guidance and counseling is to allow the students to explore their options in life.

Sociological parameters could be important factors in determining genders' choice of financial accounting. Bollu-Steve and Sanni (2013) opined that the first interaction of a child within his/her environment is among the members of his/her family; the parents, siblings and relatives. Thus, a child is influenced by a number of family related variables such as parents financial status. Here, it is often observed that students whose parents' financial status is low tend to pay attention to the male children academically by ensuring that they opt for financial accounting subject by guiding them in choosing their career choice. The financial status of parents has positive or negative view in

relation to the choice of career of the child from which their career plans and decision making evolve (Eremie&Okwulehie, 2018).

As observed by Williams (2016) the choice of a particular field of study like financial accounting is dependent on the kind of occupation the parents are involved in. For instance, if the parents, either father or mother is an accountant and his/her job provide a comfortable lifestyle or great satisfaction, the children (either the male or female) may want to tilt into the profession over others. In contrast, if a child sees that the job engaged by any of the parents do not provide enough fulfilling time and higher paid roles, he/she may want to choose a career that is more suitable for the gender involved. Natalie (2016) explained that Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers, Accountants and Engineers are some of the occupations which may run in families as children take up the careers from their parents. For instance, students who have lived in a hospital environment may choose a career dealing with medicine. On the other hand, they may hate the hospital or medicine.

Statement of the Problem

The sociological parameters and gender differences such as parents' financial status and parents' occupation in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to some extent influences the students' choice of financial accounting in public secondary schools. It is observed that many secondary school students encounter a lot of problems relating to gender differences and the choice of career. This difficulty may arise from making choices in consonance with influences such as parents' financial status and parents' occupation. Students often time are faced with these problems rather than consulting the professional trained guidance counselors. Unfortunately, some secondary schools in Uyo Local Government Area do not have practicing guidance counselors. This study thus, reviews the influence of sociological parameters and gender differences in the choice of financial accounting in public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to determine the influence of sociological parameters and gender differences in the choice of financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study sought to determine;

- (i) The influence of parents' financial status on gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

- (ii) The influence of parents' occupation on gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwalbom State.

Research Questions

The following questions guided the study;

- (i) How does parents' occupation influence gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwalbom State?
- (ii) How does parents' financial status influence gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwalbom State?

Research hypotheses

- (i) There is no significant influence on parents occupation and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.
- (ii) There is no significant influence on parents financial status and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State

Sociological Parameters

The perspectives of conflict theory, contrary to the structured functionalist perspective, believes that society is full of vying social groups with different aspirations, different access to life chances and gain as well as different rewards. Many teachers assume that students will have particular middle class experiences at home and for some children, this assumption is not necessarily true. Some children are expected to help their parents after school and carry out considerable domestic responsibilities in their often single-parent home. The demands of this domestic labour often make it difficult for them to find time to do all their homework and this affects their academic performance and choice of career.

Gender

Gender stereotype, according to Makarova, Aeschlimann and Herzog (2016) refers to the conceptions commonly held by society that attribute a set of characteristics, skills and behaviour to men and women, indicating that what is masculine is feminine and vice versa Shelley (2011) in Akinlolu (2022)

explained that gender role stereotypes are institutionized when authorities and individuals in a society share a collective opinion concerning roles suited for men and women.

Parents Occupation and Gender Difference in Choice of Financial Accounting

Parents occupation refers to the kind of works performed in a job by the parents. The concept of occupation is defined as a set of jobs whose main tasks and duties are characterized by a high degree of similarity. A person may be associated with an occupation through the main job currently held. Williams (2016) also observed that the choice of a particular field of study like financial accounting is dependent on the kind of occupation the parents are involved in. For instance, if the parents, either father or mother is an accountant and his/her job provide a comfortable lifestyle or great satisfaction, the children (either the male or female) may want to tilt into the profession over others. In contrast, if a child sees that the job engaged by any of the parents do not provide enough fulfilling time and higher paid roles, he/she may want to choose a career that is more suitable for the gender involved. Natalie (2016) explained that Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers, Accountants and Engineers are some of the occupations which may run in families as children take up the careers from their parents.

Parents Financial Status and Gender Difference in Choice of Financial Accounting

Parents financial status refers to the socio-economic status of the parents that could help them cater for the needs and well-being of their children or wards. Bollu-Steve and Sanni (2013) opined that the first interaction of a child within his/her environment is among the members of his/her family; the parents, siblings and relatives. Thus, a child is influenced by a number of family related variables such as parents financial status. Here, it is often observed that students whose parents' financial status is low tend to pay attention to the male children academically by ensuring that they opt for financial accounting subject by guiding them in choosing their career choice. Eremie & Okwulehie (2018) asserted that the financial status of parents has positive or negative view in relation to the choice of career of the child from which their career plans and decision making evolve. This implies that how wealthy a parent is could influence the child's choice of financial accounting as a subject.

Related Literature

Amesi *et al.* (2021) investigated determinants for students' choice of accounting as a career in public secondary schools in Rivers South-East Senatorial District. Descriptive survey design was used. Population of the study was 2,789 SS II students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State offering accounting subject. Taro Yamen's formula was used to determine the sample size of 350 respondents using proportionate sampling technique. Data was collected using a self-structured questionnaire. Mean and standard deviation was used for answering research questions and t-test statistic to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Findings from the study showed that financial status of parents is a determining factor for students' choice of accounting as a career in public secondary schools in secondary schools in Rivers South-East. The study also revealed that gender influence is a determining factor for students' choice of accounting as a career in public secondary schools in Rivers South-East Senatorial District. Based on the findings, the study recommended among others that government and relevant agencies should embark on policies and programme that will create job opportunities and boost income level of individuals. This study is related to the present study in terms of variable, design of the study, instrumentation and method of data analysis. The study differs from the present study in area of the study.

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. Area of the study was Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The population for the study consisted of all the 5642 senior secondary one (SS1) students in all the 14 public secondary schools in Uyo Local Government area in the 2021/2022 academic year. Stratified random sampling technique was used to sample 399 SS1 students (using Taro Yamane formula). According to Uzoagulu (2011), using statistics to compute sample is more tolerable.

The researchers structured instrument titled Sociological Parameters and Gender Differences in the Choice of Financial Accounting (SPGDCFA) Questionnaire was developed and used to collect data for the study. The research instrument (SPGDCFA) was face Validated by three experts. In order to ensure the reliability of the instrument, a test re-test method was used. The Cronbach Alpha test method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument and a reliability coefficient of 0.90 was obtained which made the instrument reliable for use. Out of 399 instrument administered 383 was properly filled and retrieved representing 96% rate of return. The research

questions were answered using mean and standard deviation while independent t-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is rejected when the calculated p-value is greater than the critical p-value at 0.05 level of significance. It is accepted when the calculated p-value is less than the critical p-value.

Results

Research Question 1: How does parents' occupation influence gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State?

Table 1: Parents' Occupation and Gender Differences in Choice of Career (n=383)

S/N	Parents' Occupation	$\bar{X}$	SD
1	It is proper to seek for my parents' advice when taking career decision.	3.60	1.08
2	Tilting to my parents' occupation is necessary because they are my role models.	3.50	1.11
3	Parents' profession influence choice of accounting as a career	3.61	1.06
Cluster Mean		3.57	1.08

As shown in Table 1, all the items on influence of parents' occupation and gender differences on choice of financial accounting indicated a mean of 3.50 and above. On the overall, the Table showed a mean of 3.57. It can be inferred from the result that respondents agreed to parents' occupation and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State.

Research Question 2: How does parents' financial status influence gender differences in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State?

Table 2: Parents' Financial Status and Gender Differences in Choice of Career (n=383)

S/N	Parents' Financial Status	$\bar{X}$	SD
1	My parents encourage me to choose occupation based on their financial status	3.84	1.16
2	My parent's financial status does not influence my occupational choice.	3.54	1.08
3	My parents encourage me to make career choice regardless of their financial status.	3.62	1.12
Cluster Mean		3.66	1.12

As shown in Table 2, all the items on influence of parents' financial status and gender differences on choice of career indicated a mean above 3.50. On the overall, the Table showed a mean of 3.66. It can be inferred from the result that respondents agreed to financial status and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence on parents' occupation and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Table 3: Related t-test analysis of the influence of parents' occupation and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State

Variables	N	Mean	df	t-crit	P-value	Decision
Parent Occupation	383	3.83	382	44.913	0.00	S
Choice of Financial Accounting	383	2.95				

Source: Field Data (2023)

Table 3 shows related t-test analysis of influence of parents' occupation and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. The Table reveals that the p-value of 0.00 is less than the alpha level of 0.05 with degree of freedom of 382. This means that there is a significant influence of parents' occupation and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. The null hypothesis was, therefore rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant influence on parents' financial status and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Table 4: Related t-test analysis of the influence of parents' financial status and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State

Variables	N	Mean	df	t-crit	P-value	Decision
Parent Financial Status	383	3.55	382	20.744	0.00	S
Choice of Financial Accounting	383	2.95				

Source: Field Data (2023)

Table 4 shows related t-test analysis of influence of parents' financial status and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. The Table reveals that the p-value of 0.00 is less than the alpha level of 0.05 with degree of freedom of 382. This means that there is a significant influence of parents' financial status and gender difference in the choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary Schools in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. The null hypothesis was, therefore rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The Study Findings are discussed as follows:

Parents' Occupation and Gender Difference in the Choice of Financial Accounting

The finding of this study shows that parents' occupation and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Williams (2016) who observed that the choice of a particular field of study like financial accounting is dependent on the kind of occupation the parents are involved in.

Parents' Financial Status and Gender Difference in the Choice of Financial Accounting

The finding of this study shows that parents' financial status and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Amesi *et al.* (2021) whose study showed that financial status of parents is a determining factor for students' choice of

accounting as a career in public secondary schools. The study also revealed that gender influence is a determining factor for students' choice of accounting as a career in public secondary schools.

Conclusion

Sociological parameters could be important factors in determining genders choice of financial accounting among students in the secondary school. The secondary stage of education is the birth product of the education acquired at the primary level which qualifies an individual for entry into the post-secondary school level usually referred to as the higher education or tertiary level of education. Financial Accounting as a discipline can be applied in all job specialties. The study findings reveals that parents' occupation and financial status and gender differences influence students' choice of Financial Accounting in Public Secondary schools in Uyo Local Government, Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings it was recommended that:

1. Parents should ensure that they do not influence students' career choice because of their occupation.
2. Parents should try and ensure that students' do not choose a career because of their financial status but should encourage students to choose a career based on what they can do or study effectively.

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THE IMPACT OF GENDER STEREOTYPE IN THE UTILIZATION OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AMONG THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN UYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. Two research question and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The design for the study was a survey research design. The population of the study comprised all 3023 elderly people from 30 years old and above in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The sample size of 200 respondents was selected for the study. A researcher developed instruments titled "Gender Stereotype and Utilization of Preventive Health Care Services Questionnaire (GSUPHCSQ)" were used to generate data for this study. The reliability coefficient of the study was calculated using Spearman Brown and cronbach alpha reliability coefficient statistics and the reliability coefficient of $r = .73$ and $r = .80$ was obtained respectively which was deemed adequate for the study. Data collected were analyzed using mean, standard deviation and independent t- test statistics. The result obtained from the study shows that gender stereotype have significant impact on in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The result derive from the study further revealed that difference exists in the utilization of preventive health care services among male and female elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The researcher recommend that more study on the impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria should be conducted to determine the major causes. The study further recommend that more awareness should be created on the

importance of utilizing preventive health care services in preventing age-related chronic diseases.

Keywords: Gender stereotype, Preventive, health care services, utilization, elderly people, Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Introduction

The impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people for the prevention of diseases especially the age-related chronic diseases has raised a lot of controversial issues by the general public. It has been observed by the researchers that many elderly people in Uyo Local Government of Akwa Ibom State are not utilize preventive health care services as it is expected. Preventive healthcare is the application of healthcare measures to prevent diseases. Disease and disability are affected by environmental factors, genetic predisposition, disease agents, and lifestyle choices, and are dynamic processes which begin before individuals realize they are affected (Youni, 2018). This is why the utilization of preventive healthcare services is important because it will help in the detection of diseases in time. Disease prevention relies on anticipatory actions that can be categorized as primal, primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. According to World Health Organization (WHO, 2017), effective utilization of preventive health care services helps to detect diseases such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, unintentional injuries, diabetes, and certain infectious diseases in times and as well provide preventive measures. Utilization of preventive health care services are considered adequate when majority of the elderly people used the preventive health care services while preventive health care services said to be under-utilized when the proportion of those who used the services are not adequate.

Preventive health care for elderly involves screening for chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease, as well as immunizations against serious illnesses. It also involves education and counseling that can help people make positive lifestyle choices that has the potential to protect the overall health and well-being of the people. Preventive healthcare is especially important given the worldwide rise in prevalence of chronic diseases and deaths from these diseases (Wokodi, 2018). Preventive healthcare are effective in providing methods for prevention of disease. Preventive healthcare also play a pivotal role in recommending the elderly people to visit their doctor

for regular check-ups, even if they feel healthy, to perform disease screening, identify risk factors for disease, discuss tips for a healthy and balanced lifestyle, stay up to date with immunizations and boosters, and maintain a good relationship with a healthcare provider (Idungafa and Okon, 2021).

The quality of life and life expectancy of people are improved when preventive health care services are utilized because these identify treatable health problems and puts life-threatening diseases in check. It also help to reduce the rate of morbidity and mortality associated with age-related chronic disease among the elderly people (Ramino, 2018). Some common disease screenings include checking for hypertension (high blood pressure), hyperglycemia (high blood sugar, a risk factor for diabetes mellitus), hypercholesterolemia (high blood cholesterol), screening for colon cancer, depression, HIV and other common types of sexually transmitted disease such as chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea, mammography (to screen for breast cancer), colorectal cancer screening, a Pap test (to check for cervical cancer), and screening for osteoporosis (Caliba and Titman, 2018). Genetic testing can also be performed to screen for mutations that cause genetic disorders or predisposition to certain diseases such as breast or ovarian cancer. However, these measures are not affordable for every individual and the cost effectiveness of preventive healthcare is still a topic of debate(Frank, 2020). According to Filtiba (2017), preventive healthcare includes routine medical checkups, vaccinations, and screenings for conditions like cancerous disease, hypertension and diabetes. This helps to ensure the longevity of the elderly people in the society.

Utilization of health care is rising all over the world over the past decades. As the populations age, there is increase in health care utilization which helps to prevents people from disease that is about to manifest. Globally, recent projections show that aging as well as gender is the greatest driver of health care utilization because factors such as advancement in medicine, improved nutrition, control of infectious diseases has led to the decrease of death rate of persons advanced in years (Wokodi, 2018). Under-utilization of preventive health care services has led to an increase in morbidities and mortalities associated with chronic disease. High mortality rates of occurred as a result of delay in health care use and this increase is the negative impacts of reduced health care utilization, especially in cases of chronic diseases. Currently, less than 30% of populations in Akwa Ibom utilize preventive health care services even when the services are free.

Preventive health encompasses a set of health services meant to screen and possibly identify health issues before symptoms (Ranimu, 2018). Preventive health is key to helping elderly stay healthy and detecting health problems early on, before they cause other issues or become more difficult to treat. This health care encompasses a set of health services meant to screen and possibly identify health issues before symptoms develops(Frank, 2020). Preventive healthcare can help people utilizing it to live a longer and healthier life. Adult preventive healthcare typically includes screenings for conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, as well as counseling for smoking cessation and balanced eating habits. It is a key to helping elderly people stay healthy and detecting health problems early on, before they cause other issues or become more difficult to treat. According to Bernard (2020), preventive health has to do routine care that people receive in order to maintain their health. It play a strong key role to diagnosing medical conditions before they become a problem. Preventing serious diseases before they happen is one of the most important things you can do to protect your health. Unfortunately, uptake isn't nearly as robust as it needs to be. Youni (2018) found that only 8% of male elderly people in Akwa Ibom state who are 35 years and older received the preventive care recommended to them and 50% of female elderly people who are also 35 years and above received the preventive care recommended to them.

Effective utilization of preventive health care services among elderly people may be attributed to some factors. Many elderly people in low- and middle-income countries are unable to utilize health care because of socio-economic factors, cultural beliefs and practices, distance and most importantly problem of the health system itself such as availability, affordability and quality of care (Shauibu, 2019). Elderly people are affected by chronic diseases and under-utilization of preventive health care services will increase morbidity and mortality since most of these chronic diseases will not be identified and treated early. Many elderly people in many Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State have challenges that have led to under-utilization of health care and elderly people may not be an exception. The rich in the society utilize health care for preventive, curative, rehabilitative and maintenance purposes while the poor use health care for curative purposes and most of the health care and health care services utilized by the rich is rarely found in the rural communities. Utilization of preventive health care services by elderly people is important for preventing diseases, promoting good health and longevity.

Vaidya (2021) reported that women pay more attention than men in the process of their health care, and gender inequality have a negative impact on the health of women. According to Vaidya (2021), women tend to conduct self-evaluation than men, so women are more likely to use preventive medical services more frequently than men.

According to Park (2018), elderly women are believed to seek healthcare more often than men. For instance, elderly women utilize preventive care services more often, and women over 60 years of age utilize healthcare services more than men in the same age group. Rankilla (2019) reported that the utilization of preventive healthcare service by both male and female elderly people is attributed to their level of education. According to Rankilla (2019) both male and female elderly people with high level of education utilize preventive health care services equally. Tella (2019) also reported that high level of utilization of preventive health care service by both male and female elderly people is due to their level of education. Higher prevalence of chronic illness and reproductive health consultations (example, pregnancy, childbirth, contraceptives) were identified as causes driving the difference between genders in healthcare utilization. Higher rates of primary care visits may indicate greater willingness to seek help early on amongst females compared with males. There is some research suggesting that males underutilize preventive care, which could lead to greater costs later, such as for hospital and emergency care services. Thus, lower preventive health care services costs amongst males may reflect underutilization of preventive health care services by males, which could have knock-on impacts in other areas such as employment or productivity.

Based on this background, the present study investigated the impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study is to determine the impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. To determine the difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

2. To determine the difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Research questions

To guide the study, the following research questions were raised:

1. What is the difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.
2. What is the difference levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Research hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.
2. There is no significant difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Research Method

This study adopted survey research design. The population of the study consisted all 3023 elderly people from 25 years and above in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. A sample size of 200 elderly people from 30 years old and above was selected for the study from the target population using purposive sampling technique. The instruments titled Gender Stereotype and Utilization of Preventive Health Care Services (GSUPHS) were used to generate data for the study. The instruments were structured to cover all variables under study. The instruments was divided into two parts A and B. Part A sought information on personal data and the level of utilization of preventive health care services and part B contained items on dependent variable (utilization of preventive health care services). Respondents were expected to indicate by ticking (✓) the extent to which they agree or disagree with the items. Their responses will be measured by means of a four point rating scale as follows: Strongly Agree (SA) – 4 points, Agree (A) – 3 points, Disagree

(D) – 2 points, Strongly Disagree (SD) – 1 point. Face and content validity were adopted in this study. The reliability of the instrument was established using test-retest reliability statistics. Spearman Brown and Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient statistics was used to calculate the reliability of the study and the overall reliability of 0.73 and 0.80 which was deemed adequate for the study. The data obtained from the instrument were analyzed using mean and standard deviation while independent t-test statistics was employed to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance.

Results

The results of this study are presented based on research questions and hypotheses

Research Question 1: What is the difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of Difference in Gender Stereotype in the Utilization of Preventive Health Care Services among the elderly people

Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Male	75	40.65	12.37
Female	135	57.50	10.25

N=200

The result presented in Table 1 above shows that the mean scores of difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The mean of male elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services is 40.65 and the mean scores of female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services is 57.50 respectively. The Standard Deviation of male elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services is 12.37 while the Standard Deviation of female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services is 12.25. This signifies that difference exist in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What is the difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria?.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of the difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services

Gender		N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Male	High	40	25.35	60.00
	Low	35	15.30	6.37
	High	70	30.50	4.00
Female	Low	55	27.00	6.25

N=200

The data in Table 2 above shows that the mean score of the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. This shows that the mean scores of the male is (High = 25.35 and Low =15.30) with the standard deviation of 5.00 and 7. 37 respectively. On the other hand, the mean scores of female is (High = 30.50 and 27.00) with the standard deviation of 4.00 and 6.25. This shows that difference exists in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Research Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Table 3: Independent t-test Analysis of the Effects of Hypertension and diabetes on adult health among families

Female	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Df	t-crit	Decision
Male	75	40.65	12.37	5.60	198	1.96	SN
Female	135	57.50	10.35				

N-200, Significance at 0.05 alpha level

The result in Table 3 presents the test for hypothesis one which shows that the calculated t-value is 5.60 is greater than the critical value of 1.96 at 198 degrees of freedom and 0.05 level of significance, hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference in gender stereotype in the

utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Research Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Table 4: Independent t-test Analysis of the Difference in the Levels of Male and Female Elderly People in the Utilization of Preventive Healthcare Services.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Df	t-crit	Decision
Male	75	40.76	11.36	4.68	198	1.96	SN
Female	135	55.70	14.02				

N=200, Significance at 0.05 alpha level

The result presented in Table 4 present the test for hypothesis two which shows that the calculated t-value of 4.68 is greater than the critical value of 1.96 at 198 degrees of freedom and 0.05 alpha level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The finding of the study are discussed based on the specific purpose of the study.

