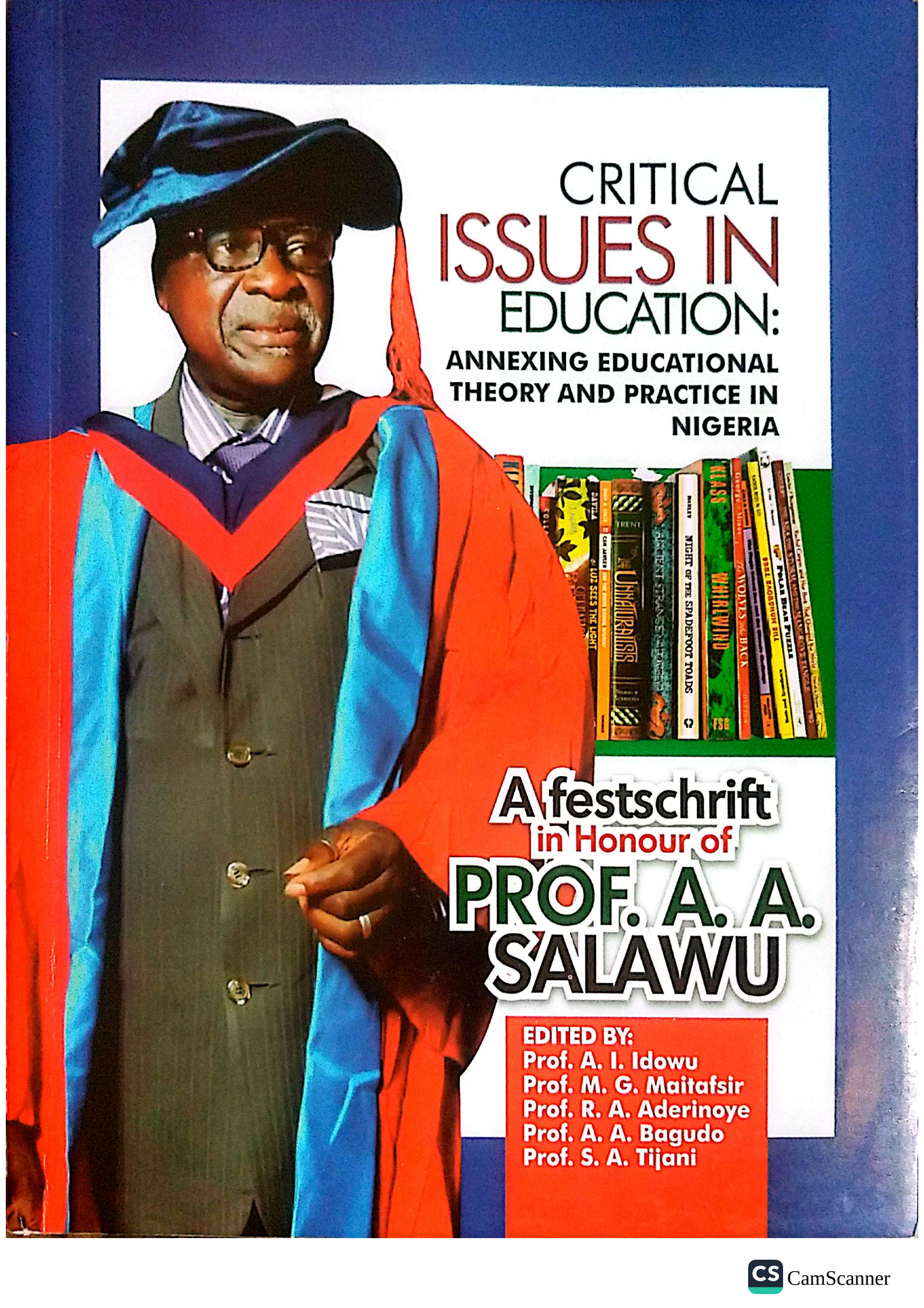




CRITICAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION:

