

The Influence of Social Skills on Marital Satisfaction of Married Business Educators in Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State

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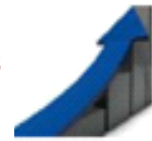
Abstract

This study assessed the influence of social skills on marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions. Two (2) research questions were poised to guide the study and two null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study and the population was one hundred and two (102) which comprised 67 males and 35 females Business Educators in Rivers State. Purposive sampling technique was adopted for this study as the entire population was used as sample size. A self-developed instrument titled “Influence of Social Skills on Marital Satisfaction of Business Educators Questionnaire (ISSMSBEQ)” was used for data collection which was validated and a reliability index of 0.75 was obtained using Cronbach Alpha method. Research questions were analyzed and answered using mean and standard deviation while the null hypotheses were tested using t-test statistical. One of the findings shows that love expression to a great extent influences marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Also, male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State differs significantly in their mean ratings as extent of love expression influences their marital satisfaction. It was therefore recommended amongst other things that married business educators should develop the habit of expressing love to their spouses in order to enjoy marital satisfaction especially in the area of sex which bonds them together.

Keywords: Social Skills, Marital Satisfaction, Business Educators, Love Expression, Effective Communication

Introduction

Marriage is a legalized agreement involving two persons of the opposite sex as husband and wife by which a family system is formed. Marriage is the first and oldest institution ordained by God as he clearly stated that “it is not good for a man to be alone, I will make a suitable helpmeet for him” (Genesis 2:18). Hence, a woman was created to be a loving companion and a helper to the man, to share in his responsibilities and accomplishment of God’s plan cooperatively. Apart from this heterosexual marital relationship which is the earliest and original marriage instituted by God between a man (Adam) and a woman (Eve) in the biblical Garden of Eden found in Genesis



1:27-28, there are other concepts of marriage namely; gay marriage (same-sex marriage), bestiality marriage and doll marriage. However, in all these marital concepts, the only one that its usefulness perpetuates the society through the formation of family and the rearing of offspring for continuity of human existence in addition to serving out other marital usefulness is the heterosexual marriage, hence the focus of this study.

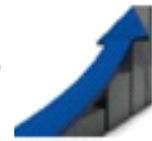
Omoegun in Odoemelam and Igboanusi (2018) opined that through marriage, a single man or woman gets an intimate companion and at this point the couples are legally allowed to enjoy their sexuality to the fullest and have their rights to bear children, nurture and train them to be useful to themselves and the larger society. Thus, the formation of a family system and living a happy marital life depends to a large extent on the kind of parental influences on the couples as well as their personal composition and the choices of their life style. In the view of Nsoffer (2020), when couples leave their parents, both would assume responsibilities in their conjugal family through a perfect spirit of oneness, togetherness and commitment to seeing to their marital happiness.

Concept of Social Skills and Marital Satisfaction

Feng (2019) averred that social skills are those skills that facilitate or encourage positive interactions with others. The author buttressed that social skills are a collection of valuable virtues people utilize in their communication which are based on the social norms of the society and which tells an individual what attitudes and behaviours are considered to be normal, acceptable and expected in a particular social situation. Furthermore, Adekoge (2017) posited that social skills can be regarded as personality traits or capabilities that contribute to psychosocial results. Similarly, Pettry and Bryan (2021) affirmed social skills as the skills one needs when interacting with others, hence there are certain ways to behave at certain times. Pettry and Bryan (2021) also buttressed that social skills are interpersonal skills which helps people to share ideas, ask for assistance, protect themselves and live peacefully and harmoniously in the community, hence an essential components of building esteem. In addition, Oluseyi and Del Prette (2019) sees marital social skills as repertoires of behaviours that can be appropriately used to deal with interpersonal situations involving spouses, specifically in the marital context, which are expressed as: proactiveness, emotional self-control, assertiveness, empathy and so on.

Marital satisfaction is a feeling of happiness and joy about one's marriage relationship. It is a major evidence of a well-adjusted marriage (Amao-Kehinde, 2019). For Okanezi (2020), marital satisfaction is the degree at which spouses get along with one another in order to bring a harmonious working relationship in their different areas of marital life. Thus, the partners enjoy each other's companionship, sexual expression, support, mutual respect and lots more.