Gender Stereotype and Utilization of Preventive Health Care Services

The result presented in Table 1 provides answer to research question and hypothesis one. The finding revealed that difference exist in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The corresponding hypothesis in Table 4 shows that there is a significant difference in gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people. This result may be due to the fact that gender is a strong determinant of the elderly people utilization of preventive healthcare services among the elderly people. This finding is in line with the earlier finding of David (2019) who found that majority of the population utilize health care when they are actually sick. According to Park (2018), elderly women are

believed to seek healthcare more often than men. For instance, elderly women utilize preventive care services more often, and women over 60 years of age utilize healthcare services more than men in the same age group. Brown (2020), who found that under-utilization of preventive health care services has led to an increase in morbidities and mortalities associated with chronic disease. This implies that the utilization of preventive healthcare services is gender based.

Levels of the Utilization of Preventive Healthcare Services among Male and Female Elderly People

The result presented in Table 2 provided answer to research question and hypothesis two. The finding revealed that difference exists in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The corresponding hypotheses in Table 4 indicated that there is a significant difference in the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. This result may be as a result that gender play a pivotal role in the utilization of the preventive healthcare services among the elderly people. This finding is in line with finding of Vaidya (2021), there is a significant high differences between males and females elderly people in health-seeking behaviour and utilization of preventive health care services. Park (2020) and Vaidya (2021) also found that men are less likely than women to visit their primary health care provider or to seek out preventative care like blood pressure checks and influenza vaccinations.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that; there is an established significant impact of gender stereotype in the utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. **This is because, it was revealed that;** difference exist in gender stereotype and the levels of male and female elderly people in the utilization of preventive healthcare services in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Recommendations

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

1. Government should empower health officials both financially and otherwise to create awareness on the importance of utilization of preventive health care services among the elderly people.
2. Seminars should be organized for the elderly people on the effects of not utilizing the preventive healthcare services.
3. Government should ensure that adequate facilities are provided to health centers to enhance fast and immediate treatments of diseases among the elderly people.
4. Effective awareness should also be created for people to know that preventive health care services are necessary measures to be undertaken by people to improve and protect their health and wellbeing
5. There is need to educate both young and old on the importance of utilizing preventive health care services. This will create awareness and knowledge of these preventive health care services

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GENDER ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP IN MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES IN SMALL SIZE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION IN UYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE.

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Abstract

The study investigated gender role and relationship in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom state. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The population of the study comprised all 1700 entrepreneurs in Uyo Local Government of Akwa Ibom State. The sample size of 200 entrepreneurs was selected for the study. The instrument titled Gender Role and Relationship in the Management of Small Size Business Organization (GRRMSSBO) questionnaire was used for data collections. The instrument was divided into two parts: A and B. Part A is the personal data section while Part B is the core items selection. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability method was used to calculate the coefficient of the instrument which gave the value of 0.87. The data collected from the instruments were analyzed using mean, standard deviation and analysis of variance using SPSS package version 20. The result obtained from the data analysis reveals that difference exists in gender role in the management of finances in small size business organization and there is a significant relationship in the management of finances among male and female entrepreneurs in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The study recommend among others that more study on gender role and relationship in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo local government Area of Akwa Ibom state should be conducted.

Keyword: Gender Role and Relationship, Management of Finances. Small Size Business Organization, Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Introduction

The development of small size business organization is an issue of high priority for the economic development of a nation and it can play a key role in the fight against poverty. Small size enterprises are enterprises that offer services,

manufactures and produces goods with minimal manpower with fewer machines. Like many other fortune companies or larger enterprises, small size enterprises create numerous employment opportunities, as such, it plays a vital role in the nation's economy and societal development. (Livingstone, 2020 and Okon, 2020). Some examples of the small size enterprises include paper, toothpicks, pens, bakeries, candles, native or local chocolates, water bottles, toys, beauty parlors, photography, leather belts, bags, and a lot more. Mostly, the Small Sizes enterprises are under single ownership and in rare cases, it comprises partnership deals. Primarily, this study focuses on the gender role and relationship in the management of finances in a small size business organization.

Effective financial management enables the small business organization the necessary flexibility to handle payroll, as well as meet any unexpected expenses. Financial management are practices that allow daily operating expenses in business to be met, but assets, such as accounts receivable that can be converted into cash at a later date, do not necessarily need cash on hold (Stephen, 2020; Brown and Ebuk, 2021). Successful financial management involves making realistic projections, closely supervising collections and disbursements, initiating effective billing/collection processes and following established budgetary constraints.

The primary goal in financial management in any business organization is to maximize profitability, while maintaining capital safety and liquidity. Despite the important of financial management in small size business organization, the growth of small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has been suspected to be poor. This poor growth of small size business organization has been link to improper financial management by the owners of small size business organization. According to Santami (2019), most small size business organizations are deficient in management of finance especially when it is owned by women. Okon (2020) reported that men who own small size business organization are more tactical in the management of finance than women. This implies that management of finance in small size business organization are controversial issues and gender based.

Gender is the fact of being male or female. Gender, according to Brownson (2019), is an analytic concept that describes sociological roles, cultural responsibilities and expectations of men and women in a given society or cultural setting. Ezeh (2020) described the personality traits, attitudes,

behaviours, values, relative powers, influence, roles and expectation that society ascribes to two sexes. The influence of gender on management of finances in small size business organization has remained controversial and topical issues among entrepreneurs and policy makers among others. Ezech further asserted that gender had significant effects in the management of small size organization and showed that male owners of small size business organization managed their businesses enterprises than their female counterparts. This is because male owners of small size business organization meet the necessity of small size business organization by adopting effective financial management strategies. Hence, these industries are the primary reason for social growth and development. Akpachafo (2018) also reported that male owner of business enterprises manage their business enterprises than their female counterparts. In addition, Owoyeni (2021) argued that financial management in a business organization as nothing to do with whether the owner of small size business is man or woman.

According to Livingstone (2020) male entrepreneurs are more logical thinkers and are able to manage their businesses than female entrepreneur. Female entrepreneurs are more intuitive thinkers. Women exhibit more social leadership styles that focus on communicative and expressive behaviours than their male counterpart while men tend to be more task oriented leaders (Garber, 2020). Men and women also may differ in the way they think regarding the business. Men tend to start their own companies in order to “be their own boss,” which is compatible with growing a business as large as possible (Talli, 2018 and Livingstone, 2020). Schuch (2019) reported that women generally start companies with the goal of integrating work and family, a goal that is more consistent with keeping the size of their companies smaller and more manageable. Schuch (2019) and Joeke (2019) also reported that women have less entrepreneurial experience than men especially when it comes to management of business enterprises.

Traditionally, the reproductive role of women has been widely emphasized and women were not thought to be breadwinners. The marginalization of women in economic activities is well documented. Moser (2019) argued that women perform three roles in society: reproductive, productive and community management roles. However, for a longtime only the reproductive role has been emphasized for women as home makers compared to the productive role which has been dominated by men. More recently, it has been recognized that women in rural areas are very much

engaged in the subsistence economy producing much of the household food requirements. There are several different strands of literature relevant to the study of how gender affects participation in entrepreneurship activities and economic development.

Based on this background, the main purpose of this study is to investigate the difference in gender role and relationship in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Research questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study

1. What is the difference in mean response of male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.
2. What is the relationship between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses are formulated at 0.05 level of significant to guide the study

1. There is no significant difference in mean response of male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.
2. There is no significant relationship between male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.

Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive research design. McCombes (2019), this design is a framework that includes the method and procedures to collect analyze and interprets data. The population of the study comprised all 1700 entrepreneurs in Uyo Local Government of Akwa Ibom State. The sample size of 200 entrepreneurs were randomly selected for the study. Instrumentation titled “Gender Role and Relationship in the Management of Small Size Business Organization” (GRRMSSBO) questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was divided into two parts: A and B. Part A is the personal data section while Part B is the items for the variables. The response

options used for the instrument are strongly agreed. (SA) Agreed (A) strongly disagreed (SD) disagreed (D).To administer the questionnaire to the respondents, two research assistants were briefed by the researcher before visiting the different small scale that were used as samples for the study. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability method was used to calculate the coefficient of the instrument which gave the value of 0.87. The data collected were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, independent t-test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis of using SPSS package version 20.

Results

The result of this study are presented based on research questions and hypotheses

Research Question 1: What is the difference in the mean response of male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of the difference in the mean response of male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area

Variables	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean Difference
Male	150	42. 15	11. 36	
Female	50	33. 46	14. 02	8. 69

N=200

Field Survey (2023)

The data presented in Table 1 above shows the difference in the mean response of male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The result shows that the mean scores of male entrepreneurs is 42. 15 and the mean score of female entrepreneurs is 33. 46. The standard deviation of male entrepreneurs is 11. 36 and standard deviation for female entrepreneurs is 14. 02 with mean difference of 8. 69. This prove that difference exists in male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Research Question 2: What is the relationship between male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State?

Table 2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship Between Male and Female Entrepreneur in the Management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Gender	Σx Σy	Σx^2 Σy^2	Σxy	r-cal	Decision
Male X	3543	59385			High positive relationship
			79617	0.91	
Female Y	3385	71727			

n=200
Source: Field Survey (2023)

The result presented in Table 2 above reveals that the correlation coefficient (r) is 0.91. This shows that high positive relationship exists between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Null Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in mean response of male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area

Table 3: Independent t-test analysis of the significant difference in mean response of male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Df	t-crit	Discussion
Male	150	45.66	10.46	9.74	198	1.96	SN
Female	50	33.46	12.25				

N=200, Significance at 0.05 alpha level.

The result presented in Table 3 shows the test for hypothesis one which revealed that the calculated t-value is 9.74 is greater than the critical value of 1.96 at 198 degrees of freedom and 0.05 level of significance, hence, the null

hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.

Research Hypotheses 2: There is no significant relationship between male and female entrepreneur in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.

Table 4: Correlation Analysis of the relationship between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Gender	Σx Σy	Σx^2 Σy^2	Σxy	r-cal	r-crit
Male X	3543	59385	49604	0. 91	0. 139*
Female Y	3385	71717			

n = 200, *Significant; $p < .05$; $df = 198$; critical r-value = 0. 139

The result presented in Table 4 reveals that calculated r-value of 0. 91 is greater than the critical r-value of 0. 139 at 198 degrees of freedom and .05 alpha level. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area.

Discussion of findings

The result presented in Table one indicated that difference exists in male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. This may be due to the fact the gender is a strong determinant of small size business organization. It has also been found that the role of male and female entrepreneurs in the management of their businesses assumed different dimension. The corresponding hypothesis in Table 3 revealed that there is a significant difference between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local

Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. This finding is in line with the earlier finding of Ezech (2020) asserted that gender had significant effects in the management of small size organization and showed that male owners of small size business organization managed their businesses enterprises than their female counterparts. This is because male owners of small size business organization meet the necessity of small size business organization by adopting effective financial management strategies. Hence, these industries are the primary reason for social growth and development.

The result presented in Table two indicated that high positive relationship exists between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The corresponding hypothesis in Table 4 shows that there is a significant relationship between male and female entrepreneurs in the management of finances in small size business organization in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Management of finances is very important in the business organization. Effective financial management enables the small business organization the necessary flexibility to handle payroll, as well as meet any unexpected expenses. Effective management of finances in a business organizational so allow funds to be converted from cash into interest-earning marketable securities, if they are being held for other than immediate transaction. This finding is in line with the earlier finding of Boss (2020) who found that there is a significant relationship in the management of finances in small scale business organization between male and female entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of the study, it is concluded that gender stereotype and concluded that significant influence in the management of farmers in small scale business organization in Uyo local government area, Akwa Ibom State

Recommendations

1. Effective financial management practices should be adopted by the small size business owner for effective management of finances
2. Government should organize seminar to small size business owners of the effective management of finances to enhance the growth of small size business enterprises.

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MEN'S ACCEPTABILITY OF THEIR WIFE WEARING TROUSER: A CASE STUDY OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN AKURE SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONDO STATE

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Abstract

Women in trousers are by-products of modern liberalism and civilisation which has become popular in Nigeria. The study was carried out among civil servants in Akure south local government, Ondo State, to determine mens reaction on their wife wearing trouser. A total of 240 respondents were selected using multistage random sampling techniques. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect information on socio-demographic characteristics of respondents while a 5-point Likert scale was used to determine men's acceptability of women in trousers. The data was analysed using percentage, mean, chi- square test and Pearsons' Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Religion, age, taste, economic status, and social status were used to identify the factors that influence men's acceptability. The result revealed that 36% of the men believed that religion affects their acceptability of their wife in trousers, while 64% had contrary opinion. Seventy seven percent (77%) of the respondent indicate that their age does not affect their acceptability while 23% of the respondents agreed that their age affect their acceptability of their wife in trousers. Sixty six (66%) agreed that their wife could wear trousers that are loose and do not expose their shapes and figures. The test of significant association shows that the age ($X^2 = 3.04$, $df = 12$, $P \leq 0.05$) of the men had significant association with their acceptability of their wife in trousers. There was no significant ($r = 0.19$; $P \leq 0.05$) relationship between income (economic status) and acceptability score of the men. The study concludes that civil servants favourably accept that their wife can wear trousers but showed concerns on wearing it decently.

Keywords - Trouser, Modern Liberalism, Civil Servant, Civilisation, Wife.

Introduction

Clothing in any culture is a means of communication it conveys non-verbal messages. Members of a society who share a given culture have learned to associate clothing to customary usage. Through this customary association, certain types of clothes become symbols of mood, social role, socio-economic status or political class. A society's culture, or traditions and way of life influence the clothing that its people wear. In Yoruba societies, religion and culture regulates personal behaviour and to a large extent how they dress. Trousers are not indigenous clothing or dressing item among the Yoruba's. It has been introduced through contacts with foreign and western cultures. It has since then gained widespread acceptance and in use across age groups and social status (Oyeronke, 2009). Yoruba dresses are known as a symbolic sign of wealth, religious affiliation, and social standing. Due to this, the clothing that is seen throughout the land differs with every person, age, religion, sex and social class. In a study carried out by Beoku, (2005), he stated that among the Yoruba, trousers are categorized as men's clothing. The society frowns at female adopting men's clothing style. However, because of cross cultural socialization, female have adopted trousers as a mode of dressing. It is a common knowledge that with respect to Yoruba culture in the the mode of dressing, a young woman wears *iro*, *buba* and *gele* while the young man puts on *buba*, *sokoto* and *fila*. The adoption of European mode of dressing was brought about in the pre-colonial days when women were placed on significant role which lead them to performing some active role in national development. They wear more of western dresses than traditional dress. However, these changes explore down to the lower class with the effect of imperialism, colonisation, and modernisation on their mode of dressing (oyeronke, 2009).

Statement of the Problem

Woman is probably the most important member of the family because she is the centre of the family. Her general welfare, especially her dressing and health is therefore a societal concern. Most time as dressing reflect one's personality and social inclination, dressing styles cut across culture and climes and the extent a dress style is affected by external influence is determined by level of interactions and general acceptance. The seeming neglect of native dresses by women and their preference for foreign trousers is considered as Eurocentric in areocentric philosophy. Men's psyche and assessments of female child in trousers portend a high level of cultural immodesty, vulgarity, lack of etiquette

and promiscuity which the Eurocentric thinking has been accused of promoting in the society. It is therefore, this aimed are elite men's perception is the wives wearing trousers.

Objective of the study

The broad objective of this study was to investigate men's acceptability of their wife wearing trousers in Akure south local government, Ondo State. The specific objectives were to

- 1) To identify the factors that influence men's acceptability of their wife in trousers,
- 2) To determine the various conditions and design exception that can influence men's acceptability of their wife in trousers.

Research Questions

The study seeks to provide answers to the following research questions.

- i) What are the factors that affect men's acceptability of their wife in trousers?
- ii) What are the conditions and design exception that can influence the acceptability of married women in trousers.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Akure south local government, Ondo state. Two State Ministries and two State Agencies were purposively selected; these were Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development with the population of Eighty five married men; Ministry of Youth and Sports with the population of one hundred and sixty married men; Ondo State Councils of Arts and Culture with the population of one hundred and forty five married men, and Ondo State Civil Service Commission with the population of two hundred and ten married men. These Ministries were purposively selected because it was assumed that they would give objectives response to the research instrument. The total population of the study was 600. A total sample size of 240 respondents was selected using the formula below

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Two hundred and forty (240) questionnaire were administered to respondents, however only two hundred (200) were retrieved. This is due to

various official and non-official engagements by the respondents. Questionnaire and photographs were used to collect the data. The photographs of married women in trousers were printed on the questionnaire to aid the objective responses of the respondents. The data collected was subjected to descriptive and inferential analysis using Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS).

Result

Table 1: Socio_ Economic characteristic of the Respondents (N= 200)

Description	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
Below 30 years	33	16.5	
31 – 40	82	41.0	
41 – 50	64	32.0	
51 - 60	21	10.0	38
Marital status			
Married	196	98.0	
Widower	4	2.0	NA
Educational status			
WASC	18	9.0	
HND	38	19.0	
B.SC	78	39.0	
M.SC	60	30.0	
PHD	6	3.0	NA
Type of living house			
Flat	130	65.0	
Duplex	12	6.0	
Bungalow	34	17.0	
Room & Parlour	12	6.0	
Single room	12	6.0	NA
Religion			
Christianity	168	84	
Muslim	28	14	
None	4	2.0	NA

Source: field Survey 2022

Table 1 shows the socio economics characteristic of men used in the study. According to the table, 41% of the men are within the age 30-40 years with the mean score (38). This implies that most of the respondents are young and still in their active age and would be able to give objective response of their perception on women wearing trouser; 84% of the men are Christians while

14% are Muslim and 2% do not indicate their religion; 98% of the men are married while 2% are widow. It can be argued that men used for this study have the image of their wives in view while responding to the questionnaire. However, their educational status reveals that 58% have First Degree B.Sc or HND, while 33% have higher degrees M.Sc or Ph.D. This implies that all the men used for this study are educated, and will likely have more knowledge of style and fashion, especially that they have passed through higher institutions of learning. As regards their residential apartments, 65% live in flat while 6% live in duplex. It can be argued that the respondents belong to the elite group in the 4society.

Table 2: Influence of Religion on Men Acceptability on their Wife Wearing Trousers

Area of use	Religion affects my acceptability on trousers	Religion doesn't affect my acceptability on trousers
1)Wearing of trousers at home	62 (31%)	138 (69%)
2)Wearing of trousers in the office	72 (36%)	128 (64%)
3) Wearing of trousers in social outing	72 (36%)	128 (64%)
4)Wearing of trousers in schools	76 (38%)	124 (62%)
5)Wearing of trousers to religion worship	80 (40%)	120 (60%)

Source: Field Survey, 2022

The result of the study in table 2 shows the effect of religion on the decision of men to allow their wives/women uses trousers. This indicates that 31% of the respondents believe religion affects their acceptability on wearing trousers at home. Also 36% stated that religion affects their acceptability on women wearing trousers to the office or market place. Sixty four percent (64%) of them believe that religion doesn't affect their acceptability of their wife in trousers to the office or market place. However 36% of the respondents state that religion affect their acceptability on their wife wearing trousers as social outfit while 64% of them indicate that religion doesn't affect their acceptability on their wife wearing trousers as social outfit. Also, 38% of the respondents believe that religion affects their acceptability on their wife wearing trousers to school while 62% indicate that religion doesn't affect their acceptability on

their wife wearing trousers to school, Lastly 40% of the respondents believe that religion affects their acceptability on their wife wearing trousers to the place of worship while 60% believes that religious does not affect their acceptability on wearing trousers to the place of worship. This shows that the religion of the respondent doesn't have effect on their acceptability of their wife in trousers, that is, women can wear trousers without being seen as irresponsible.