ANNEXING EDUCATIONAL
THEORY AND PRACTICE IN
NIGERIA

A festschrift
in Honour of
**PROF. A. A.
SALAWU**

EDITED BY:

Prof. A. I. Idowu

Prof. M. G. Maitafsir

Prof. R. A. Aderinoye

Prof. A. A. Bagudo

Prof. S. A. Tijani

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TYPESET BY:

ABUBAKAR (CHIKA) MUHAMMAD

Department of Economics,

Faculty of Social Sciences,

Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

GSM_No.: 08030966513

E-Mail: auwadegarba2013@gmail.com OR

mohammed.abubakar8@udusok.edu.ng

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FOREWORD

Educational development is a *sine-qua-non* of the advancement of any nation and a critical tool in human capital development. Professor Abdulganiyu Ayodele Salawu, to whom this Festschrift is in honour of, is an educationist per excellence. I have had the rare privilege of learning under him during my brief sojourn as a student of postgraduate diploma in education and working with him at several other fronts as the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, the University to whom Professor Salawu devoted all his working life. Devoting this volume to the distinguished student-centered teacher, prolific author, cultural crusader, is an apt way of saluting and appreciating his critical contributions to the field of education, especially the Nigerian University Education, and to the overall development of mankind.

It is therefore my honour and privilege to present this expansive work, which is made up of sixty-two (62) cardinal chapters on critical issues in theories and methods of education, by more than sixty (60) eminent personalities and educationists. The work covers wide range of issues and is distributed into seven sections (sections A to G). The most critical challenge to educational development in the recent past is the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. The lockdown stroke heavily on the traditional teaching and learning processes, forcing educational institutions to adopting new methods and media of instructions, christened "the new normal". It is therefore not surprising that Section A of the compendium is dedicated to "critical issues in education and responses to learning during Covid-19 pandemic". With the population growth, especially of the young men and women, the need for sustainability and entrepreneurship become more paramount. Thus, Section B of the book addresses issues in "Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Teacher Education, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Education". Section C dwelt on "Guidance and Counselling and Educational Psychology", expounding issues such as Modern Management, Parental Motivation, Child Labour, Youth and Behaviour Modification among many others. Section D was dedicated to "ICT and Computer Learning/Instruction", while Section E addresses a wide aspect of education, such as "Quality Administration, Adult Learning, School Facilities, Philosophy, Educational Development and Academic Performance". Sundry issues such as "Religious Education, Women Education, Girl-Child Education, Basic Education, Educational Management, Lifelong Learning, Human Security" are effectively discussed in Section F of the book. The last section, Section G centres on "Continuous Assessment, University Education, Education Policy, Teacher Education, Qualitative Education".

The book has effectively touched on most aspects of education, especially as they affect the current challenges in the processes involved in Teaching and Learning, Educational Policies, Education and School Administrations, Guidance and Counselling, Philosophy and Psychology of Education and the Education of groups with Special Needs. It is therefore a worthy companion for all those who are concern with effective and efficient education of the people, being them educationists, education students and teachers, education administrators and managers, policy formulators and implementors, parents, religious and civil society activists, media practitioners and the public.

CRITICAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION: Annexing Educational Theory and Practice in Nigeria

The Festschrift is a clear demonstration of the commitment, sacrifice and philosophy of Professor Abdulganiyu A. Salawu, as a teacher and educationist. It is testimony of his professional colleagues and a recognition of his selfless and dedicated service to educational sector and humanity at large. Wishing you happy reading!

Professor Lawal Suleman Bilbis,
BSc. (Unisok), Ph.D (Essex, UK), PGDE (Unisok), FSAN, FNSBMB, FSESN, FASI
Vice Chancellor,
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria
19th May, 2023

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CHAPTER FORTY

PERCEPTION OF FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ON THE CAUSES OF DELAYED-MARRIAGE AMONG WOMEN IN KWARA STATE-NIGERIA

ABDUR-RAFIU, JAMIU, Ph.D.