Moreover, in Gelles study as cited in Haseley (2018), marital satisfaction is one's self-assessment of the totality of experiences in marriage which displays the height at which one's desire towards marriage are exhibited in that marriage. Hence, marriage satisfaction is seen as the



completeness felt by married couples as they leave their parents and cling to themselves in love as one flesh, playing their unique roles and contributing to their relationship.

Love Expression (Social Skill) and Marital Satisfaction of Married Business Educators

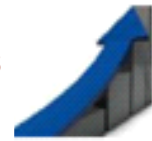
Love is a deep emotional feeling one has towards someone. It is a feeling that exists between two intimate persons (Nnadozie, 2017). Pearl (2019) postulated that love is an emotion of strong affection, personal attraction and attachment to someone or something. Hence, the marital relationship can never stand without being founded on love because the Bible has mandated man to love his wife without any other option. Love is the taproot of marriage and so should be maintained because the extent or degree of loving can be interpreted or measured by its expression for instance, in giving, sharing, spending quality time together, doing things together and so on.

Halliday (2021) affirmed that love is an essential ingredient of a successful and happy relationship, and as such if married business educators do not feel loved by their spouses, then they cannot make love which leads to sex dissatisfaction in marriage. Iweyah (2020) stated that husband and wife have a desperate longing for the emotion of love in their marriage and thus a marriage without good feelings is terribly incomplete because love involves an incredible gamut of feelings ranging from thrills to sweet tranquillity. The love that wins one's spouse should always have a basic concern for joy, care, contentment, happiness, peace and benevolence of the person loved while expecting nothing in return (Omulua & Offodile, 2018). Omulua and Offodile (2018) contended that love does not count faults but it cares, this is because it is said that fault is thick while love is thin, while in the absence of love for one's partner, all that he/she will be left with, will only be faults, errors, weaknesses, complaints, hurts and so on.

However, Sam-Eleyi and Iweyah (2020) believed that one of the secrets of a fulfilled marriage is love and submission, and that is why the scripture admonished men in (Ephesians 5:22-26) to love their wives as Christ loves the Church and also admonished wives to submit to their husbands.

Effective Communication (Social Skill) and Marital Satisfaction of Married Business Educators

According to Popoola (2017), communication is a process of expressing one's feelings and ideas. It is the process of sharing verbally and non-verbally with two or more persons in so far as both understand the information being passed. Effective communication does to marriage what salt does to food when it is added in the right proportion by bringing out the real taste of the food. In the same way, when there is a good communication flow between married business educators, it brings out an outstanding lasting unity. Halford (2020) averred that to have a marital satisfaction, married business educators must be docile to apply basic love languages in order to communicate love effectively, just like people from different backgrounds, cultures and ethnicity have language differences. In addition, Halim and Bruce (2019) pointed out that effective communication among married business educators brings about lasting unity in their marriages, hence they should avoid



communication barriers like; divided attention when communicating to their spouses, unnecessary interruption, lack of listening and so on. Buttressing further, the authors opined that effective communication enables spouses to meet each other's need, develop love language for each other, and helps to avoid misunderstanding among them.

Statement of the Problem

Over the years getting married is an expectation of adult males and females in Rivers State but often times a kin observation has shown that majority of the marriage lack the understanding of what it takes to make marriage work. This could be due to lack of insecurity, high plague of divorce, series of family violence and explosive growth in the number of single parenting which has rendered millions of children, homeless and roaming the streets as a result of broken homes. Sam-Eleyi and Iweyah (2020) affirmed that divorce is becoming increasingly common and the frightening spread of teenage drug abuse, cultism, teenage pregnancy, robbery and prostitution which results due to the modern plague of divorce. The effect of not appropriately addressing the above situations will further slowdown marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Thus, the need to take a cursory examination on the influence of social skills on marital satisfaction of business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State becomes the focus of the study.

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study was to examine the influence of social skills on marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Specially, the study sought to:

1. investigate the extent to which love expression influence marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.
2. ascertain the extent to which effective communication enhance marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institution in Rivers State.