Table 3: Influence of Taste on Men Acceptability of their wife in Wearing Trousers

Trousers types and Use	Affect my acceptability	Doesn't affect my acceptability
1) My love for big hips	110 (55%)	90 (45%)
2) My love for jean trousers	104 (55%)	96 (48%)
3) My love for trousers suits	126 (63%)	74 (37%)

Source: *Field Survey, 2022*

The result of the study in Table 3 shows clearly the influence of taste on men acceptability of their wife in trousers. 55% of the respondent stated that they love women with big hips which affect their acceptability, while 45% are of the opinion that it doesn't affect their acceptability of women in trousers. About 55% of the respondent indicated that they prefer their wives in jean trousers which affect their acceptability while 45% stated that jean trousers don't affect their acceptability. Finally 63% of the respondents indicate that they love women trousers' suit while 37% indicates that trousers' suit doesn't affect their acceptability. This shows that most men like both jeans and trousers' suit.

Table 4: Influence of Age on Men's Acceptability on their Wife in Trouser

Age effect	Affect my acceptability	Doesn't affect my acceptability
1) My age	46 (23%)	154 (77%)
2) Only young girls should wear trousers	54 (27%)	146 (73%)
3) Older women in trousers	20 (10%)	180 (90%)

Source: *Field Survey, 2022*

The result of the study in Table 4 shows the influence of age on men's acceptability of their wife in trousers. Twenty three 23% of respondents are of the opinion that their age affects their acceptability on their wife in trousers while 77% stated that their age doesn't affect their acceptability. Also, 27% of the respondents oblige that only younger girls should wear trousers while 73% stated that younger girls wearing trousers doesn't affect their acceptability; lastly 90% of them indicate that age doesn't affect their acceptability of older women in trousers while 10% state that older women in trousers affects their acceptability. This implies that age factor has limited influence on the men's acceptability of their wife in trousers.

Table 5: Mean Acceptability of Men on their Wife Wearing Trousers

Acceptability	Mean Score	Std. Dev	Perception Categories
1. Only husbands can approve and disapprove their wife's use of trousers	4.25	1.129	High
2. There is nothing wrong with women wearing trousers	3.83	1.382	Medium
3. I like women wearing trousers especially my spouse	3.80	1.494	Medium
4. My wife can use trousers either as indoor or outdoor dressing.	3.71	1.427	Medium
5. Trousers can be used as a formal dress code	3.41	1.316	Medium
6. Trousers expose women figure which should only be seen by her husband	3.06	1.545	Medium
7. Use of trouser by women causes embarrassment to on lookers	- 3.03	1.515	Medium
8. My wife can only wear trousers as her casual wear	2.87	1.342	Low
9. Buba and Iro is the acceptable dress code for married women	2.76	1.547	Low
10. Illiterate women should not be allowed to wear trousers	2.45	1.556	Low
11. Women that use trouser cause sexual harassment			
12. Trouser usage among married women is a bad habit	2.34	1.561	Low
13. Women trouser is the same as men trouser	2.34	1.580	Low
	2.09	1.353	Low

Key: High 4.0-5.0, Medium 3.0-3.99, Low 3.0
Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 5 shows the Mean Item Scores (MIS), Standard Deviation (SD) and the acceptability Categories of the 13 statements that influence men's acceptability of women in trousers. The rating is on a 5-point Likert scale with strongly disagree (SD) coded as 1, disagree (D) as 2, unsure (U) as 3, agree (A) as 4 and strongly agree (SA) as 5. Mean item score (MIS) of 3.0 and above is taken as agreement to the acceptability statements while MIS of less than 3.0 is taken as disagreement to the acceptability statements.

For acceptability Statement 1 the MIS is 4.25 indicating that only husbands can approve or disapprove their wives use of trousers especially considering statement 6 which support the perception that trousers exposes

women figure; however statement 2 reflected that there is nothing wrong with their wife in trousers. This contradicts traditional beliefs of acceptable clothing for women. Consequently, it can be argued that the respondents embrace cross cultural dressing as a result of Western socialisation. However, the respondents disagree that the use of trousers by women causes sexual harassment.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of occasions for Allowing Wife to Wear Trousers

Occasions	Yes (%)	No (%)
Night gown	80 (40)	120 (60)
In the kitchen	170 (85)	30 (15)
Garden	162 (81)	38 (19)
Picnic	134 (67)	66 (33)
Sport	158 (79)	42 (21)
Dinner party	116 (58)	84 (42)
Office	104 (52)	96 (48)
market place	136 (68)	64 (32)

Source: Field Survey, 2022

The result of the study in Table 6 shows the occasions for which men would allow their wives to wear trousers. Forty percent (40%) of respondents would allow their wives to wear trouser as night gowns, in the kitchen 85%, in the garden 81%, to picnic 67%, for sports 79%, to dinner/birthday party 58%, to the office 52%, to the market place 68%. However, 60% would not allow trousers as night gown, 15% would not allow trousers in the kitchen, in the garden 19%, to picnic 33%, for sport 21%, to dinner party 42%, to the office 48%, and to the market 32%. This connotes that the type of activity influence men's acceptance of wearing trousers by their wives.

Table 7: Perception Distribution of Trouser Designs that their wife can wear

Design Exceptions	Yes (%)	No (%)
Trousers suit	162(81)	38(19)
Tight fitted trouser	62(31)	138(69)
Jean trouser	134(67)	66(33)
Loose fitted trouser	132(66)	68(34)
Designed with traditional Fabric (Ankara/batik)	110(55)	90 (45)

Source: Field Survey, 2022

The result of the study in Table 7 shows the percentage distribution of trousers designs that women can wear. Eighty one percent (81%) would allow their wives to wear trouser suits, tight fitted trousers (31%), jean trousers (67%) and loose fitted trousers (66%). however, 19% would not allow their wives to wear trousers suit, tight fitted(69%), jean trouser (33%), and loose fitted trousers(34%). This implies that most of the respondents like trousers that are worn moderately without revealing the figure of the women.

Table 8: Test of association between the age of men and their acceptability on women trousers

Age range	High acceptability	Low acceptability
< 30	25(12.5%)	8 (4%)
31-40	63(31.5%)	19(9.5%)
41-50	50 (25%)	14 (7%)
>50	14 (7%)	7(3.5%)

$X^2=3.04$; $df=12$; $p<0.05$

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The result of the study in table 8 shows the X^2 (chi-square) test for the association between the age of men and their acceptability on women trousers reveal that there is a significant association ($p < 0.05$) between the age of men and their acceptability on married women wearing trousers, which means their age has a significant association with their acceptability.

Conclusion

It can then be concluded that men that are opposed to the use of trousers by women have taken religion and culture as the basis for their actions. (Oyeronke, 2009) revealed that most women who wear trousers see their choice of dressing as purely their right and as such, any contrary view is a violation of their right to choose. The subject of women wearing trousers is popular in religious circles but it shows the level of ignorance in many places. Although foreign culture should not drive out our cultural belief of the need for a woman to be conservative in her dressing. Locally made fabrics like *Ankara*, *Adire* can be sewn into different trousers styles. This is in line with Beoku (2005) who believes that women's adoption of trousers is functional because it is more comfortable than skirts; different material can be sewn to trousers styles to suit individuals tastes, beliefs, values and tradition.

Therefore, the study recommended that

1. The fashion industry and the trousers style designers should design locally available fabric like *Ankara (printed fabric)*, tie-dye/batik, traditionally woven fabric, brocade and other locally produced fabrics to different trousers styles to promote cross cultural dressing. Different materials can be sewn into trousers to suit individual's taste.
2. The result obtained from this study needs to draw attention of fashion communicators and fashion journalists to the need of organizing seminars for both married men and women, Emphasis should be placed on the position that nothing is wrong when women wear trousers, they are expected to be modest and decent in their dressing.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ORON PROVERBS USAGE BY THE INDIGENOUS MALE GENDER PREACHERS OF THE MOUNT ZION MISSION INCORPORATED IN ORON LAND, AKWA IBOM STATE

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Abstract

One of the untapped strategies of evangelization in Oron is the use of proverbs. This is so because among Oron people proverbs are regarded as the palm oil in which the wise and elders use to enlighten the young and unformed. The Mount Zion Mission Incorporated's Indigenous Male Gender Preachers like every other church's indigenous preacher treasured the used of proverbs especially those proverbs with religious inclination in sermons and all other religious gathering. The relevance of those proverbs is to educates, instructs and corrects immoral acts of the people is practically not known of by the congregation especially the youths. The primary aim is to restore the lost value of Oron traditions and values through proverbs as there shall be a collection of religious and moral proverbs often used by the church's male gender indigenous preachers. The research made use of descriptive analytical method. Through the use of this method, the research reveals that, proverbs generally called Ndok in Oron is often used by the church's indigenous male gender preacher. The study also revealed that, the proverbs often used by the preachers in church are of philosophy and wise saying that corrects people ways of lives. The research also discovered that, those proverbs often used by the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated's Indigenous Male Gender Preachers were never documented nor published in any form and only few of the church's members could know how importance are traditional proverbs in sermons and religious gathering. The study therefore recommended that no language shall be allowed to die by encouraging proverbs usage by male gender indigenous preachers since language provides a very useful insight into people's history and culture. The paper also recommended that, since language is important to the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated's indigenous male gender preachers as it really educates the congregation provision should be made for interpreters for easy assimilation. The paper concludes that Moral lesson is a kind of lesson that seeks to inculcate in someone some moral principles. The breakdown of

law and order in our society could be attributed to a breakdown in moral education. Therefore, the continuous usage of the proverbs by the male gender indigenous preachers helps to ameliorate this crisis.

Keywords: Proverbs, Moral Lesson, Moral Education, Indegenous.

Introduction

In Africa generally, proverbs are of immense value in an oral discourse and more especially in some African indigenous societies where written communication is still rare. The need for the speaker to present issues persuasively informs the use of proverbs. Of the varied oral literary form, proverb is the form which has proven to be of great enduring relevance to the modern man. It has been and remains the most powerful and effective instrument for the transmission of culture, social morality, manners and ideas of people from one generation to another (Ekenene, 2016). The reason behind the efficacy of proverb is that, it is an aphorism, a wise saying, based upon people's experiences and is a reflection of the social values and sensibility of the people. The value of proverbs as an instrument of culture transmission is traced to the fact that proverbs are based on the people's experiences which reflect their social values and sensibility (Yakubu, 2010). A collection of the Moral and Religious Proverbs of the Oron people often used by the Indigenous Male Gender Preachers of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated is the case of reemphasizing the relevance of proverbs to the congregation especially the youths who must have lost out due to civilization. It is also one of the ways of exposing ethnography of the people which systematically gives a penetrating picture of the people's way of life, their philosophy, and their criticism of life, moral truth and social value. The unnoticed relevance of Oro proverbs by the 21 century of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporation congregation especially the Youths of the church engineered this research as the research seeks to expose the richness of the proverbs. In doing this, the research make use of descriptive analytical method and findings are of great relevance to the church historians, the local church and the public. It is also an established fact in the research that the use of Proverbs by Indigenous Male Gender Preachers of the Church is effective means for removing doubts and difficulties in communication.

Conceptual Clarification

Oro

Donatus Ukpong (2014) stated that Oron people comprising of the Idua, Okobo, Efiat-Mbo, Ebughu, Enwang and Oron Ukpabang groups, inhabit the western bank of the estuary of the Cross River. It is said to share boundaries with the Etebi and Ubium in the Eket region and the Uruan groups of *Ibibio* in the Uyo region. Itong (2019) traced Oro traditional societal politic to a well formidable socio-cultural group called the Oron Union founded in 1925, the Oron people became one of the most formidable and vocal groups in the South-South region of Nigeria, hence one of the three political forces in the present day Akwa Ibom State. Itong (2019), further stated that, Oron became a Division in August 1970 and in 1976, was made a local government area. However, following the local government creation exercise of the federal government in 1989, Oron was split into 3 Local Government Areas of Mbo, Oron and Okobo. Again, in September 1991, Urue Offong/Oruko Local Area was carved out of Oron Local Government Area. Finally, in December 1996, Udung Uko Local Government Area was further carved out Oron.

Historical Background of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated in Oro Nation

Schism is a reoccurring phenomenon in church history; from the time of the reformers like Martin Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin to the 21st century, the church has been witnessing division. Equally, the Indigenous African Churches are not far from these realities. Therefore, the African instituted church known as the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated is a by-product of the schism. Amana (2018) had this to say:

The Christian organization known and called the Mount Zion Mission, operating for the promulgation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ among all tribes and nations, regardless of colour and tongue is a non-sectarian body founded and established in the year 1946 at Oron, Uyo Province, Eastern Nigeria. It came into being after some misunderstanding among our former leaders in the Apostolic Church.

As peculiar with other schisms in church history, the reasons for the division and further establishment of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated border on dissatisfaction of some members with doctrinal emphasis, deprivation of basic needs as well as discomfort with the ecclesiastical leadership style or what is frequently referred to as “church politics”. Amana (2018) maintained that: The birth of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated is not farfetched; its origin is vividly traced to the Apostolic Church Nigeria. It is believed that Late Bishop Joshua Uloh Edumoh who lived from 1905 to 1991 was pastoring with The Apostolic Church Nigeria. In 1945, he was affected in a downsizing exercise carried out in the church to reduce number of ministers so that one minister can take care of many assemblies to boost their remunerations.

Amana (2018) cited that some churches neglected the operations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and went secular than a spiritual church. This articulation coincides with the assertion of Ayegboyin *et al* (2013) who maintains that “some African prophetic leaders seceded from the mainline churches because of what they perceived to be the failures of ministers in the established churches to live up to the call of the Bible and the alienation of the church hierarchy from the spiritual needs of the common people”.

The Doctrine of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated means something taught, teachings, instructions; the principles of religion that are taught or more literally, to teach the substance' (Ekenene, 2021). The Mount Zion Mission Inc just like other Zionist church teaches or places emphasis “on the work of the Holy Spirit with particular references to various forms of revelation and healing, re-interpreted in terms of felt needs of the local church. The doctrinal emphases of the Mount Zion Mission Inc are documented in the constitution of the church, and it is preached to the members and the world. Members of the Mount Zion Mission strongly affirm their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in such distinctive principles as: the bible, God, Jesus Christ, the holy spirit, man as creation of God, the fall of man, Redemption, Judgement, church, heaven, hell, divine healing, baptism, the lord's supper, tithing and offering.

Formation of Male Gender Preachers in the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated

It is importance to know that, is only male Gender that is given attention to be ordained as Pastors of the Church. And the first step to take in becoming a

pastor is assessing one's heart with God, your relationship with God needs to be recommendable. The person who wants to be a pastor must be strong in faith and most importantly love God. The indigenous preachers undergo all these and at last get enrolled in the Bible College of the Church or any other Bible Schools. While in Bible School, he gets involved in the activities of the local church. The steps which are involved ranging from training, licensing and ordination. The person after ordination is posted to a local church being supervised by the senior pastor in the district. The ministers in the church include; the bishop and his assistant who have oversight functions. The Rev. Ministers who have spiritual functions as assigned to them by the bishop, ordain pastors who devote their time wholly to teaching the local church the word of God as found in the Bible. Supervise pastors on probation who are assistants to and understudying ordained pastors for a minimum period of three (3) years and the evangelists whose duty is to go on team work of preaching the gospel all the days of their lives.

Proverbs

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of current English, proverbs are popular short saying, with words of advice or warning example waste not, want not. For Finnegan "Proverbs are generally marked by terseness of expression, by a form different from that of ordinary speech and by a figurative mode of expression" Ekenene (2016). The author further added that: "Proverbs are often tactually introduced into speeches at the critical moment, thus influencing the actual decisions finally arrived at (Ekenene, 2016). The choice of documenting Orɔ proverbs stems from the fact that Orɔ proverbs, like other languages are used to express thoughts, ideas, and concepts that are functional and universal in content. It is an indisputable way through which Orɔ people generate thought and ideas similar to those of other languages. Proverbs are universal in nature, but with some sight or minor differences which can be accounted for by some sociological factors like the circumstances of rendition and the skills of the artist. It is likened to beads used to adorn the body of a young maiden in Orɔ culture. In other words, proverbs beautify the language. They express wisdom distilled from the user's cosmological outlook. Proverbs are used in almost every situation of language, namely, in conflict resolution, in marriage, at home, in the market place, among others.

The exact definition of proverbs may not be given, but there are some

general agreements, as to what constitute a proverb. It is marked by 'shortness, sense and salt' and can be distinguished by the popular acceptance of the truth tersely expressed (Akinbiyi, 2010). Others see it as 'a piece of folk wisdom expressed with terseness and charm (Isidore, 2010) One thing that is common in all the definitions is terseness. Various definitions of the word 'proverb' echo the value of proverb in communication. When they are used as torches in darkness, they brighten the pathway. When used to adorn speech, they beautify speech, and of course when used to sweeten speech. There are seen as pits from which you may extract salt and sprinkle it whenever you will (Austin, 2010). According to Nwogu in "Ogbalu and Emenanjo" cited in Ekenene, G. (2021) Proverbs is a terse statement which figuratively gives an expression to the point of traditional wisdom relevant to a given situation. "Language and Economic Austin (2010), points out that:

Proverbs are not only body of short statements built up over the years and which reflect the thought and insight of Ghanaians into the proverbs of life, but also a technique of verbal expression which is greatly appreciated by the Ghanaians.

According to Yusuf in "The Dialectics of Culture and Development", proverbs are said to be regarded on a universal basis as short, repeated, witty statements based on experience and which have social functions (Udu Yakubu, n.d). (2010): Proverbs is a universal phenomenon which refers to all pithy expressions that feature in conversations. They are rich, succinct forms of expression which contain folk wisdom. They contain rich imagery with striking, allusive and figurative qualities. Whether they are long or short, they are utterances of moral precepts within any given society and contain truths, which often are unquestionable. This quality of indisputable truth accords proverbs the status of a reliable and authoritative source of knowledge.

Although proverbs are universal phenomenon, the proverbs of a society must bear relevance of the society. Thus the African proverbs must express the African beliefs and experiences. Within this umbrella, the sub-groups have their beliefs and values reflected in their proverbs. In this light, Nigerian, Ghanaian or Cameroonian proverbs would be based on their aspirations and views about life. Similarly, the Oro people have their own proverbs embedded in their values and culture.

Sources of Proverbs

The term for proverbs in Oro is *Ndok*. It is an embodiment of all forms of verbal expression that have more than one meaning. It includes utterances that reflect the people's experiences and intelligence. Oral narratives like folktales, idioms, riddles and other wise saying are generally referred to as *Ndok* in Oro. However, the distinctions can be marked out in usage. Proverbs are notably drawn from three major sources. These sources include folktale, human experiences and daily observations of the happenings in our natural environment (Ekenene, 2016). The raw material for the proverb is the oral tradition of the people. As a piece of folk wisdom which is adapted from close and systematic observation of the flora and fauna of the society, the proverbs of a society reflect those things that are to be found commonly in the community. For example, the Oron proverbs, “Áyák Ùdim Ọrọ Ọkíd K'onyì Utata-O” (the fishes in Oro stream can only be seen and admired with the eyes, but not eaten).

The second source of proverbs according to Ekenene is from comments on actual historical experience. An example of this is taken from a proverbial advice expressed by the Messai of Kenya “Murua naga Mimanya”, which mean “stay uninhabited” this is said to be used by the Messai of Kenya in remembrance of when they were the *Lords of African*, but now trampled underfoot by the very people they had once ruled (Ekenene, 2016). From the foregoing, it is clear that proverbs are indispensable in speech. It is applicable in all fact of human endeavour in law, education, marriage, in religious practices, in business etc. It is the source of wisdom to the elderly and the young ones.

Functions and Occasion of Proverbs

Different situations determine the proverbs to be said. For proverbs to function best as a medium of communication, certain basic things have to be closely looked into. As a medium of communication, proverbs will be functioning as a teaching-learning device, which helps in no small way to influence knowledge making it a cultural tool in education. In this case, the teacher will be an elderly person with some wealth of knowledge and experience in remembering proverbs serve as an acceptable way of explaining natural phenomena to the younger ones. Those who are skilled in proverbs used it to carry on their business, political and social functions. In most cases, proverbs are veritable tools used in rearing the young ones, disciplining and preserving the culture. Through the used of proverbs one will be able to show or indicate force and

resourcefulness of character, a person with a strong mind can manipulate the repertory of proverbs to his own advantage or disadvantage as the case may be. According to Hall, “Proverbs contain the greatest educational impact, and African societies seem to gain from the major moral and ethical structures (Ekpo, 2016).