Research Questions

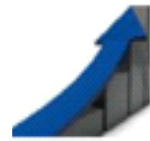
The following research questions guided the study:

1. to what extent does love expression influence marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?
2. to what extent does effective communication enhance marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

Null Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of married male and female business educators on extent to which love expression influences their marital satisfaction in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.



2. There is no significance difference in the mean rating of married male and female business educators on extent to which effective communication enhances their marital satisfaction in tertiary institutions in Rives State.

Methodology

This study adopted the descriptive survey as it involved eliciting information from respondents using a structured questionnaire. The population of this study comprised of all business educators running business education programmes in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The breakdown of business educators in various tertiary institutions is thus: Rivers State University (20 Business Educators), Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (22 Business Educators), University of Port Harcourt (18 Business Educators) and Federal College of Education, Omoku (42 Business Educators), making a total number of one hundred and two (102) business educators which comprises of 67 male and 35 female. The researchers deemed it fit to use the entire population as the sample of the study because it was manageable; hence, purposive sampling was adopted for the study. Data were collected through a self-developed instrument titled “Influence of Social Skills on Marital Satisfaction of Business Educators Questionnaire (ISSMSBEQ). The instrument was validated by three experts from Business Education Department, Rivers State University. On reliability of the instrument, trial testing the was used and a reliability index of 0.75 was established using Cronbach Alpha method. Responses on the instrument were rated on a five (5) point rating scale of Very Great Extent (VGE - 5), Great Extent (GE - 4), Moderate Extent (ME - 3), Low Extent (LE- 2) and Very Low Extent (VLE - 1). Data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation and a decision rule based on item with mean ratings between 4.50 – 5.00 was regarded as very great extent, item with 3.50 – 4.49 was great extent, item with 2.50 – 3.49 was moderate extent, item with 1.50 – 2.49 was low extent and item with 0.50 – 1.49 was very low extent. t-test statistical tool was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance and any value of the calculated t-value that is greater than or equal to the p- value at a given degree of freedom will be regarded as significant and the associated null hypothesis rejected but if otherwise, the associated null hypothesis would be retained

Results

Research Question 1: To what extent does love expression influence marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

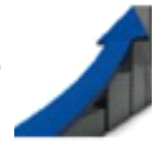


Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Ratings of Married Business Educators on Extent Love Expression Influences their Marital Satisfaction

Table with 8 columns: S/N, Items, Male = 67 (M, SD, Rmk), Female = 35 (M, SD, Rmk). Rows include items 1-6 and Grand Mean.

Source: Survey Data, 2022

M= mean, SD =standard deviation and RMK=Remark

Data in Table 1 show the cluster mean of 4.04 and 4.06 respectively for male and female business educators. This implies that love expression to a great extent influences marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Research Question 2: To what extent does effective communication enhance marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

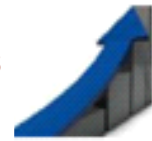


Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Ratings of Married Business Educators on Extent Effective Communication Enhances their Marital Satisfaction

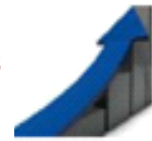
S/N	Items	Male = 67			Female = 35		
		M	SD	Rmk	M	SD	Rmk
7.	Communication when expressed effectively makes my marriage a lasting unity.	4.80	0.79	VGE	4.57	0.77	VGE
8.	Enables I and my spouse to meet each other's needs.	3.42	0.64	GE	4.60	0.69	VGE
9.	Enables I and my spouse understand each other.	4.65	0.71	VGE	4.20	0.60	GE
10.	Strengthens our love for each other.	4.10	0.63	GE	3.66	0.58	GE
11.	Strengthens our respect for each other.	3.55	0.67	GE	4.72	0.82	VGE
12.	Facilitates I and my spouse support for each other.	4.70	0.78	VGE	3.94	0.68	GE
Grand Mean		4.20	0.70	GE	4.30	0.68	GE

Source: Survey Data, 2022.