Commenting on this ideas, literal meaning of a proverb is not relatively important but providing and building vocabulary of a language by also enlightening the user and strangers on the works that can be replaced by a particular proverb.

Type of Proverbs Commonly used by the Indigenous Male Gender Preachers of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated

The riches of Q̣ṛo proverbs are so vast that they spread across all facets of human endeavour. The application of proverbs in Q̣ṛo cuts across formal speeches, ceremonies, incantations, rituals, tradition and culture. It also spreads its tentacles into professionalism common to the Q̣ṛo people. There are proverbs that are embedded in the Q̣ṛo culture, proverbs related to marriage, then proverbs that teach moral values in the Q̣ṛo society and other that relate to the economic life of the people. There are also proverbs of mediation and many others. For the purpose of this research, Proverbs of moral values and religious context shall be given preference.

Proverbs of Moral Values

Moral lesson is a kind of lesson that seeks to inculcate in someone some moral principles. The breakdown of law and order in our society could be attributed to a breakdown in moral education. The Q̣ṛon people have over the years been very moral and as such would want to pass these subsequent generations. One basic way of inculcating this to the people, especially the youths could be through the use of appropriate proverbs as is often used by the indigenous male gender preachers of the church.

No	Oron Proverbs	English Meanings	Moral Usage
1	Ètì Ọkòdòghò Ọyò Ọkù Ódighi ùkpé éliék alá Ọsé Literal translation (father says, child that, match foot turn stand look)	The father instructed the child to always look back at his footsteps	The morality of this proverb implies that, a child should be watchful of the steps he/she makes in life (it call for self admonition)
2	idán Ómosi k'ùbòk ñsán àwàrà idiwùr o'nwì Ọké Literal translation (arrow from, in hand friend fast kill person fast)	The arrow from a friend's bow is the deadliest	This proverb calls for people to be careful for their friends knows their weakness and strength. He/she knows every secret about them, therefore it is easy for their enemies to get them through his/her. (it portray evil nature of betrayal)
3	Fúr mí sù imàḡku, úbúghúr énrí mbóñmbón Literal translation (create me like other, head not equal)	Create me like the other person, but the head is not the same	The Oron people believe in themselves and not measuring oneself with friends. They believe in challenges, commitment and honesty even if it calls for their lust drop of blood therefore this call people to avoid unnecessary competition they may land one into many problems.
4	Ùnùñó Ụkọ Ọtu ndók Ọkúr éké Ódóghó Oyo ékéi Literal translation (bird inside bush said proverb that mother telling relatives)	The bird in the bush says let the children adhere to the mother's advice.	This proverb calls for respect and people should avoid disregarding of personalities.
5	Ótiré Ụtòñ Ụnì àkà kèi ñkpó k'ùsì èfèrè Literal translation (stubborn ear hen, will listen, thing in pot soup)	A stubborn chicken (learns) in the pot of soup	This proverb is used for checks and balances, in (marital homes), couples are expected to listen to advises from each other and people should avoid disobedient and stubbornness which may usually leads to problems.
6	Ólíp Ụnà ítà àkàtà mà itāñ Literal translation (hide, animal chew, is chewing with fur)	The person who eats meat secretly will eat it with the fur	This proverb calls for people not to be too secret in life especially when it has to do with sickness that can lead to death.
7	Áfāk ñkpó ibi à àkápà ànà k'ádàì Ọwò ndisimè Literal translation (knowing, thing, much, die, back yard, fool)	He who claims to be too wise will always die at the backyard of a fool	The proverb calls for people not to be an island for there is a need to share knowledge together that will be of benefit to both parties.

8	Èdighè ñs àn Ófó Ókè ùdiók Oyo èkè Literal translation (good friend, better than bad relatives)	A good friends is better than a bad brother	This proverb implies that, there are friends who are worthy to be trusted, dependable and reliable than bad brother.
9	Ónwí Ónù nkpó ndèk Literal translation (person is thing, dread)	Human beings are dreadful beings	This proverb expresses disappointment and there is a need for someone to be careful with human beings.
10	Mkpe èkè ùni èkèwù Óyó-Ó Literal translation (foot, mother, hen, not kill chicks)	The trampling of the mother chicken does not kill the chicks	This proverb implies that, the discipline of a child by the mother cannot kill the child. The use of cane to discipline a child is still recommended, at least in the early stages of a child's life.
No	Oron Proverbs	English Meanings	Moral Usage
1	Ābāsi Nēmeyēmè Nkpó Ènè Onwí-O Literal Translation (God, approval thing do person)	If God does not give approval, no harm can come on anybody	This proverb implies the level of faith that Oron people have in God, truly, if God has not given the approval, nobody can be harmed.
2	Ūfèn Ābāsi èkā ikpè-ó Literal translation (Suffering God not with cain)	The judgment of God does not come with cain	This proverb serve as warning against God's judgment therefore people should avoid evil deed that the mills of the Lord grinds slowly, yet it will be fulfilled.
3	Āyā k'èliè, Ābāsi ku'Osèsè Literal translation (wicked man eating God watching)	The strong man is eating and God is looking	This proverb call people who think he/she is indispensable, powerful to realize that God is watching and that God does not only watch to keep record of people's wickedness, but to determine when the time of no mercy shall be accomplished.
4	Ābāsi Óf ú mbè Óf ú úliā Ūkpè Literal translation (God create mud create washer mud)	When God creates mud, he also creates water	This proverb draw the attention of every human beings telling them that, God has plans for everybody irrespective of ethnic group or family background.

Source: Adopted from Ekenene (2016)

The above few proverbs hold to the concept of morality which is like a code of conduct in Oro nation, they believe that the society can be influenced positively if the moral principles of each community is being passed on from generation to generation. They uphold the norms and ethics of the society and also expect that the youths will protect and pass on same. This desire is evident in their proverb used in number 3 of the above table “*fu mi su ada ubughu enu mbonmbon*” (create me like other person, but the head is not the same) the people according to this proverb, frown seriously at unnecessary competition wanting to be like others can lead one into many problems.

Proverbs in Religion and Religious Contexts

Religion traditionally played a crucial and pervasive role in Oron society by commenting relation between the various Oron groups before the advent of Christianity. All activities in Oron society, be it hunting, farming, fishing, social relation and even recreation are governed by religious laws and taboos. Through which the traditional Oron man, like elsewhere in Africa tried to locate himself in the universe around his environment, to involve code of behaviour between him and the spiritual and natural environment. Through rituals and taboos, he tried to regulate and control man's exploitation of the resources around (Itong, 2019). Like her neighbours the aspect of worship of the Oron people culminates in the great Omnipotent and all powerful God, called (God of heaven). He is the creator and judge of all men. He rewards all goods and punishes all evil and manifest himself daily among his people. This belief in and worship of the supreme being is a strong concept of Oron traditional religion.

This research discovered that, indigenous male gender preachers of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated use proverbs of religious context to speak of supremacy of God and also pass on importance teachings by the use of proverbs. These are proverbs often used by the indigenous male gender preachers of the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated

First and second examples of Oron's proverbs used in the religious' context in the above table are a warning against God's judgment. This serves as a reminder to those that are the judgment of God. Of a truth, the mill of the Lord grinds slowly, yet it will be fulfilled. God's punishment is far different from man's way of doing things. While he waits patiently for the wicked man to forsake his way and the unrighteous his thought, the guilty will one day be rewarded appropriately. Still on the judgment or visitation of God's anger, the

Oron people are concerned that the silence of the Lord is not because He is in support of the wicked, but because He is a merciful God.

The Importance of Oron Proverbs Usage by the Indigenous Male Gender Preachers of Mount Zion Mission Incorporated in Oron Land

The need for the indigenous preachers of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to present issues persuasively informs the use of proverbs is unbeatable considering the relevance of the traditional proverbs. Writing on proverbs in a speech, Ekenene (2016) asserted that: proverb is so important in any society that at least those with a reputation for proverbial wisdom are probably capable of stating the norms that govern a discourse of action. When people are unwilling to take a definite course of action, the proverb suggests a way.

Proverbs are important that they constitute a rhetorical device in a discourse. The proverb as part of folk wisdom makes communication in an indigenous society witty. People reason together only to the extent that they share rules and reasoning. The use of the proverb as a vehicle of wisdom in communication depends on the rhetorical effectiveness of both its form and value in gospel spreading is enormous. Proverbs are aphorisms evincing a sure knowledge of the speaker. In the domain of oral communication, much is expressed in proverbs. Since it is taken as a mark of wisdom, it is discovered that indigenous preachers rarely speak without making elaborate use of proverbs. The Oron proverbs often used by indigenous male gender preachers are often said to represent people's philosophy about God and the manifestation of God in human actions. Oron proverbs used in sermons act as a mirror into the God's expectations from the creatures. The importance of proverbs usage by Mount Zion Mission Incorporated in Oron Land cut across the following areas: **Evangelism-** In the area of evangelism, the clusters maintained that Oron Proverbs have been used as part of evangelistic ministry, particularly in areas where many local people view Christians negatively, either as violating traditions or as following some sort of ungodly religion.

Proverbs in Teaching and Preaching- As Oron proverbs are often useful to reinforce a point by quoting a relevant local proverb. They further maintain that, Oron proverbs in teaching and preaching enhance evangelization of the gospel as it often helps immensely to teach the truths of many biblical themes

and stories, and to affect the moral, social and spiritual lives of the people for the better; for when a proverb is used correctly, it speaks to the intellect, the soul and the heart. And this serves as great advantage in Christian preaching and teaching.

Proverbs for Message Titles and Themes - Oron proverbs enhance evangelization of the gospel as sermon titles can be given by the use of the local proverb. For example, a sermon in Oron about Judgement of God (using passages such as Psalm 96:13) could be titled “The judgment of God,” based on the local proverb, “The judgment of God does not come with Cain.” The scripture is the main authority, but the truth of the sermon is easier to remember if it is tied to a local proverb. The full form of the proverb can be used in the sermon, but the opening phrase can also be used as a title to get people's attention and remember the message. Knowing the richness of this proverb and using it as themes and titles to sermon stand to enhance evangelization of the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Proverbs in Counseling Ministry- Oron proverbs enhance evangelization when used in counseling ministry as indigenous preachers use it when trying to reconcile people who are bitter at each other.

Proverbs in Discipling -In many places, proverbs are used to teach the young the community's values. Proverbs may need some explanation of their meaning and the intended application, but they are a standard tool for teaching. Whatever the age group comparison, when we look at new converts to Christianity as being young in the faith, the use of proverbs in teaching them how to live in their new commitment to Christ is appropriate and Oron proverbs are often be used by the indigenous preachers within the local communities to achieve this goal.

Proverbs in Songs - Songs are sometimes written based on local proverbs and local proverbs can also be used in writing Christian songs, such as using (part of) a proverb as a unifying theme for a song.

Proverbs in Theological Teaching- Oron local language in line with the Proverbs have traditionally been used to teach and guide both children and adults in formal setting which is often of Christian context. In theological college, teachers used local proverbs in their teaching, both as teaching tools and as topics of study, which demonstrated to the students that using local proverbs is appropriate and effective and this is one of the means of evangelization.

Conclusion and Recommendation

We have discovered that, Oron proverbs are philosophical in nature and hence, cannot expire. They are still very relevant in our contemporary times both in the religious gathering and secular one. The imagery used in portraying the truth gives credit to a better understanding of the proverbs. Understanding Oron proverbs can serve as a window into learning the Oron language since the proverbs are all embracing, language learners will only have little or no difficulty in learning the language. The Oron proverbs serve as a vehicle of instruction, correction, commend and to rebuke immoral act. Although proverbs are universal phenomenon, the proverbs of a society must bear relevance to the society, thus the Oron proverbs must express the Oron beliefs and experiences which the indigenous preachers of the church often used to place emphases on moral life. The study therefore recommends that no language shall be allowed to die by discouraging proverbs usage by indigenous preachers since language provides a very useful insight into people's history and culture. The paper also recommended that, since language is important to the Mount Zion Mission Incorporated's indigenous male gender preachers as it really educates the congregation. Provision should be made for interpreters for easy understanding.

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DIGITAL PLATFORM AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION AMONG FEMALE LECTURERS IN AKWA IBOM STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study was conducted to find out the relationship between digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in Ibom State College of Education, Nigeria. Two specific objectives, two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. A correlational survey research design was adopted for this work. The population of this study comprised 31 female lecturers in the School of Vocational and Technical Education, College of Education, Afaha Nsit from which the sample of 28 respondents was determined using Research Advisor sampling table and selected using stratified random sampling technique. A 4-point likert scale questionnaire titled “Digital Platform and Entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers Questionnaire (DPEDCCFLQ)” developed by the researchers was used for data collection. Face validation of the instrument was done by experts. The instrument yielded the reliability coefficient of 0.78 with Cronbach Alpha statistics which indicated that the instrument was reliable and useable for the study. The data collected were analyzed using regression statistics. Findings showed that there was a significance relationship between digital platforms (social media and blog) and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction. It was concluded that digital platform plays a significant role in the entrepreneurial development among female lecturers. Premised on these findings, it was recommended among others that female lecturers should form a multi-purpose co-operative society to attract government attention to provide adequate funds to enable them establish and equip entrepreneurial development centers for practical as this measure will help them diversify their sources of income.

Keywords: Digital Platform, Entrepreneurship Development, Female Lecturers, Clothing Construction.

Introduction

The rate of poverty has been a concern in Africa. In 2015, United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal strategy to end poverty, protect the planet, and discrimination against women and girls as well as ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Promoting gender equality and women empowerment appeared as the fifth goal in the hierarchy (Todaro and Smith, 2019). Entrepreneurship is one of the most profitable pathways to sustainable development in Africa. Without adequate entrepreneurship, education and business support, women would be faced with an increased poverty rate. The roots of women's entrepreneurship predate colonisation which resulted in the gendering of work and women's marginalisation from the mainstream economy (Boateng, 2018). Entrepreneurship for women began in the pre-colonial era with occupations like food processing, mat weaving, pottery making, small scale farming and other trading activities (Falola, 2017). Most women entrepreneurs are involved in micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) which contribute more than 97% of all enterprises, 60% of the nation's GDP and 94% of the total share of the employment (Mayoux, 2021). The spectrum of women in entrepreneurship often ranges from home based businesses (HBB) to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSEs) (ILO, 2018).

Garba (2020) rightly observed that due to the increasing economic downturn, resulting in loss of jobs for the menfolk, women as mothers and custodians of family stability; assume the responsibility of keeping the family on course through the running of enterprises. According to Iyiola and Azuh (2014), women entrepreneurs around the world, including Africa, are significant contributors to the economy. Women contribute numerous ideas, energy as well as capital resources to the environment and so, neglecting women in the developmental process, is in itself a waste of human resources.

Digital platforms are characterized as a sociotechnical grouping which includes the technical elements of software and hardware as well as the organizational processes and principles (Armstrong, 2016).

Statement of the Problem

Entrepreneurship has during the last decades gained an immense interest in academia, politics and practice. However, more entrepreneurs are necessary for the economic development. In addition, entrepreneurship is also perceived as a solution to social and societal challenges. This drives a need for

entrepreneurial people everywhere in society who can cope with the uncertain world of today. The socio-economic contributions of women entrepreneurs in Akwa Ibom State over the years cannot be overemphasize. Nevertheless, The researchers have observed that some female entrepreneurs in developing societies particularly Akwa Ibom State often face with numerous barriers which could be family related (family restrictions) or personal limitations like fear, lack of skills, limited knowledge of the market environment, difficulty in accessing capital and acquiring appropriate information and so on. On this note, the study is concerned with determining the extent of relationship between digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education, Afaha Nsit Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. To what extent does social media digital platform relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education?
2. To what extent does blog digital platform relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education?

Research Hypotheses

1. Social media digital platform does not significantly relate with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education.
2. Blog digital platform does not significantly relate with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education.

Methodology

The correlational survey design was adopted for this study. The design was deemed suitable for this study since it is concerned with the present phenomena in terms of conditions, practices, beliefs, processes, relationships or trends, and invariably includes proper analyses, interpretation, comparisons, identification of trends and relationships. The population of this study comprised 31 female lecturers in the school of Vocational and Technical Education, hence there was no sampling because of the population size. The

instrument titled “Digital Platform and Entrepreneurship Development in Clothing Construction among Female Lecturers (DPEDCCFL) questionnaire with a 4-point Likert scale was developed by the researchers for data collection. Face validation of the instrument was done by three experts. The reliability of the instrument was done using the trial testing reliability method. The data collected was analysed using Cronbach Alpha statistical tool which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.78 indicating that the instrument was reliable and useable for the study. The simple linear regression was used to answer the research question and analysed the hypothesis at .05 level of significance

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1

1.
- To what extent does social media relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education.?

Table 1: The analysis of Regression on relationship between social media and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers.

Variable	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
Social Media digital platform	.704	.611	.048	15.97663

Source: Field Work, 2023

The result in Table 1 shows the coefficient of determination ($R^2 = .611$), indicating that about 61.1% of the total variance in entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers is attributed to social media digital platform with a corresponding correlation coefficient of 0.704. This implies that a strong relationship exist between social media digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education,

Research Question 2

To what extent does blog digital platform relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education?

Table 2: The analysis of Regression on relationship between blog digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers.

Variable	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
Blogging digital platform	.553	.623	.421	15.87531

Source: Field Work, 2023

The result in Table 2 shows the coefficient of determination ($R^2 = .623$) indicating that about 62.3% of the total variance in entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers is attributed to Blogging digital platform with a corresponding correlation coefficient of 0.553. This implies that a strong relationship exists between blog digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers.

Hypothesis

H₀₁: Social media digital platform does not significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education.

Table 3: The analysis of Linear Regression on Social Media Digital Platform and Entrepreneur-ship Development in Clothing Construction among Female

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1602.737	1	1602.737	16.536	.000
Residual	2520.003	26	96.923		
Total	4122.740	27			

Source: Field Work, 2023

The table reveals the F- value as 3.928 and the p-value as .000. However, since the p-value is greater than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$), the null hypothesis which states that social media digital platform does not significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers is rejected while the alternative is retained. Therefore, it can be concluded that social media digital platform significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers.

H_{o2}: Blogging digital platform does not significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers

Table 4: The analysis of Linear Regression on Blogging Digital Platform and Entrepreneurship Development in Clothing Construction among Female Lecturers

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	2151.659	1	2151.659	28.382	.004
Residual	1971.081	26	75.811		
Total	4122.740	27			

Source: Field Work, 2023

Table 4 reveals the F- value as 28.382 and the p-value as .004. However, since the p-value is greater than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$), the null hypothesis which states that blogging digital platform does not significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers is rejected while the alternative is retained. Therefore, it can be concluded that blog digital platform significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers.

Finding of the Study

The finding revealed that:

1. Social media digital platform significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers
2. There is a significant relationship between blog digital platform and entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers

Discussion of Findings

The finding of the study revealed that Social media digital platform significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education, Afaha Nsit Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. This implies that social media platform is one of the best ways to figure out what people want is to ask them directly. Before social media, it was much harder to get feedback from current and potential customers. With social media, however, entrepreneurs have access to free feedback all the time. This finding supports the finding of Agichtein, et al.

(2018) that social media is easily accessible on the go through the use of Smartphone's creating a large community of social media followers and a viable ground for businesses in Nigeria to reach out to target audience and also an opportunity to get more customers and buyers of their product and services.

Furthermore, finding of the study indicated that blogging digital platform significantly relates with entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education, Afaha Nsit Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. This implies that Blogs are potentially valuable tool for entrepreneurship. Their capacity for allowing users to publish and share their views quickly and easily opens a number of possibilities, the instructional potential of blogs has been increasingly acknowledged as it can be used as group discussion, peer review and collaborated project. This finding is in line with finding of Azuka, et al. (2016), who revealed that the demand for online blogging is increasing in Nigeria because most entrepreneurs have realized that blogging is an effective technological tool that can enhance entrepreneurship which is constantly shaping and re-shaping the work place as well as the business environment.

Conclusion

The digital platform for entrepreneurship development is readily available and relatively cheap. The use of social and blogging digital platform is significantly related with the entrepreneurship development in clothing construction among female lecturers in College of Education, Afaha Nsit Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Hence promotes the entrepreneurship development among females lecturers.

Recommendations

1. The government should provide infrastructural facilities that will support digital platform and enhance easy accessibility by citizenry.
2. There should an advocacy by the various organization and agencies on digital and utilization in enhancing entrepreneurial skills.

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GENDER ANALYSIS OF ACADEMICS PARTICIPATION IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES IN ITU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF AKWAIBOM STATE

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Abstract

Academics participation in entrepreneurship is a critical component of economic life of every family as it determines the share of capital and wages earned by the family for welfare maximization. The study sought to examine Gender influence on Academics Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities in Itu Local Government Area of AkwaIbom State. Three entrepreneurship areas were identified to include, trading, agriculture and transport sector services. To guide the study, three specific objectives, research questions and null hypotheses were formulated, respectively. The population of the study comprised 4160 entrepreneurs out of which 360 respondents were purposely selected to cover the three entrepreneurship areas used for the study. The instrument used was validated and tested for reliability. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while independent t-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results showed that gender has some influence on Academics participation in the trading, transport sector and agricultural entrepreneurship. Based on the result, it was recommended that both men and women Academics should be economically empowered, both government and non-governmental organizations in trading, transportation and agricultural entrepreneurship, for productivity and gender inclusivity.

Keywords: Gender Analysis, Academics Participation and
Entrepreneurial Activities

Introduction

Gender plays a critical role in entrepreneurial work participation the world over. Its impact spanned across various sections of entrepreneurial activities such as trading, agriculture, manufacturing, transport services and in hospitality to mention but a few. In agricultural production chain for instance, gender assigned responsibilities spelled out work and task and labour participation in production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. However, this gender assigned roles tended to discriminate among males and females in many cultures and societies with Akwa Ibom State not left out (Dakara, *et al* 2019). The International Agency for Gender Equality have advocated gender balance among male and female sexes for inclusivity for national development. This implies equal opportunities in the legal, political, social and economic dimensions as well as equality in personal relationship between male and female genders. To give further strength to gender equality, the years 1976 to 1985 were declared by the United Nations as decade for gender equality. This declaration was an effort to draw the attention of all to the contributions of women to global development, an efforts that was previously unrecognized. Several other efforts were made to ensure gender equality by countries who were signatories to United Nations convention.

Prior to this declaration, some other sub national policies were made to enhance gender inclusivity. For instance, in 1973, the Unite States congress enacted the Percy amendment to Foreign Assistance Act, requiring bilateral programmes to give particular attention to those activities that tends to integrate women into the national economies of foreign countries, thus improving their status and their total development efforts (UNDP 2020).

The United Nations convention on the elimination of all forms of discriminations against women was adopted by the general Assembly in 1979. During this era, the United Nations funds for women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women were also initiated. In 1987, the Nigerian government acknowledged the contributions of women to national economy and thus; set up some programmes to empower them. Some of these programmes include; the Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Women in Agriculture programme (WIA) 1991, which was coordinated by ADP's across the states of the federation. The Family Support Programme in 1984 which further improves the status of women and the Family Economic Empowerment programme (Boston, 2016). These programmes have greatly enhanced the role of women in agriculture, industry,

commerce, education and in health sector for national inclusivity for national development.

Etuk, (2021) studied the influence of gender on entrepreneurial activities of Secondary School Administration in Southern Nigeria and found low entrepreneurial activities among the sample, of which agriculture, trading, and material supplies were most favoured entrepreneurial activities. The females engaged in more but non-statistically significant entrepreneurial activities than the males. It was concluded that secondary school administrators both male and female in southern Nigeria need to be more involved in entrepreneurial activities.

However, this work is poised to replicate the authors study on gender inclusivity in academics participation for both sexes with the view to advocating a balance opportunities to help the weaker sex to overcome the challenges of exclusion arising from some natural causes such as maternal care, breast feeding and pregnancy which may likely mal the growth of the weaker sex to her full potentials in certain entrepreneurial activities in trading, agriculture and transport sector services.

Statement of the Problem

In most Nigerian communities, culture and traditions have made some restrictionson the activities and roles of womenwhich has advertently resulted to discrimination and in some cases mal the ability of women in rising to their full potential in the society. Through these culturaldiscriminatory laws, women have less opportunity than their male counterparts to pursue education and to develop to the full potential for self-reliance.

The implication is that women particularly in developing countries represent majority of the poor. In addition, although women make up approximately half of the world's population, they are two-third of the world's illiterates. Statistics on poverty and illiteracy reflects discrimination against women in inheritance and in property ownership laws especially when it has to do with land and landed assets. Women are also discriminated upon on matters of employment, resource allocation and in traditional division of labour which led to decline in women's relative and absolute economic status.

However, some forms of exclusion arising from some natural causes such as maternal care, breast feeding and pregnancy which may likely mal the growth of the weaker sex to her full potentials in certain entrepreneurial activities in trading, agriculture and transport sector services are also

inexpedient on gender balance. These among others prompted the research to examine the influence of gender on academics participation in entrepreneurial activities in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i. Examine the influence of gender on academics participation in trading enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. Examine the influence of gender on academics participation in Agricultural enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.
- iii. Examine the influence of gender on academics participation in transport service enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of gender on academics participation in trading enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State
- ii. What is the influence of gender on academics participation in Agricultural enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State
- iii. What is the influence of gender on academics participation in transport service enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Research Hypotheses

- i. Gender does not significantly influence academics participation in trading enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State
- ii. Gender does not significantly influence academics participation in agricultural enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State
- iii. Gender does not significantly influence academics participation in transport service enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Methods

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The study was carried out on academics in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The population of the study was 4160 persons from the three entrepreneurship skill areas, consisting of 1600 traders, 2100 farmers and 460 transport service workers. A simple random sampling was used to select 360 (i.e. 138 traders,

182 farmers and 40 transport service workers respectively) respondents which were used for the study. A 21 item questionnaire called Gender Analysis of Labour Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities Questionnaire (GALPEA) was developed by the researchers and used for data collection.

The instrument was validated by three (3) experts, two (2) from the department of Agricultural Education and one (1) from the department of Educational Management and Planning, all from the University of Uyo. The response options of all the questionnaire items were Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD), with corresponding numerical values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument and a reliability coefficient of 0.88 was obtained. 360 copies of the questionnaires were produced and administered to the respondents, while 349 were retrieved and analyzed using mean to answer the research questions and t-test to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Table 1: Mean and Independent t-test for the influence of Academics gender on trading enterprise

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t-crit.	P<05
Trading Enterprise	Male	161	10.83	2.02	347	1.102	.767
	Female	188	10.60	1.89			

The result in Table 1 reveals that male lecturers have the higher mean score of 10.83 while female lecturers have the lower mean score of 10.60. The result means that male academics are highly involved in trading enterprise than their female counterparts in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. The Table also reveals the calculated t-value 1.102 with its corresponding P-value of .767 which is greater than the 0.05 level of significance with 347 degree of freedom. Therefore, the null hypothesis which claimed a no significant influence of gender on academics' participation in trading enterprise is retained. Hence, there is no significant influence of gender on academics involvement in trading enterprise.

Table 2: Mean and Independent t-test for the influence of Academics gender on agricultural enterprise

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t-crit.	P<05
Agricultural Enterprise	Male	161	10.63	2.06	347	1.367	.080
	Female	188	10.88	1.79			

The output in Table 2 reveals that female academics have the higher mean score of 10.88 while male lecturers have the lower mean score of 10.63. The result means that female lecturers are more involved in Agricultural enterprise activities than their male counterpart in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. The Table also reveals the calculated t-value 1.367 with its corresponding P-value of .080 which is greater than the 0.05 level of significance with 347 degree of freedom. Therefore, the null hypothesis which claimed a no significant influence of gender on academics participation in Agricultural enterprise is retained. Hence, there is significant influence of gender on academics participation in Agricultural enterprise

Table 3: Mean and Independent t-test for the influence of Academics gender on Transportation enterprise

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t-crit.	Decision P<05
Transportation Enterprise	Male	188	10.63	2.09	347	1.23	.011
	Female	161	10.34	1.84			

The entries in Table 3 reveals that male academics have the higher mean score of 10.63 while male lecturers have the lower mean score of 10.34. The outcome indicates that male lecturers are more involved in transportation enterprise than their female counterparts in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. Also, it is revealed in the Table that the calculated t-value 1.23 with its corresponding p-value of .011 which is less than the 0.05 level of significance with 347 degree of freedom is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis which claimed a no significant influence of gender on academics involvement in transportation enterprises is rejected. Hence, there is no significant influence of gender on academics participation in transportation enterprise.

Discussion of Findings

Gender on academics participation in trading enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

The result showed that male academics were more involved in trading enterprise than their female counterparts in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. The testing of hypothesis on this revealed that the difference between male and female academics on their involvement in trading enterprise is not significant. The result therefore means that males were more involved in advertising their products, sending mails to customers, getting feedback from customers and convincing people to buy their goods. Moreover, the males could package their products to attract more customers, always with their goods everywhere they went and sparingly sold their products on credit more than the females. They could import goods and have people who advertise goods for me.

The finding of this study is not in congruence with Oladunni's, (2011) opinion that women participation in economic activities such as trading can promote their economic wellbeing for welfare maximization as there are no cultural or social restrictions against involvement in such entrepreneurship endeavours. The author added that even while on pregnancy or during child rearing; women can still be involved in trade to generate money for them and to as well cater for other family matters.

Moreover, the finding is not in tandem with that of Etuk, et al (2021) who found a low entrepreneurial activity among the sample, of which agriculture, trading, and material supplies were most favoured entrepreneurial activities. The females engaged in more but non-statistically significant entrepreneurial activities than the males.

Gender on academics participation in Agricultural enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

The result showed that male academics were more involved in agricultural enterprise than their female counterparts in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. The testing of hypothesis on this revealed that the difference between male and female academics on their involvement in agricultural enterprise is not significant. The result therefore means that female academics acquired poultry management skills than their male counterparts, could formulate poultry feeds, learnt how to breed fingerlings and formulate fish feed. They

could plant different kinds of crops, control crop pests, had target customers where they supplied them food items and obtained loan to boost my agricultural business. They registered their agricultural business with government, learnt how to raise crops in nursery and learnt how to apply fertilizers on the farm.

The finding of this study disagrees with the finding of Cloud (2018) examined the gender role in development projects and highlighted that labour segregation roles cannot be totally ignored in the assignment of responsibilities and task in the society. He emphasized that certain natural constraints are capable of limiting the women responsibility to certain task. He said, a pregnant woman cannot be assigned to heavy task and night duties, loading and offloading of vehicles and trucks. A nursing mother cannot be assigned to drudgery task even when the pay or rewards for such labour are encouraging. The finding agrees with Etuk, et al (2021) finding. A low entrepreneurial activity among the sample was found of which agriculture, trading, and material supplies were most favoured entrepreneurial activities. The females engaged in more but non-statistically significant entrepreneurial activities than the males.

Gender on academics participation in transport service enterprises in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

The result showed that male academics were more involved in transportation enterprise than their female counterparts in Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom. The testing of hypothesis on this revealed that the difference between male and female academics on their involvement in transportation enterprise is significant. The result therefore means that male academics had at least one means of transportation than the female counterparts, registered with transport agency, buy tickets at least three times a week, registered vehicle with government, had driver's license and service their vehicles always. They knew how to drive, had people always to patronized their transport service, had their transport service functional outside the state, and have people work under them in their transport business.

The finding of this study is in tandem with the assertion of Burda and Wyplosz (2019) that transport sector services are specialized career opportunities which are gender sensitive. The need for a driver to sojourn a long distance on the stirring or to undertake a minor repairs when there is a called to do so are beyond the natural ability of the woman, thus making

entrepreneurship in this area of work exclusively for the male folk. The author said women can be involved in minor activities in this sector and listed such activities to include ticketing, and finance offices.

Moreover, the finding is not in agreement with that of Etuk, et al (2021) who found a low entrepreneurial activity among the sample, of which agriculture, trading, and material supplies were most favoured entrepreneurial activities. The females engaged in more but non-statistically significant entrepreneurial activities than the males.

Conclusion

It is therefore pertinent to conclude that gender equality is a mirage, as women are naturally incapable of doing certain task and responsibilities. Such activities are numerous and cut across different career enterprises. This study rather dwell on gender inclusivity, that is, things to be done to close the gender gap created by natural causes such as breast feeding, pregnancy and child rearing. Gender and academics participation in Itu LGA of Akwa Ibom State was found to segregate mostly in the transport sector services with little exclusivity in the agricultural and trading entrepreneurship.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- i. Male and female academics should be encouraged to participate actively in occupations and entrepreneurship area which are less demanding and which can also give them the edge to perform other natural domestic responsibilities.
- ii. In other to encourage the women folk to be economically empowered, both government and non-governmental organizations should provide support to the women in academics in trading and agricultural entrepreneurship, for productivity and gender inclusivity.

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FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE FEMALE STUDENTS' ENROLMENT IN ARCHITECTURE AND EFFECT ON CAREER RETENTION

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Abstract

A greater percentage of women who study architecture do not end up practicing the profession. Various studies explored possible reasons of rigorous work pattern, work-life balance and gender discrimination. This study, however, explored different factors that influence female students' enrolment in Architecture, to understand how this may impact the rate of retention of female architects in practice. A review of literature identified 30 variables that influenced students' enrolment for a course of study. Using a purposive sampling technique, the 42 research participants consisted female students of the Department of Architecture, University of Uyo, Nigeria. The respondents were requested to indicate the level of influence of the variables on a 5-point Likert-type scale. A descriptive statistic analysis of the data showed the mean values for the three variables of most significant influence were 'personal interest' (4.52), 'opportunity for self-employment and independence' (4.50) and 'creativity' (4.33). This result revealed that personal persuasions and independence had greater influence than external considerations in the female students' choice to study Architecture. Such tendencies for self-actualization are not restricted to the career environment. Having such viable alternatives to career could give an insight to why a higher percentage of female architects can afford not to be retained in the profession. A wider source of career information and adequate career counseling of girls into the profession of Architecture is recommended.

Keywords: Female Architecture Students, Gender Studies, Architecture Education, Women in Architecture, Career Counselling.

1. Introduction

Architectural training started out as a physical activity requiring rigorous training and exhaustive apprenticeship, and was thus regarded to be exclusively for men. In 1850, women in the United States of America who were interested in pursuing a career in Architecture found ways to acquire necessary training through apprenticeship (Yoshimori-Yamamoto, 2012). Enwerekwe and Abioye (2018) posited that the enrolment of women for a formal education

in Architecture became possible due to the shift from purely technical to technical-theoretical learning in architectural education. Since then, the participation of women in architectural education has increased steadily over the years. However, it has been discovered that despite an increase in enrolment of female students to schools of architecture, the corresponding increase in the number of registered women architects was not achieved (Obianuju and Diyenaan, 2019; Copper and Eddin, 2023).

A greater percentage of women who studied architecture do not end up practicing the profession. Several studies to understand this phenomenon have been carried out from various perspectives. Some studies have investigated underrepresentation and visibility of women in various hierarchies of architectural practice (Obianuju and Diyenaan, (2019); impact of gender equality in the architectural domain (Samak et. al. (2018)); investigating gender ideological patterns among students of Architecture (Afolabi and Akinola, 2021); and Gender learning styles and performance of Architecture students (Fulani, et al., 2016). Furthermore, many other studies have suggested ways of narrowing the retention gap between the number of women graduating from the schools of architecture and the number of women registered in the profession. Copper and Eddin (2023) investigated the role academic libraries could play in supporting female architecture students for professional success. The study opined that academic libraries could provide beneficial resources that could address gender inequities. In another study, Afolabi and Akinola (2021) proposed a proper implementation of women mentoring programme among female architects and female architectural students, stating that this could lead to retaining women in the profession.

In all of these, Akinlolu et al.(2021) opined that lack of understanding of girls and women career choice and development is a significant obstacle to attracting women into the construction industry as a whole. It is this gap that this study seeks to fill. This study, therefore, aimed to explore the influence of different factors on female students' enrolment to study Architecture.

Female enrolment to study Architecture

Over the years, the number of females enrolled in institutions of architectural studies has increased. In the United States of America, the number of women enrolled in architecture schools steadily increased. As noted by Copper and Eddin (2023), the 2018 Annual Report of National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) showed that female students represented 46% of students

enrolled in NAAB accredited programmes, an increase from the 43% recorded in the 2013 NAAB Annual Report (Chang, 2014). Germany also experienced a steady increase in the percentage of women enrolled to study Architecture, from 17% in 1973, 43.9% in 1997, with parity between women and men achieved in 2006, to about 60% since 2007, and still rising steadily (Architectural Design and Timber Construction, 2018). According to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA), women's enrolment in undergraduate architecture degree programmes has been steadily increasing from 23% in 1984 to 37% in 1989.

Several studies abound on the male /female dichotomy in the profession of Architecture in Nigeria, however, studies on female composition in Nigeria schools of architecture are scarce. Fapohunda (2011) estimated the female enrolment into STEM at 22.8%. These findings suggest that science technology and engineering careers, of which Architecture is related, may not record high rate of female enrolment. In spite of this, the record of women retention in the Architecture profession in Nigeria is evidently low (Obianuju and Diyenaa, 2019). Understanding of influence of women's career choice, therefore, becomes important.

Factors that influence enrolment into academic programmes

Many studies have discussed factors that influence students' choice of course to study in tertiary institutions. A review of literature identified 30 variables that influence students' enrolment for a course of study. For this study, the variables were grouped into seven factors, namely, individual, family-related, skills and curriculum, institutional, career, monetary, cultural and socio-economic factor.

Individual Factor

The individual factor consists of motivations that emanate from the person's convictions. This factor includes personal interest in the course of study; information the female receives from teachers or counsellors concerning the career that form their opinion; desire to make impact in the chosen area of study; admiration of or influence by persons practicing the profession; and inspiration by women in Architecture (Afolabi and Akinola, 2021).

Family-Related Factor

Some studies claim that family-related factors pose very significant influence on students' choice of academic programmes (Eli and Hamou, 2022). Malik

and Al-Emran (2018) noted that teenage girls received career information from informal (parents, friends, peer and so on) and formal (teachers, counselors, professional bodies and government sources. However, formal sources were said to be in better position to provide accurate and suitably presented career information than informal sources (Genrich, et al. 2014). Family-related factor of influence may also come as the desire by parents to have the child study a particular academic programme. Findings by Becares and Priest (2015) supported that family substantially influenced educational and career choices. On the contrary, Ali and Tinggi (2013) noted that influence of family and relatives is insignificant in the choice of a study programme.

Skills and Curriculum Factor

The factor of skills and curriculum relate to the study inclination of the student before enrolment. Contents of curriculum in the secondary school years have been noted to influence choice of careers. Nyamwange (2016) noted that due to paucity of career counseling, student tended to depend on the subjects they studied in secondary schools to direct on their career choice. Secondary school students who are inclined towards, and study science and technology subjects tend to take up careers that need these basics. Natural talents and biases are hardly considered in career choices.

Institutional factor

One of the factors that influence the choice of study of an academic programme is the institutional factor. Institutional factor relates with the way the career is rated, high professional status, prestigious social standing, and possible influence of career successes by relatable practitioners. Architecture is rated as a creative and high-profile profession (Maina, 2018). Programme ratings could influence a student's decision to choose a particular course of study (Maina, 2018).

Career Factor

With the high level of unemployment after graduation in Nigeria, employment prospect is a factor students take highly into consideration when choosing a career path. It helps the student have information on their future plans (Eli and Hamou, 2022). Even so, the profession of architecture has been noted to have a high level of unemployed graduates (Obi, et. al. 2022). Also regarded in this factor are job opportunities, job security and likely work hours.

Monetary Factor

Some careers are assumed to have more financial benefits than others. Otu (2015) asserts that when one is seen to be rich in the eyes of the public, it means that the person had a successful career, and this may spur the young to desire to tow same career.

Cultural and socio-economic factor

Akinlolu, et. al., (2021) identified the influence of social and cultural factors, demography and ethnic differences, as having an impact on women's career decisions. Social and cultural factors were described to include access to wealth, family background, where people lived; type of education people had access to, parental education and occupation.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were to explore different factors that influenced female students' enrolment to study Architecture and to understand how this may impact the rate of retention of female architects in practice. To this end, the study poses two research questions. First, what factors greatly influenced the female students' choice to study Architecture? Second, have the perception of Architecture by these students changed since their enrolment and commencement of study? To explore the subject further, this study concentrated on dependent variables under individual factor, family-related factor, skills and curriculum factor, institutional factor, career factor, monetary factor, cultural and socio-economic factor, as derived from the review of literature.

Methods

A survey was conducted on female students in the Department of Architecture, University of Uyo, to collect data on the factors that motivated them to enrol for the academic programme. The population of the study was all the 68 female students in the undergraduate level of the Department. In all, 42 female students responded to the survey, representing a response of 62%.