M= mean, SD =standard deviation and RMK=Remark

Data in Table 2 shown the cluster mean of 4.20 and 4.30 for male and female business educators respectively. This implies that effective communication to a great extent enhances marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The item by item analysis for male business educators indicates that item 1, 3 and 6 were rated very great extent with mean scores ranged between 4.80, 4.65 and 4.70 respectively, while for that of female business educators, item 1, 2 and 5 were rated very great extent with mean scores of 4.57, 4.60 and 4.72 respectively. The remaining 6 items were rated great extent with mean scores ranging between 3.42 and 3.94 for both married male and female business educators. However, the clustered standard deviation which ranged between 0.70 and 0.68 for both male and female married business educators respectively shows that the respondents are not wide apart in their ratings.

Test of Null Hypotheses



Null Hypothesis 1: Male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent love expression influences their marital satisfaction.

Table 3:t-test Analysis of Male and Female Married Business Educators on Extent Love Expression Influences Their Marital Satisfaction.

Gender	N	\bar{X}	SD	Df	t-cal	p-value	Remark
Male	67	4.04	0.71	100	0.14	0.02	Significant
Female	35	4.06	0.69				

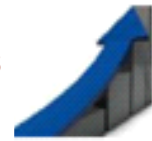
Data in Table 3 shown that the t-cal is 0.14 with 100 degree of freedom (df) and p-value of 0.02 which is less than the alpha level of 0.05 ($0.02 < 0.05$). This means that male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State differ significantly in their mean ratings on extent love expression influences their marital satisfaction. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Null Hypothesis 2: Male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on extent effective communication enhances their marital satisfaction.

Table 4: t-test Analysis of Male and Female Married Business Educators on Extent Effective Communication Enhances their Marital Satisfaction

Gender	N	\bar{X}	SD	Df	t-cal	p-value	Remark
Male	67	4.20	0.70	100	0.71	0.48	Significant
Female	35	4.30	0.68				

Data in Table 4 shows that the t-cal is 0.71 with 100 degree of freedom (df) and p-value of 0.48 which is greater than the alpha level of 0.05 ($0.48 > 0.05$). This means that male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent effective communication enhances their marital satisfaction. Therefore, the null hypothesis was retained



Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that love expression to a great extent influences marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. This finding agreed with the assertion of Pearl (2019) that love expression is an emotion of strong affection, personal attraction and attachment that exists between two intimate persons (husband and wife) because the marital relationship can never stand without being founded on love. Also, this finding is in consonant with Halliday (2021) who opined that love is an essential ingredient of a successful and happy relationship hence, if married business educators do not feel loved by their spouses, they cannot make love which leads to sex dissatisfaction in marriage. In addition, the finding of the associated null hypothesis revealed that male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State differs significantly in their mean ratings on extent love expression influences their marital satisfaction.

Effective communication to a great extent enhances marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. This finding corroborated with that of Halford (2020), that to have a marital satisfaction, married business educators must be docile to apply basic love language in communicating to their spouses in order to effectively understand each other. Again, supporting this finding, Popoola (2017) averred that effective communication does to marriage what salt does to food when it is added in the right proportion. Furthermore, when there is a good communication flow between married business educators, it brings out an outstanding lasting unity among them. Finally, the finding of the associated null hypothesis indicated that male and female married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on extent effective communication enhances their marital satisfaction.

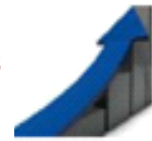
Conclusion

This study considers influence of social skills on marital satisfaction of married business educators in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. It was concluded that for married business educators to be at their best and be satisfied in their marriages, it then becomes imperative that they need to develop social skills like love expression and communicate effectively with their spouses in order to have a lasting union.

Recommendations

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

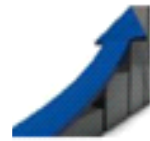
1. Married business educators should develop the habit to their spouses in order to enjoy marital satisfaction especially in the area of sex which binds them together.
2. There should be a good and harmonious communication flow between married business educators in order to foster an outstanding lasting unity.



3. Couples should establish and maintain good companionship and commitment to each other by creating quality time to do things together.
4. couples should develop the habit of expressing love to one another so that they would enjoy marital sex to the fullest and also bond them together.

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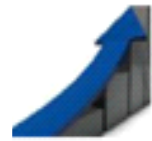


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AFRICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSORS

ISSN e-2536-751x, ISSN p-2536-7501



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