The survey consisted of two parts. The first part sought the demographic characteristics of the respondents, asking for age, year of study, mode of admission, current Cumulative Grade Point Average, place of residence during school session, family background and parents education level. The second

part consisted of variables within the seven factors of influence: individual factor IDF (personal interest, sponsorship, and others); family-related factor FRF (parents desire, having a family member in the profession, encouragement by peer and friends); skills and curriculum factor SCF (impact of science and technical subjects of study in Secondary school, having a flair for technical courses and the arts); institutional factor INSTF (high professional status, prestigious social standing, and career sensitization by the professional Body); career factors CRF (Job security, image and opportunities, ability for self-employment and independence, as well as motherhood challenges during career). Monetary factor (MNF) included variables of expectations of high income and financial rewards from the profession. Cultural and socio-economic factor (CSF) had variables of income of parents and guardians, place of birth, and areas of residence.

Using 5-Point Likert scale questionnaire, the respondents were asked to rate these variables from extremely influential to those that had no influence at all. Data obtained were analysed using the IBM SPSS Version 27. The variables were evaluated using descriptive statistics.

Results

From the survey conducted, the results on demographic characteristics of the female students studied are shown in Table 1. The result shows that a larger percentage (90.5%) of the female students were admitted through the UTME JAMB admission process. The majority of the respondents were 200 level students (52.4). The level of academic performance was observed to be above average, with over 83% of the respondents indicating an average CGPA of 3.00 and above (in a 5.00 Scale). No respondent indicated a CGPA lower than 2.00. A lower percentage (38%) of the respondents lived on campus during Term session. Data about their family background and parental educational level were obtained to understand their cultural, socio-economic backgrounds as they influence their choice of programme of study. A high percentage (60% to 64%) have their parents having attained up to the tertiary education level. To further understand the degree to which the factors influenced female students' enrolment to study architecture in University of Uyo, the derived variables were analysed using the descriptive statistics methods. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age	16 – 18 Years	8	19.0
	19 – 21 Years	30	71.4
	22 – 24 Years	4	9.5
	25 – 27 Years	-	-
	28 Years and above	-	-
Level of Study	100 Level	9	21.4
	200	22	52.4
	300	4	9.5
	400	7	16.7
Mode of Admission:	UTME (JAMB)	38	90.5
	Direct Entry	4	9.5
Latest CGPA	Below 1.00	-	-
	1.00 – 2.00	-	-
	2.00 – 3.00	4	9.5
	3.00 – 4.00	27	64.3
	4.00 – 5.00	9	19
	I do not know	2	5
Residence During School Term	On Campus	16	38
	Off Campus with Parents	18	43
	Off Campus by Self	8	19
Number of Children in Family	1 – 2	5	12
	3 – 4	29	69
	5 – 6	7	17
	7 and above	1	2
Position You Occupy in family	1 st	14	33
	2 nd	11	26
	3 rd	11	26
	4 th	4	10
	5 th	1	2
	Beyond 5 th	1	2
Are You First Daughter?	Yes	22	52
	No	20	48
Do You Have Sisters?	Yes	33	79
	No	9	21
Educational Level of Father	No Education	-	-
	Vocational School	3	7
	Primary School	-	-
	Secondary School	11	26
	Tertiary Education	25	60
	Not Sure	3	7
Educational Level of Mother	No Education	-	-
	Vocational School	1	2
	Primary School	1	2
	Secondary School	10	24
	Tertiary Education	27	64
	Not Sure	7	7

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Factors Influencing Enrolment

Factors	Mean	Std. Deviation	Ranking	Level Of Influence
Personal interest (IDF)	4.52	.943	1	MOST SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE
Opportunity for self-employment and independence (CRF)	4.50	.741	2	
I love creativity (SCF)	4.33	.846	3	
I was good in Technical Drawing (SCF)	4.29	1.088	4	
High income (MNF)	4.21	1.001	5	
Job opportunities (CRF)	4.00	1.148	6	
High financial rewards (MNF)	3.98	1.024	7	SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE
High professional status (INSTF)	3.90	1.114	8	
Job image (CRF)	3.83	1.243	9	
Prestigious social standing (INSTF)	3.79	1.094	10	
I love problem solving (SCF)	3.64	1.008	11	
I was good in graphics and Arts (SCF)	3.64	1.186	11	
Job security (CRF)	3.40	1.236	13	
I was good in Science Subjects (SCF)	3.21	1.335	14	
Admiration for Women in Architecture IDF -	3.12	1.517	15	
Advances by Women in Architecture INSTF	3.05	1.481	16	
To make the world a better a place IDF -	2.98	1.239	17	MODERATE INFLUENCE
I admired and Interacted with Architects IDF	2.86	1.354	18	
Area of residence CSF -	2.43	1.309	19	
Favourable work hours CRF -	2.40	1.194	20	
Teachers and Counsellors IDF -	2.21	1.240	21	
I was encouraged by friends FRF -	2.17	1.395	22	
Income of parents or guardian CSF -	2.14	1.181	23	
Motherhood challenge CRF -	2.10	1.136	24	
A family member is in an allied profession FRF -	2.07	1.488	25	
Career information by Professional Body INSTF -	2.02	1.214	26	
My parents desire (FRF)	1.88	1.253	27	LITTLE INFLUENCE
Sponsorship to study the Course (IDF)	1.86	1.260	28	
A family member is an Architect (FRF)	1.60	1.231	29	
Place of Birth (CSF)	1.57	1.039	30	

From the result in Table 2, it is evident that 6 of the factors have mean scores of between 4.52 and 4.00, and are ranked 1 to 6. These factors can be considered as having the most significant influence and, therefore, being most important factors considered by the female students as influencing their choice of study of Architecture. The second set of 10 factors have mean scores of 3.98 - 3.05, and are ranked from 7 to 16. The next set of factors, ranked from 17 to 26 have mean scores of between 2.98 and 2.02, and can be considered as to have moderately significant influence on the respondents' choice of course. The last four factors ranked from 27 to 30 have mean scores of between 1.88 and 1.57, and can be

considered to have the least significant influence on choice of study of Architecture by the students. It is also observed from the results that no factor has dominant influence on the choice of study. The three most significant influences are from the Individual Factor (Personal interest, 4.52); Career Factor (Opportunity for self-employment and independence, 4.50) and the Skills and Curriculum Factor (I love creativity, 4.33)

The mean values show that monetary factor of high income (4.21) and high financial rewards (3.98) have greater influence than institutional factor of high professional status (3.90) and prestigious social standing (3.79). In the skills and curriculum factor, proficiency in technical drawing asserted more influence on the choice of course of study than did the science courses, both having mean values of 4.29 and 3.21 respectively. Notably, the variables of teacher and counsellors (with mean value of 2.21) and career information by professional bodies (2.02) are indicated as having moderate influence on the students' choice of study programme. The place of birth is the least influence on choice of course of study, with a mean value of 1.57. Admiration for women in Architecture and advances made by women in Architecture had significant influence on the female students' choice to study Architecture (with mean values of 3.12 and 3.05 respectively).

Discussion

The high level of academic performance (83%) of the respondents suggests that the female students are not having difficulties in their studies. This is an indication that they are not discouraged in their choice to study architecture due to academic challenges. The result on factors influencing enrolment reveals that no particular factor has dominant influence over the female students' choice of study. This finding is consistent with studies by Nyamwange (2016), which noted that choosing a career is influenced by multiple factors. For this study, the most significant items of influence: personal interest, considerations of opportunity for self-employment and independence, as well as love for creativity, indicate a higher impact from individual persuasions to choose architecture as a course of study than from external influences. This finding is consistent with findings by Otu (2015) that youth rated themselves foremost, or had their personal interest first in making a career choice. Notably, external influences such as the family-related, institutional, cultural and socio-economic factors do not appear to have significant influence among this set of students. This collaborates the findings by Ali and Tinggi (2013) which showed

that influence of family and relatives is insignificant in the choice of a study programme. This may be regarded as a function of the cultural and socio-economic background. The correlation between these two variables may be researched in a further study.

From the results, it can be inferred that interest in technical drawing subjects asserts more influence on the students than do the science subjects. The need for science in the study of Architecture is important. Also notable is that motherhood challenge and favourable work hours have moderate influence on the choice of Architecture as a course of study, whereas these are a few of the challenges that cause women to leave the practice of architecture. If teaching, counseling, and career information by formal sources and related professional bodies are intensified prior to choice making, it could help students better appreciate skill requirements and possible challenges in the programme. Furthermore, from the findings in this study, it is evident that the female students were significantly influenced by women practicing architecture. This suggests that the claim in Afolabi and Akinola (2021) that proper implementation of mentoring programmes between female architecture students and women practicing architecture has a potential of retaining women in the profession, can be intentionally explored.

Conclusion

Based on the results, the study concluded that factors most influential to female students' enrolment to study architecture in the University of Uyo, are more of personal interest, great chances of self-employment on graduation, independence, and love for creativity. The students considered their interest and abilities as foremost influence in making a career choice. Such factors of consideration for self-actualization would not be restricted to the career environment. Having such viable alternatives to career could give an insight to why a higher percentage of female architects choose not to be retained in the profession.

The result further shows that career counseling and inputs by related professional body have moderate influence on the choice of Architecture by the respondents. Such critical career development should not be limited to personal biases of the young mind. Deliberate attempts should be made on providing career counselling by formal sources. In addition, female architecture students draw inspiration from women practicing architecture.

The findings of this study are intended to provide insight into the importance of career counseling of girls into the profession of Architecture, and to help understand how the factors that most significantly influence their choice of study can help in sustaining interest in the career in the long term

Recommendations

This study, therefore, recommends that decision on choice of career should not be left mainly to the individual factor. A wider and more effective source of career information and counseling should be made available to the female student when choosing an architecture academic programme of study. In addition, the likely challenges faced by women in the architectural career should be divulged earlier to the female student, to better prepare the female student to face such challenges in the long term. Given its tendency for effectiveness, programmes of women mentoring women should be incorporated in career counseling.

Limitations

As a limitation, the results cannot be generalised because it was conducted in one school of architecture. Similar studies need to be carried out in other Schools of architecture to produce a more robust pool of considerations.

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IMPACT OF FAMILY FACTORS IN POST COVID-19 ERA ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF ACCOUNTING STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN AKWA IBOM STATE

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Abstract

The unruly consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak have affected the outcomes of accounting education programs in schools. Consequently, this has brought significant disruptions in the education system due to inadequate tools to deliver teaching as well as students' hands-on experience. The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has caused schools to switch from physical classroom learning to remote delivery of lessons via online platforms. However, the effect of delivering lessons via online platforms has prompted serious financial, academic, and family burdens for several households as well as affecting the overall academic performance of students. These challenges hinder students' growth and overall academic performance. Therefore addressing these challenges requires investigating the family factors that could impact the academic performance of accounting students using qualitative methods of research and multivariate regression analysis methods. A total of 135 students from 9 senior secondary schools were sampled to represent the entire population. Data was analyzed in SPSS and the result showed that conducive environments, parental interaction, parental occupation, family financial status, and family structure strongly impacted students' academic performance in post covid-19 era in public secondary schools in Onna L.G.A of Akwa Ibom State.

Keywords: Family Factor, Covid-19, Academic Performance, Accounting Student, Secondary School, Akwa Ibom State

1.0 Introduction

Academic performance is a key metric of any educational institution at all levels. Its impact on secondary school students depends on several factors such as teachers, students, school-related variables, family-related variables, and so on (Allen, *et al.*, 2013; Abdu-Raheem, 2015). Enhancing this metric is through technological-based approaches in teaching and learning (Lankas, 2021; Ghory and Ghafory, 2021; Aristovnik, 2012). Technological approach in teaching and learning is the use of technology to enhance the student learning experience thus serving as a substitute for in-class time. The transition from conventional education to technology-based learning using technological resources in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic brought adverse educational changes for students at all levels. This is so because the public education system was not built nor prepared to cope with remote learning using Internet resources but for face-to-face learning. However, to mitigate the learning losses from the significant disruption of education provision due to the Covid-19 crisis, many schools switched from physical classroom learning to the distance delivery of education via online platforms (Aucejo *et al.*, 2020; Pokhrel and Chhetri, 2021). In the Covid-19 era, face-to-face learning is affected thus leading to losses on the part of students. Despite mitigating the challenge, there remain strong negative impacts (e.g. social isolation, lack of skill development, less interactive knowledge, effect on mental health, physical health effects, practical knowledge, and so on.) which have huge effects on the student's academic performance (Garcia and Weiss, 2020).

Nevertheless, one of the biggest challenges for accounting students and academic institutions in the covid-19 era is to continue educational activities, while maintaining social distancing (Qian, 2022). In public secondary schools, accounting students' academic performance in the COVID-19 era is impacted based on students' financial and health shocks (e.g., lack of resources to complete their studies or fear of becoming seriously sick), transition to online learning due to high cost of ICT tools, educational plans, and lack of qualified resource persons for online learning, low income of families with low financial base as well as the struggle to acquire relevant IT skills to cope with the current trend in education. Additionally, family factors also played a crucial role in student's academic performance, and the post-COVID-19 era has magnified their impact. Similarly, the unruly consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak have restricted higher education institutions (Acheampong, 2023) to function optimally. Furthermore, UNESCO (2020) reported that poor internet

connectivity cost of internet bundle, Internet- of-Things enabled device hinder students' academic performance. Also, Bono et al. (2020) discovered that the COVID-19 outbreak caused depression, which influenced students' well-being and academic achievement.

To ensure the continuity of education, despite the pandemic, educational institutions considered some key predictors (Abdu-Raheem, 2015) that impact students' academic performance although with little attention to family factors. The constituents of family factors include family financial status (income), parental occupation, rural-urban residential status (area of living), parental level of education (academic background), parent-child interaction, family home language, non-conducive home environment, family size, and so on.

The impact of the aforementioned factors would be determined using Qualitative research with specific attention given to the interview method as a research instrument. The choice of research instruments is its flexibility in allowing researchers to explore participants' thoughts, feelings, and experiences in depth. Hence, this study will be conducted using a structured interview method which allows a predetermined set of questions. Also, an inductive interview approach will be adopted for this study.

To ascertain the relationship between the impact of family factor in post covid-19 era and students' academic performance, Pearson correlation analysis models (Asuero *et al.*, 2006) was adopted. A Pearson correlation analysis model is chosen due to its strong power in statistical analyses to check assumptions, especially in linear regression. Therefore, this paper seeks to investigate the impact of family factors in post covid-19 era on the academic performance of accounting students in public secondary schools. The perceived family factors are presented in the Figure;

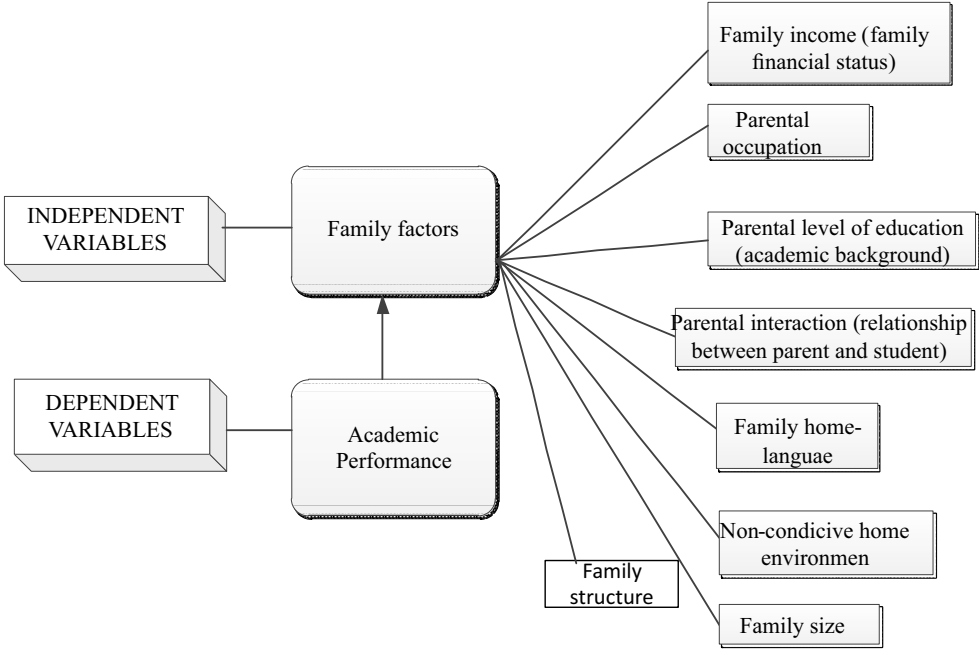


Figure 1: Family Factors associated with students' academic performance (adapted from Abdu-Raheem, 2015)

Literature review

The study conducted by Acheampong, (2023) investigated the perceived impact of Covid-19 on students' learning and academic performance using a qualitative approach in Ghana. A semi-structured interview method was adopted during the data collection phase. The result showed that sociodemographic characteristics influenced 60% of students, and 57% were influenced by their parent's socioeconomic status. This study was limited to a qualitative approach and focused only during the COVID-19 era. The study focused on the University of Ghana Business School and cannot be generalized to all higher education institutions.

Olowoyo *et al* (2023) examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on university students' learning and emotional stability. A questionnaire was administered online to 254 registered students at three universities in the Gauteng province of South Africa. Results showed that the majority of participants (84.9%), 91.9% of participants used internet connectivity provided by universities for learning However, 30.9%, 30%, and 29.2% of participants result in buying, borrowing, and stopping to learn when the data gets depleted. On average, 33.7% of participants were neutral about having

adequate time for studies and their academic performance improving during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, 33.9% of participants were neutral about receiving adequate assistance from lecturers (34%) and family members (33.7%) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study only focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic without considering the post-COVID-19 era on student academic performance.

The study of Xing, (2023) discusses and analyzes the effects of family factors on student achievement using a literature analysis approach, focusing on the effects of family composition, family relationships between husband and wife and parent and child, family economic and social status, and other relevant factors. The study only focused on reviewing the related literature without emphasizing the impact of post COVID-19 era.

Birhan Getachew (2022) conducted a study to analyze the factors which affect the academic performance of students, in Ahuntegen General Secondary School, North Wollo Zone, Ethiopia. Primary and secondary data were used for the study and multiple regression, chi-square test, and correlation analysis were also used to analyze the data. The result of the chi-square test and correlation analysis portrayed that a teacher's educational level, experience, and subject matter knowledge affect the academic performance of students. Furthermore, 14.8% and 62.7% variability of students' academic performance was explained by teachers and school-related variables. Overall 74.2% of variations in students' results were explained by 19 variables applied for this study. This study was not conducted during or after the rise of covid-19 pandemic.

Ketema, *et al.* (2022) assessed the factors that affect the academic performance of female students in the Kabridahar district. A descriptive research design was employed in this study. Data from 275 female students and 10 teachers were collected using structured questionnaires, and interviews, as well as document analysis. However, data was analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics (multiple linear regressions). The result showed various factors, such as personal factors, socioeconomic factors, and school factors as those affecting the academic performance of female students. From the study, it was learned that lack of self-motivation, absence of regular school and attendance, less amount of time invested on educational activities, less attendance on tutorial and supportive classes, inability to become well planned and organized, and peer pressure of friends were the key personal factors affecting female students' academic performance. This study was

limited to the academic performance of female students only before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awal (2022) explored the undergraduate accounting students' perceptions of the detrimental factors that negatively affect the academic performance of the students at Moulvibazar Government Women's College (MGWC), Bangladesh. In the study, several student factors (e.g., frequent absenteeism, lack of motivation, disliking of course), family factors (e.g., parental academic background, family economic status), college factors (e.g., enrolment, inadequate campus accommodation, poor sanitation, poor library facilities) and teacher factors (e.g., lack of teachers, lack of seriousness among teachers) significantly affects students' academic performance. This was a review study and was not conducted during or after the outcome of covid-19

Aderonke *et al.* (2021) studied the impact of COVID-19 on the academic performance of students in higher institutions in Nigeria. The study utilized an interactive survey design to get responses from students of tertiary institutions. Two sample methods such as snowballing and purposive were used to administer the questionnaire. Also, descriptive statistics, association, and a regression model were adopted for analysis. Inferential statistics was carried out to determine the association and regression between variables. The association of variables was tested using the Chi-square test at P-values of <0.005 . Results from the descriptive statistics show that 11.6% of respondents were able to continue school online and 41.4% have a level of doubt about their ability. The result of Chi-square also revealed that students from public universities were economically more affected than those from private universities. The ordinal logistic model considered multiple independent variables and showed the future effect of COVID-19 on the career/academic progression of students, irrespective of discipline or degree of study university category, or level/year of study.

El-Said (2021) investigated the effect of the sudden shift from face-to-face to online distance learning due to the COVID-19 lockdown at one of the universities in Egypt. A comparison of grades was made between 376 business students who completed a face-to-face course in spring 2019 and 372 students who completed the same course but fully online via distance learning mode in spring 2020 during the lockdown. A T-test was conducted to compare grades of quizzes, coursework, and final exams for the two groups. The chi-square test was used to compare grade distribution for both groups. & The effect of gender, credit hours, age, and CGPA was assessed. The results suggested that there was

no statistically significant difference in students' grades. In addition, the unplanned and rapid move to online distance learning at the time of the pandemic did not result in a poor learning experience as was expected. The study also included a survey of 435 students and interviews with a sample of professors about their learning and teaching experience during the lockdown. the study was only vital for university students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Odoh *et al.* (2017) examined the influence of parental occupation and level of education on the academic performance of accounting students in Nigeria. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The main instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Data analysis was carried out with statistical tools of Chi-square (X²) and t-test statistics. Results obtained indicated that parental occupational level significantly influenced students' academic performance of accounting students and parental educational levels have a strong positive relationship with students' academic performance in accounting studies in Nigeria. The result of the chi-square test and correlation analysis portrayed that teachers' educational level, experience, subject matter knowledge, students' interest in education, attendance, parents' educational level, parents' income, the distance of the school from the student's home, the availability of materials, textbook and language skill of students influence the academic success of students. Besides, keeping other variables constant, 14.8 % and 62.7% variability of students' academic performance was explained by teacher and school-related variables whereas the overall 74.2 % of variations of students' results were explained by 19 variables applied for this study. The study was conducted before the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic.

Adzido *et al.* (2016) conducted a study to examine the relationship between family income and the academic performance of tertiary students in Ghana. The study focuses on the source of family income, expenditure patterns of students on campus, and student's performance using a qualitative research design. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 480 students across the faculties in the Polytechnic. Questionnaires were used to collect primary data to support the secondary data. The study found a mixed significant relationship between higher family income and better students' academic performance based on the student's cumulative grade point average (CGPA). The study concluded that family financial status affects students' performance to some extent, but was not an essential predictor of higher

academic performance. Also, that low family income does not necessarily lower their academic achievement. The study was conducted before the outbreak of COVID-19 and attention was only on tertiary institution students.

The study by Abdu-Rahim (2015) investigated parents' socioeconomic status on secondary school students' academic performance in Ekiti State. A descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted. The population for the study comprised all Junior Secondary School students in Ekiti State. The sample consisted of 960 students from 20 secondary schools randomly selected for the study. Purposive sampling was used to select 48 students from each school. The instruments used for the study are a self-designed questionnaire and inventory to collect students' results. The validity of the instrument was ascertained through face and content validity. Test-re-test and estimation of internal consistency methods of reliability were adopted for the questionnaire. The reliability coefficient of 0.69 and 0.71 was obtained. Four hypotheses were formulated and tested at a 0.05 level of significance. The data were analyzed using Regression statistical tools. It was confirmed that there was a relationship between parents' socioeconomic status and the academic performance of secondary school students.

From the reviewed literature it was observed that no study so far considered the impact of family factors in post post-COVID-19 era on the academic performance of accounting students in public secondary schools. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the impact of family factors in post COVID-19 era on the academic performance of accounting students in public secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State using Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis.

Statement of the Problem

The unruly consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak have affected the outcomes of education programs in schools. Consequently, this has brought significant disruptions in the education system due to inadequate tools to deliver lessons as well as students' hands-on experience. The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak causes schools to switch from physical classroom learning to remote delivery of lessons via online platforms (Aucejo *et al.*, 2020; Pokhrel and Chhetri, 2021). However, the effect of delivering lessons via online platforms has prompted serious financial, academic, and family burdens for several households as well as affecting the overall academic performance of students.

In the post-Covid-19 era, students' academic performance is influenced by some factors which include: poor internet connectivity, cost of internet bundles, affordability of Internet-of-Things enabled devices, lack of qualified resource persons for online learning, low income of families with low financial base as well as the struggle to acquire relevant IT skills to cope with the current trend in education for remote learning, and so on. Similarly, owing to inadequate technological skills to support learning, lack of experienced persons to drive Information Technological (IT) tools, social isolation by students, lack of skill development to handle technological tools, less interactive knowledge, mental health effects, physical health effects, practical knowledge of the students (Garcia and Weiss, 2020), the transition from the face-to-face method of teaching and learning to remote learning also affect the academic performance of most students.

These challenges affect the overall learning outcome of the institution and students, thus making it difficult to meet sustainable development goals. Addressing the aforementioned problems requires investigating the impact of family factors in post covid-19 era using qualitative methods of research and multivariate regression analysis methods.

Objectives of the Study

The study investigates the impact of family factors in post COVID-19 era on the academic performance of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State using the following objectives:

1. To Identify the family factors that impact students' academic performance in the post covid-19 era
2. To determine how family factors impact on academic performance of students in secondary schools.

To achieve the outcome of this study, the following research questions and hypotheses will be considered:

1. What are the perceived family factors that impact the academic performance of accounting students?
2. What is the relationship between family factors and students' academic performance in accounting?

Methodology

In this study, the focus point centered on senior classes students offering accounting in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State. A qualitative interview method based on its strength of a “humanistic focus” (Gephart, 2004), flexibility, sensitivity to details and research setting (Bryman and Bell, 2015), meaningful insight, and generation of new ideas, was adopted in the survey.

Population and sample size

The study was conducted in Senior Secondary Schools in Onna Local Government area of Akwa Ibom State using a sizeable sample size of students from the nine secondary schools in Onna L.G.A. Random sampling method for selecting students was employed in 5 secondary schools in the local government using a close-ended questionnaire (Hyman and Sierra (2016). The intent for using a close-ended question was to remove the influence of the interviewer's behavior, such that what is obtained in the session is a genuine reflection of who the respondent is rather than how the interviewer conducted the session. The research instrument for data collection was a qualitative interview method.

Research Instrumentation

This study was conducted using a structured interview method which allowed a predetermined set of questions. The choice of research instruments was considered appropriate due to its ability to explore participants' thoughts, feelings, and experiences in depth by researchers.

Data collection and analysis

Data was sourced from senior secondary school students using a qualitative interview method. Multiple participants were needed for cross-validation purposes (Bryman and Bell, 2015; Patton, 2015). The interview was conducted on one hundred and thirty-five students selected from nine secondary schools in the Onna Local Government area, using a simple sampling method.

The qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) method was adapted for analyzing the data. This was due to its rigorous and systematic approach to analyzing qualitative data, ensuring validity and enhancing the overall quality of research findings. However, the process of qualitative content data analysis used for this study involves the following steps: understanding the textural raw data based on selected factors, transforming the textual data into numeric format, and organizing the data to suit the final interpretation and reporting.

In this study, data was analyzed using the SPSS tool on four Likert scale levels. Correlation analysis was used to extract relevant family factors that impacted the academic performance of accounting students in public secondary schools in post covid-19 era in Akwa Ibom State. This method is chosen owing to its in-depth insight into finding relationships between multiple variables or features and the correlation between independent variables and dependent variables. The result obtained from the analysis is presented in Table 1 and Figure 1 respectively.

Question 1: What are the perceived family factors that impact the academic performance of accounting students?

Table 1: Descriptive analysis of result obtained from the survey

Factor	Strongly agree (Scale_3)	Agree (Scale_2)	Disagree (Scale_1)	Strongly Disagree (Scale_0)	Decision
native_language	9	29	56	41	Disagree
parent_education	17	19	64	35	Disagree
family_size	19	27	66	23	Disagree
parental interaction (relationship_between)	30	71	17	17	Agree
parental_occupation	34	64	27	10	Agree
family_financial_status	37	52	27	19	Agree
unconducive_environment	67	33	22	13	Strongly Agree
family_structure	7	53	38	37	Agree

In this study, the result of analysis shows that the majority of respondents agree that parental interaction, parental occupation, family financial status, unconducive environment, and family structure were found to impact student academic performance in accounting in post post-COVID-19 era.

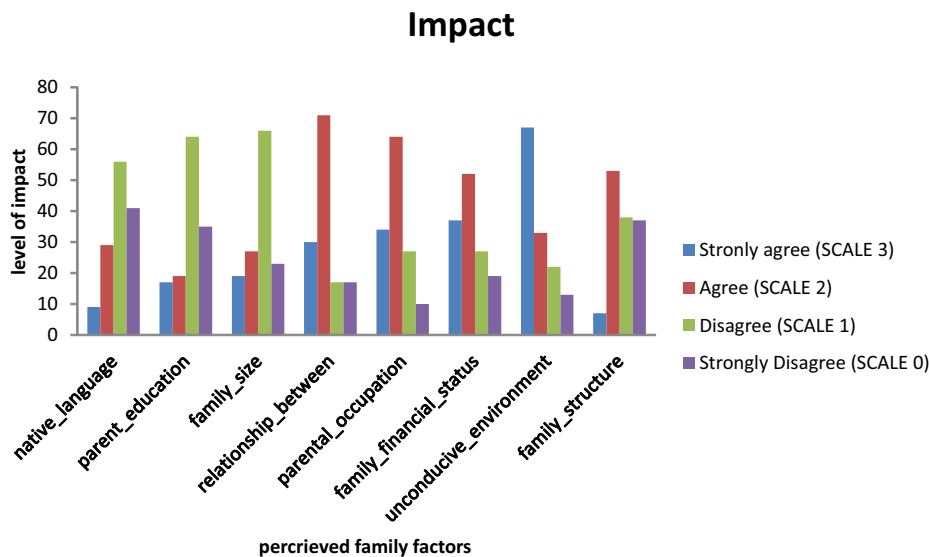


Figure 1: Exploratory analysis of the result

Question 2: What is the relationship between family factor and students' academic performance in accounting?

Table 2 indicates that native language, parent occupation, family size, parent occupation, family financial status, family interaction, family structure, and conducive environment have low correlations. However, there is a significant relationship between family size and parent education with a corresponding P-value of $.330 > 0.05$ significance level. This implies that the null hypothesis is accepted. Also, considering the relationship between family interaction and family size has correlated p-value of $-.147$ is statistically significant. Since $-.147 < 0.05$, this implies that the null hypothesis is rejected. Furthermore, the relationship between family structure and parental occupation has a p-value of $-.143 < 0.05$. This implies that it is statistically significant and the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2: Correlation analysis showing correlated and non-correlated featured

		Correlations ^c							
		native_languag e	parent_educati on	family_s ize	relation ship_be tween	parenta l_occup ation	family_fi nancial_ status	unconduc ive_envir onment	family_s tructure
native_lan guage	Pearson	1							
	Correlation								
parent_ed ucation	Pearson	-.025	1						
	Correlation								
family_siz e	Pearson	.387		1					
	Correlation								
relationsh ip_betwee n	Pearson	.084	.330		1				
	Correlation								
parental_ occupatio n	Pearson	.168	.000	-.147*		1			
	Correlation								
family_fin ancial_sta tus	Pearson	.156*	.050		-.010		1		
	Correlation								
unconduci ve_enviro nment	Pearson	.036	.282	.045				1	
	Correlation								
family_str ucture	Pearson	.035	.098	.019	.456	.201			1
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.344	.128	.412	-.027				
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.187*	.235	.258		.010	.286		
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.015	.003	.001	.376		.000		
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.034	.035	-.055	.040	-.053		.135	
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.346	.345	.262	.323	.273	.116		
	Correlation								
	Pearson	-.104	-.026	.122	.114	-.143*			
	Correlation								
	Pearson	.114	.382	.080	.095	.049	.089	.059	
	Correlation								
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).									
c. Listwise N=135									

Conclusion

This paper seeks to investigate the impact of family factors in the post-COVID-19 era on the academic performance of accounting students in public secondary schools using descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. The study identified four factors that impact the academic performance of students in post-COVID-19. The result obtained showed that the majority of respondents agreed that parental interaction, parental occupation, family financial status, unconducive environment, and family structure were found to impact student academic performance in accounting in post COVID-19 era in senior secondary schools, in Akwa Ibom State.

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GENDER RELATION IN FAMILY DEVELOPMENT: CARE FOR THE AGED

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study determined the difference between male and female family members focused on care for the aged. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The study was conducted in the headquarters of three protestant churches in Akwa Ibom State namely: The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Uyo Presbytery, Methodist Church Nigeria, Ikot Ekpene Diocese and Qua Iboe Church Nigeria, Abak Area Conference. The total population of the study was 3,363. The sample size was 343 respondents (213 females and 130 males) drawn from the three protestant churches under the study. A simple random sampling technique was used to get a fair representation of the population. Instrument used for the data collection was a self-designed questionnaire titled "Gender Role and Care-giving Questionnaire" (GRCQ). Cronbach Alpha reliability method was used to determine the reliability co-efficient of the instrument which stood at 0.81. Mean statistical tool was used to answer the research questions, while independent t-test analysis was used to test the null hypotheses. The study revealed that female family members care for the aged more than the male. It also reveals that there is a significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged. Finally, the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members were adequate. Also it reveals that the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members are adequate. The methods adopted by female in caring for the aged family members are adequate. Also it reveals that there is significant difference in the method adopted by female in caring for the aged. It was recommended that the ministry of Humanitarian Service should cater for the elderly by paying a particular amount of money to cushion the effect of their suffering in this stage of life.

Keywords: Gender, Relation, Aged, Caregiving

Introduction

Gender relations are the specific sub-set of social roles uniting men and women as social group in a family and or community, including how power and access to and control over resources are distributed between male and female (Feree, 2010). Gender relations also known as gender role intersect with all other influences on social relations such as age, race, and religion. to determine the position and identity of people in a social group. Since gender relations are a social construct they can be transformed over time to become more equitable. Gender relation in a family refers to the extent one performs tasks and behaves in a way that is viewed as societally and culturally normative. Gender relations are defined as the specific mechanism whereby different cultures determine the functions and responsibilities of each sex.

Over the past few years, research has focused on gender as an important dimension of family relationships. The nature of that focus has greatly changed. However, early research portrayed gender as a way to explain differences between women and men in marital satisfaction, power in decision making etc. gender was viewed as unchangeable and unmalleable. It was assumed that family life was inherently different for men and women. This approach was consistent with a focus on gender roles in families-different obligations for men and women were believed to incur, appropriately because of their gender and socialization into adulthood. In other words men and women were seen as engaging in certain behaviours and occupying specific roles because they were male or female (Felix, 2013).

According to Ferree (2010), individual behaviours and role have gendered meanings that what people do comes to symbolize gender. Instead of examining the behaviours and roles believed to be associated with gender, the focus is on how certain structures behaviour and attitudes come to be linked. To understand the experiences of men and women, therefore, one must examine structure and symbols, resources and beliefs, institutions and interactions (Thompson, 2013). In effect, men and women create gender in their social interaction, gender is not an individual property but a fundamental basis of social order.

The family is an ideal social institution to examine gender because “gender hierarchy is created, reproduced and maintained on a day-to-day basis through interaction among members of a household (Austin, 2018). Through everyday interaction, people negotiate gender confirm and disconfirm each other as men and women, sustain or change gender meanings and create gender strategies.

Gender roles are extremely important to the functioning of the family. The family is one of the most important institutions. It can be nurturing empowering and strong. Some families are still very traditional. The woman or mother of the family stays at home to take care of the children, the aged and household duties. The man or father figure goes to work so that he can provide for his family. Many people believe that this is the way that things should go. Gender determines the expectations for the family. In all societies women are the prime care givers of children, the elderly and the ill, and do most of the domestic tasks. Women's lives are greatly affected by reproduction which has an incisive and direct impact on their health and on their education, employment and earning opportunities (Cain, 2013).

The modern life has very much changed the family structure and the gender roles have been diverting from the traditional responsibilities and path of performance. In the gap between different genders has already melted down, creating on all equal society and more equalized families. Today there are no bout-to-obey members in most families. All live together, taking decision together, expressing opinions openly, criticizing and encouraging mutually and yet being independent and responsible. The society-defined gender roles may crash with the modern roles of family members and many families experience the dilemma of the crashing gender roles

The family is not just an institution of many people living together under one roof, but the union of similar minded or mutually loving people bound with certain duties and responsibilities. The gender role structure was deliberately designed by the initial social set up to help the people accept and realize the specific duties each gender bound to. But today, both the parents work and earn for the family and both father and mother enjoys equal social status and financial independence. At this point, the role of home maker becomes no one's responsibility and both the partners may insist the other one to be the home maker. Adjustments, understanding and empathy are the advised aspects that may help a smooth running family. Changing to the century old concepts and lifestyle may help only to worsen the situation.

However, the processes through which individuals in families negotiate career and family responsibilities remains gendered, despite social advances in career equality. While women are earning more professional degrees and pursuing high-powered careers as frequently as their male counterparts, the burden of negotiating the work/family balance falls most frequently to women. Female partners are more likely to make sacrifices in

their professional lines to meet the needs and demands of their family (Stone and Lovejoy, 2014). This pervasive and perpetual trend highlights the freedom or lack thereof, that women have in making decisions to leave work to meet the demand associated with family management, caring for the children hiring child care help from outside the family or changing their work trajectories to accommodate both career and family.

Focusing on the decisions that women make regarding child care and employment, an unspoken reality is that men do not have the same “choice” to make when they become new fathers the decision to take time off from their career paths to care for children in the home is still quite rare compared to stay-at-home moms. Nonetheless when a man choses to stay at home with the children or older adult members of the family he frequently experiences misunderstanding by other family members and friends, who perceive him as failing in his responsibilities as provider. While mothers' decision about working and children are a hot topic met with much debate, the absence of debate over men's decisions implies there is no decision to be made (Sherman, 2010). Women's burden then of being judged for these decisions, can also be perceived as an option that is not as easily awarded to males.

Old age is the range of ages for persons nearing and surpassing life expectancy. People of old age are also referred to as: old people, elderly, senior citizens, elder or older adults (Jayson, 2018). Aging is a gradual continuous process of natural change that begins in early adulthood. During early middle age, many bodily functions begins to gradually decline. Jayson (2018) explained that age 60-65 has been traditionally designated as the beginning of old age. But the reason was based in history, not biology. Many years ago age 65 was chosen as the age for retirement in Germany, the first nation to establish a retirement program. In 1965 in the United States of America (USA) age 65 was designated as the eligibility age for Medicare insurance (Leo, 2013). In Nigeria age 60 was designated as the official retirement age for most civil servants even though the policy has recently been reviewed to age 65 for teachers in the primary and secondary schools. This age is close to the actual retirement age of most people in economically advanced societies. This article highlights various approaches to the study of gender and family relations with focus on care for the aged.

Statement of the Problem

The modern life has very much changed the family structure and the gender roles have been diverting from the traditional responsibilities and path of performance. The gap between different genders has already melted down, creating on all equal society and more equalized families. Today there are no bout-to-obey members in most families (or maybe minimally limited). All live together, taking decision together, expressing opinions openly, criticizing and encouraging mutually and yet being independent and responsible. The society-defined gender roles may crash with the modern roles of family members and many families experience the dilemma of the crashing gender roles. This study determined the difference between male and female family members focused on care for the aged.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study determined the difference between male and female family members focused on care for the aged. Specifically, the study determined:

1. How male and female family members differ in their care for the aged.
2. The methods male adopt in caring for the aged.
3. The methods female adopt in caring for the aged.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. How does male and female differ in their care for the aged?
2. What methods do male adopt in caring for the aged?
3. What methods do female adopt in caring for the aged?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study:

1. There is no significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged.
2. There is no significant difference in the method adopted by male in caring for the aged.
3. There is no significant difference in method adopted by female in caring for the aged.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The study was conducted in the headquarters of three protestant churches in Akwa Ibom State namely: The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Uyo Presbytery, Methodist Church Nigeria, Ikot Ekpene Diocese and Qua Iboe Church Nigeria, Abak Area Conference. The population comprised all registered members of men and women fellowship from the three churches selected. The total population of the study was 3,363. The sample size was 343 respondents (213 females and 130 males) drawn from the three protestant churches under the study. A simple random sampling technique was used to get a fair representation of the population.

Instrument used for the data collection was a self-designed questionnaire titled “Gender Role and Care-giving Questionnaire” (GRCQ). The instrument was made up of twenty (20) items. After validation the items were reduced to seventeen (17). The items were scored using a four point likert scale of: Strongly Agree (SA) – 4, Agree (SA) – 3, Disagree (D) – 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) – 1. The instrument was validated by three experts from the National Teachers Institute, Uyo Study Center. Cronbach Alpha reliability method was used to determine the reliability co-efficient of the instrument which stood at 0.81. The respondents were reached during specific fellowship days and with the help of two assistants, a total of 343 questionnaires were administered and completely retrieved (100%) with non-missing. A mean statistical tool was used to answer the research questions, while independent t-test analysis was used to test the null hypotheses.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1

How does male and female differ in caring for the aged?

Null Hypotheses 1

There is no significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged.

**Table 1: Difference between male and female family members in caring
 for the aged**

SN	How do family members care for the aged	Male		Female		p- value	Decision @p≤ .05
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD		
1	Doing all the house chores	2.88	0.55	3.45	0.97	0.00	S
2	Doing cooking	2.58	0.80	3.77	0.87	0.01	S
3	Taking 100% financial burden	3.88	1.11	2.52	1.01	0.00	S
4	Giving emotional support	2.90	1.52	3.51	1.02	0.00	S
5	Spending more time with the aged family member(s)	2.67	1.21	2.96	1.02	0.03	S
	Cluster Mean	2.98		3.24			S

S = Significant

Data analysis in Table 1 reveals the Mean value for Male (2.98) and that of Female (3.24). This means that Female family members care for the aged more than the male. In testing the hypothesis, Table 1 also reveals the p value for each item which indicates Significant for all. Since all the p values are less than .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. It could therefore be inferred that there is a significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged.

Research Question 2:

What methods do male adopt in caring for the aged?

Research Hypotheses 2

There is no significant difference in the method adopted by male in caring for the aged.

Table 2: Difference in the method adopted by male in caring for the aged

SN	What methods do male adopt in caring for the aged?	Male		Female		p-value	Decision @p≤ .05
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD		
1	Visit and spend more time with them every now and then.	3.16	0.78	3.04	0.67	0.49	NS
2	Bath and feed them daily	3.22	0.77	3.12	0.75	0.57	NS
3	Revamp their living space.	3.25	0.81	2.78	0.69	0.01	S
4	Speak to them over the phone often	3.51	1.52	2.90	1.02	0.00	S
5	Hire external help	2.96	1.21	2.67	1.00	0.03	S
	Cluster Mean	3.22		2.90			S

S = Significant

Data analysis in Table 2 reveals the Mean value for Male (3.22) and that of Female (2.90). This means that the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members are adequate. In testing the hypothesis, Table 2 also reveals the p value for three items indicates Significant. Since all their p values are less than .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. It could therefore be inferred that there is a significant difference in the method adopted by male in caring for the aged.

Research Question 3

What methods do female adopt in caring for the aged?

Research Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in methods adopted by female in caring for the aged.

Table 3: Difference in the method adopted by female in caring for the aged

SN	What methods do female adopt in caring for the aged?	Male		Female		p-value	Decision @p≤ .05
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD		
1	Visit and spend more time with them	3.00	0.75	3.28	0.63	0.00	S
2	Bath and feed them daily	2.80	0.71	3.09	0.77	0.02	S
3	Check and encourage them to take their medicine	2.58	0.77	3.03	0.82	0.00	S
4	Revamp their living space	3.04	0.78	3.16	0.67	0.00	S
5	Speak to them over the phone often	2.62	0.77	3.22	0.75	0.01	S
6	Hire an external help	2.78	0.81	3.25	0.69	0.01	S
	Cluster Mean	2.80		3.17			S

S = Significant

Data analysis in Table 3 reveals the Mean value for Male (2.80) and that of Female (3.17). This means that the methods adopted in caring for the aged by female family members are adequate. In testing the hypothesis, Table 3 also reveals the p value for all items indicate significant. Since all their p values are greater than .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. It could therefore be inferred that there is a significant difference in the method adopted by female in caring for the aged.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study revealed that Female family members care for the aged more than the male. It also reveals that there is a significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged. This result is in line with the statement of Sherman (2010) who said that when a man does choose to stay at home with the children or older adult members of the family he frequently experiences misunderstanding by other family members and friends, who perceive him as failing in his responsibilities as provider. While mothers' decision about working and children are a hot topic met with much debate, the absence of debate over men's decisions implies there is no decision to be made. Women's burden then of being judged for these decisions, can also be perceived as an option that is not as easily awarded to males. All live together, taking decision together, expressing opinions openly, criticizing and encouraging mutually and yet being independent and responsible (Ferree, 2010). The society-defined gender roles may crash with the modern roles of family members and many families experience the dilemma of the crashing gender roles.

The findings further revealed that the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members are adequate. This finding refutes the position of Felix (2013) which states that individual behaviours and role have gendered meanings that what people do comes to symbolize gender. Instead of examining the behaviours and roles believed to be associated with gender, the focus is on how certain structures, behaviour and attitudes come to be linked. To understand the experiences of men and women, therefore, one must examine structure and symbols, resources and beliefs, institutions and interactions (Thompson, 2013). In effect, men and women create gender in their social interaction, gender is not an individual property but a fundamental basis of social order. The man or father figure goes to work so that he can provide for his family. Many people believe that this is the way that things

should go. Gender determines the expectations for the family. Gender roles are extremely important to the functioning of the family. The family is one of the most important institutions. It can be nurturing empowering and strong. Some families are still very traditional.

The findings further revealed that the methods adopted by females in caring for the aged family members are adequate. Also it reveals that there is a significant difference in the method adopted by female in caring for the aged. This finding confirms the position of Cain (2013) which stated that the woman or mother of the family stays at home to take care of the children, the aged and household duties. In all societies women are the prime carers of children, the elderly and the ill, and do most of the domestic tasks. Women's lives are greatly affected by reproduction which has an incisive and direct impact on their health and on their education, employment and earning opportunities.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that female family members care for the aged more than the male. It also reveals that there is a significant difference between male and female family members in caring for the aged. Finally, the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members are adequate. Also it reveals that there is the methods adopted in caring for the aged by male family members are adequate. The methods adopted in caring for the aged by female family members are adequate. Also it reveals that there is no significant difference in the method adopted by female in caring for the aged. The demands of caring for the aged member(s) of the family appear to be taking a toll on family members both male and female; given the increasing and conflicting demands on time for men and women from work. Certain strategies have to come to play in order to balance the needs of the family and other secular activities.

Recommendations

1. The ministry of Humanitarian Service should cater for the elderly by paying a particular amount of money to cushion the effect of their suffering in this stage of life.
2. Male and female members of the family should take care of the aged.

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EFFECT OF GENDER ON SPORT PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY OF UYO, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of Gender on Sport Performance of Physical and Health Education Undergraduate Students in University of Uyo. Three indicators were adopted which were performances of sport skills and techniques, health behaviour and injuries, three objectives and three hypothesis were formulated. The study adopted a survey design with 23 respondents, 9 males and 14 females. Questionnaire based on a 4 point Likert scale was used for data collection. The data was analyzed using statistical package used is SPSS software which is a close alternative to the commonly used SPSS. It was coded as PMALE- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Males), HPM- Health Behavior for (Males), INM- Injury (Males) and PF- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Females), HPF- Health Behavior for (Females) and INF- Injury (Female. Bivariate regression analysis outcome was used to answer the research questions and analyzed the hypothesis. The result shows that for both sexes, there is a significant impact of skill and sports techniques on sports performance when considering the gender of the athletes. This is due to the significance of the R-values and the p-values given in form of sig. in each model tested. The three models used may not be enough to directly impact on sports performance in a larger population.

Keywords: Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques, Health Behaviour Gender on Sport Performance, and Injury

1. Introduction

The importance of examining performance in relation to gender is based primarily on the socio-cultural differences between girls and boys. Sport is playing an important societal role to promote education, health, intercultural dialogue, individual development, regardless of the gender, race, age, ability,

religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background of an individual, sport continues to exhibit disparity with respect to gender equity, with reduced opportunities, budgetary allowances, and social support for girls and women around the world. The gender gap in sport is closing due to biological differences affecting performance. Parents' economic status (Osonwa et al, 2013), continuous assessment (Kolawole and Ala, 2014;).

Sociopolitical factors affect full female performance across a range of sports around the world. These causes are looked into from several perspectives including the role of the students, teachers, parents or family, school environment, society, government. Notable works among these are effects of: students' study habits (Ayodele and Adebisi, 2013;). Adeyanju (2019) maintained that despite the fact that many discriminatory practices exist against women involvement in sport, there are those who dare the consequences. They engaged, sponsor, encourage and reward sport women.

Several physical characteristics of post pubescent men predispose them to outperform females in sport. According to Fadoju (2019) Gender refer to the social roles and expectations that are associated with being male or female which largely influence their lives. Sport is based on how well and individual performs the necessary skills and techniques in a particular game Various factors are considered in comparing the performance of sport skills and techniques between the male and female. Anatomically, men have larger heart, larger lungs, less body fat, and more muscle mass than woman which give the male the advantage to be able to perform sport skills and techniques perfectly than the female. The health behaviours between the male and females, the females are likely to experience pains, illness, stress, anxiety than the male and lastly, the female will likely be prone to injuries than the male.

This study is to investigate into the effects of gender on sport performance of physical and health education undergraduate students in University of Uyo. The university environment has been considered as one of the most stressful environments for both students and staff as different activities ranging from academic to social are constantly been carried out (Akindutire and Oyeniyi, 2011). Several factors would be considered comparing the performances of sport skills and techniques, their health behaviour and injuries between the male and female undergraduates students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.

The issue of gender differences in the performance of sport skills and techniques, health behaviours and injuries among undergraduate student in the department of physical and health education is necessitated.

The objectives of this study

- To determine the effect of gender on the performances of sport skills and techniques among undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.
- To determine the effect of gender on the health behaviours of undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.
- To determine the effect of gender on injuries among undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo

The following hypothesis were formulated to guide the study.

1. There are no effect of gender on the performances of sport skills and techniques among undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.
2. There are no effect of gender on the health behaviours of undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.
3. There are no effect of gender on injuries among undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.

2. Methodology

A descriptive survey research design was utilized. Descriptive research is the research design in which data is collected in a qualitative manner and analyzed using quantitative procedures (Nassaji, 2015). The descriptive survey research design uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods. It is used primarily to conduct quantitative research and gather data that is easy to analyze statistically. However, it can also provide qualitative data that will help you describe and understand the research subject. Data was collected from twenty four (23) 100 level physical education unit male and female students, nine (9) males and (14) females in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo.

This was done using a questionnaire based on Likert scaling design of Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree and Strongly Disagree with the use of available sampling technique. The Likert scale used were transform into numerical data and entered into pss software for processing. The questionnaire was constructed by the researcher and validated by experts in the field. . The questionnaires were formulated with both sexes of students in mind, one was targeted at the male population while the other was targeted at the female population. The statistical package that was used is PSPP statistical software which is a close alternative to the commonly used SPSS. It was coded as PMALE- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Males), HPM- Health Behavior for (Males), INM- Injury (Males) and PF- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Females),HPF- Health Behavior for (Females),INF- Injury (Female). Finally, bivariate regression analysis was conducted on the data how one variable impacted on another variable.

3. Results and discussion of findings

The data from the administered questionnaire were extracted and coded for ease of processing. The questionnaires were formulated with both sexes of students in mind, one was targeted at the male population while the other was targeted at the female population. All respondent were asked to fill the questionnaires independently to avoid giving misguided responses which could create statistical problem during data analysis. The statistical package that was used is PSPP statistical software which is a close alternative to the commonly used SPSS. The items variables of the questionnaire had the following codes:

PMALE- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Males)

HPM- Health Behavior for (Males)

INM- Injury (Males)

PF- Performance of Sports Skills and Techniques for (Females)

HPF- Health Behavior for (Females)

INF- Injury (Female)

The Likert scale used were transformed into numerical data and entered into pss software for processing. The table below shows the frequencies for the responses given on the items of the questionnaires

Table1. frequency table for PMALE

<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	1.60	2	8.70	8.70	8.70
	1.80	1	4.35	4.35	13.04
	2.00	4	17.39	17.39	30.43
	2.20	4	17.39	17.39	47.83
	2.40	5	21.74	21.74	69.57
	2.60	3	13.04	13.04	82.61
	2.80	1	4.35	4.35	86.96
	3.00	1	4.35	4.35	91.30
	3.20	2	8.70	8.70	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

PMALE

<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		2.34
<i>Std Dev</i>		.44
<i>Kurtosis</i>		-.16
<i>Skewness</i>		.34

Table 2. Frequency table for HBM

<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	2.60	1	4.35	4.35	4.35
	2.80	1	4.35	4.35	8.70
	3.00	5	21.74	21.74	30.43
	3.20	3	13.04	13.04	43.48
	3.40	5	21.74	21.74	65.22
	3.60	5	21.74	21.74	86.96
	4.00	1	4.35	4.35	91.30
	4.20	1	4.35	4.35	95.65
	4.40	1	4.35	4.35	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

HBM

<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		3.37
<i>Std Dev</i>		.43
<i>Kurtosis</i>		.51
<i>Skewness</i>		.63
<i>Minimum</i>		2.60
<i>Maximum</i>		4.40

Table 3. Frequency table for INM

INM					
<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	1.00	2	8.70	8.70	8.70
	1.40	1	4.35	4.35	13.04
	1.60	3	13.04	13.04	26.09
	2.00	2	8.70	8.70	34.78
	2.20	3	13.04	13.04	47.83
	2.40	4	17.39	17.39	65.22
	2.60	1	4.35	4.35	69.57
	2.80	3	13.04	13.04	82.61
	3.00	2	8.70	8.70	91.30
	3.20	2	8.70	8.70	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

INM		
<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		2.25
<i>Std Dev</i>		.65
<i>Kurtosis</i>		-.61
<i>Skewness</i>		-.42

From the data on tables 1-3 can be seen the data of normally distributed as the value for kurtosis and skewness has values less than the critical values (i.e., $K-S \leq \pm 95\%$). The mean for the responses on the PMALE item is 2.34 which corresponds to “Agree” on the Likert scale. Similar values were gotten for responses on the INM section, except the HBM section which had a mean response corresponding to “Disagree” on the Likert scale.

For questionnaires administers to female students, the following tables frequency were gotten:

Table 4. Frequency table for PF

PF					
<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	1.20	1	4.35	4.35	4.35
	1.60	2	8.70	8.70	13.04
	1.80	1	4.35	4.35	17.39
	2.00	4	17.39	17.39	34.78
	2.20	5	21.74	21.74	56.52
	2.40	5	21.74	21.74	78.26
	2.60	1	4.35	4.35	82.61
	2.80	1	4.35	4.35	86.96
	3.00	1	4.35	4.35	91.30
	3.20	1	4.35	4.35	95.65
	3.40	1	4.35	4.35	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

PF		
<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		2.27
<i>Std Dev</i>		.51
<i>Kurtosis</i>		.54
<i>Skewness</i>		.31

Table 5. Frequency table for HBF

<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	2.20	1	4.35	4.35	4.35
	2.40	2	8.70	8.70	13.04
	2.60	2	8.70	8.70	21.74
	2.80	2	8.70	8.70	30.43
	3.00	3	13.04	13.04	43.48
	3.20	4	17.39	17.39	60.87
	3.40	6	26.09	26.09	86.96
	3.60	3	13.04	13.04	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

HBF		
<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		3.08
<i>Std Dev</i>		.42
<i>Kurtosis</i>		-.64
<i>Skewness</i>		-.64

Table 6. Frequency table for INF

<i>Value Label</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
	2.00	1	4.35	4.35	4.35
	2.20	2	8.70	8.70	13.04
	2.60	3	13.04	13.04	26.09
	2.80	4	17.39	17.39	43.48
	3.00	3	13.04	13.04	56.52
	3.20	2	8.70	8.70	65.22
	3.40	2	8.70	8.70	73.91
	3.60	6	26.09	26.09	100.00
<i>Total</i>		23	100.0	100.0	

INF		
<i>N</i>	<i>Valid</i>	23
	<i>Missing</i>	0
<i>Mean</i>		3.01
<i>Std Dev</i>		.50
<i>Kurtosis</i>		-.79
<i>Skewness</i>		-.38

From the data on tables 4-6 it can be seen the data of normally distributed as the value of for kurtosis and skewness has values less than the critical values (i.e., $K-S \leq \pm 95\%$). The mean for the responses on the PF item is 2.27 which

corresponds to “Agree” on the Likert scale. Similar values were absent in the responses given on the INF and HBM sections as they both had a mean response that corresponded to “Disagree” on the Likert scale.

Regression analysis was conducted on the data how one variable impacted on another variable. The responses gotten from the male student responders was used as the dependent variable while the responses of female responders were used as the independent variable. A bivariate regression was conducted, as it involved the comparison of the effect of two data sets. The results of the regression analysis are shown below:

REGRESSION

REGRESSION
/VARIABLES= PF
/DEPENDENT= PM
/METHOD=ENTER
/STATISTICS=COEFF CI R ANOVA.

Model Summary (PM)				
R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
.02	.00	-.05	.45	

ANOVA (PM)				
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F Sig.
Regression	.00	1	.00	.01 .925
Residual	4.27	21	.20	
Total	4.27	22		

Coefficients (PM)							
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			95% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	2.38	.44		.00	5.43 .000	1.47	3.29
PF	-.02	.19		-.02	.10 .925	-.41	.37

REGRESSION

REGRESSION
/VARIABLES= HBF
/DEPENDENT= HBM
/METHOD=ENTER
/STATISTICS=COEFF CI R ANOVA.

Model Summary (HBM)				
R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
.22	.05	.00	.43	

ANOVA (HBM)				
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F Sig.
Regression	.20	1	.20	1.07 .312
Residual	3.90	21	.19	
Total	4.10	22		

Coefficients (HBM)							
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			95% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	4.08	.69		.00	5.95 .000	2.65	5.50
HBF	-.23	.22	-.22	-1.04	.312	-.69	.23

REGRESSION

REGRESSION
/VARIABLES= INF
/DEPENDENT= INM
/METHOD=ENTER
/STATISTICS=COEFF CI R ANOVA.

Model Summary (INM)				
R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
.23	.05	.01	.65	

ANOVA (INM)				
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F Sig.
Regression	.48	1	.48	1.16 .295
Residual	8.81	21	.42	
Total	9.30	22		

Coefficients (INM)							
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			95% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	1.36	.84		.00	1.61 .122	-.40	3.11
INF	.30	.28		.23	1.07 .295	-.28	.87

From the regression data gotten was noticed that the adjusted R-value for all the data set is > 0.4 , which makes the correlation good. Also, the R-squared values for all the data sets showed that the model used to determine the effect of gender on sport performance may not be effective enough to determine the relationship since none of the R-square values is < 0.5 .

The ANOVA tables, the p-value is less than 0.05 considering the 95% confidence interval. This shows that the result of the regression test was significant, and all the null hypothesis can be rejected. The value of the significance (sig.) is < 0.05 for all the data set. This gives the impression that all null hypotheses on the effect of the model on sport performance can be rejected. As the data indicate the failure of the all the null hypothesis, it is evident that since gender correlates strongly with these variables, then it has a direct huge impact on sports performance.

Finally, the effect of gender on sport performance for the given population sample ($n=23$) was investigated using statistical methods, and this was done without the use of any clinical method as used in other similar work. The aim of the study was to see how the variables which were used as models would impact on the use of gender to determine sports performance.

The data gotten from the survey were first transformed into mean(μ) values since using them as they were would result in getting results that violates the normality rule, and would require some complex nonparametric statistical procedures for analysis. Bivariate regression used in the analysis proved that for both sexes, there is a significant impact of skill and techniques, health behaviours and injuries on sports performance when considering the gender of the athletes. This is due to the significance of the R-values and the p-values given in form of sig. in each model tested. The three models used may not be enough to directly impact on sports performance in a larger population.

1. Conclusion and Recommendation

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of gender on the performances of sport skills and techniques, health behaviours and injuries among undergraduate students in the department of physical and health education, University of Uyo. Using bivariate regression analysis it proved that for both sexes, there is a significant impact of skills and techniques, health behaviours and injuries on sports performance when considering the gender of the athletes. This is due to the significance of the R-values and the p-values given in form of sig. in each model tested. The three models used may not be enough to directly impact on sports performance in a larger population.

The recommendations given in this study are based on the findings reported above and it is hoped that when adopted, they will help the students understand the effect of gender on sport performance and promote good health and reduce fear to injuries.

1. It is evident that since gender correlates strongly with these variables, then it has a direct huge impact on sports performance, the department shouldn't ignore gender in the performance of sport skills and techniques
2. During practice there should be grouping to avoid injuries. The males should practice separately from the females
3. Emphasis should be more on educating the students on sport injuries and possible treatments so as to reduce their fear of been injured.
4. The health status of the students should be taken into consideration to avoid complications.
5. The department should employ a physiotherapist that could help the students with their injuries and a health specialist that will manage their health problems.
6. During practice there should be enough staff available to guide and monitor the students when performing those sport skills and techniques

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