Department of Arts Education,
Faculty of Education,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria
E_Mail: alkiswiv@gmail.com,
GSM_No.: +234-7068231116

ABDUR-RAFIU, SHUKURAT ABAKE (Mrs.)

Sophie Kidz Private School, Ilorin
E_Mail: dupcalao@gmail.com

BADMOS, MIKAEEL OLAYIDE

Nana Aishat Memorial College of Education, Ilorin
GSM_No.: +234-8032289977

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the perception of female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage among women in Kwara State. The questionnaire was used to elicit information on the perception of female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage among women in Kwara State. 400 filled questionnaires were collected and used. The data collected were analyzed using percentage and t-test statistical. The findings of the study revealed that family background, education factor, social factor and personal factor are among the causes of delayed marriage among women. It was also revealed that there is significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage. Based on the findings from this study it was recommended among others that there is need for proper orientation of females on importance and values of marriage. There is need of inclusion of marriage education in the content of general studies curriculum. This would help in enlightening the female young adults the appropriate timing for marriage and get them acquainted with the scourge of delayed marriage.

Keywords: Delayed marriage, Female, Perception, Students

INTRODUCTION

Marriage remains an important institution which lays the foundation of a family which is the bedrock of a society. Marriage is the ultimate human connection in which two people ideally, ought to commit themselves fully and faithfully to each other in a lifelong journey of deep sharing, mutual respect and growing intimacy. When the commitment is total, clear and unreserved, partners are encouraged freely and openly to share their inner struggles and fears as well as their joys and triumphs. Marriage has, despite demographic and political shifts, significant value for the individual, families and the society (Nock, 2005). When looking at marriage as an institution, as opposed to a free-standing concept, marriage represents socially sanctioned behaviour. Marriage embraces traditionally virtuous, legal and predictable assumptions concerning what is moral and what is proper (Nock, 2005). Through marriage an individual is transformed; they are perceived and treated differently by society and even enjoy rights / privileges unmarried individuals do not. Married couples are perceived as more mature, stable, committed and responsible. This means that regardless of an individual's opinion or value of his / her marriage, there are broader implications—society's connotation (Tehilla, n.d.).

Mana (2000) referred to Levine and Hennessy (1990) as having submitted that maintaining a marriage is not easy in a society where one out of every two marriages will end in divorce. Early marriage is followed by early divorce for many, so it is not surprising that teenage marriages are likely to fail. Also, Omendi and Kamonjo (2015) agreed with the view of Nicky and Sila (2000) who pointed out that many people in the West view marriage as a temporary contract between couples for as long as their love lasts. They also explained further that if the relationship is not personally fulfilling, then it is better to get out of it or if there is no more love in a marriage, it is better to end it. The above submission might be what has led some people not to show enthusiasm in marriage or develop anxiety in marriage and thereby resolve to delay it.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Beri and Beri (2013) were of the view that there have been many changes in the attitudes towards marriage among women in the world. These attitudes are caused by today's society and women are more focused on their career than getting married. Many women are investing a lot of time in higher education and pursuing careers, and in the process, they're deferring marriage. Today women are also obtaining advanced degrees and becoming more successful in work place. They are giving much more importance to the education and career as they want to become self-dependent. Education for single women is much more important because it is only after achieving education that they can get a job. It is necessary for their survival to be economically independent. However, not much research has been done on single women. Yet, because of their special status, and they deserve a critical outlook analysis (Beri & Beri, 2013).

More so, Omondi and Kamonjo (2015) noted that in the traditional African society, marriage was considered a rite of passage. People had high regard for it and therefore had positive perception about it. Delayed marriage, divorce and single parenthood were very rare and emergence of social phenomena such as street children was unheard of. This was partly because of the presence of elders who offered marital advice to couples whenever they had problems. Currently, contrary to what used to happen in the past, many people are not enthusiastic to get married and have opted to remain single or get into single parenthood. Even those who get married often experience marital problems such as domestic violence, financial strains, communication problems among others which have led to divorce and separation (Omondi & Kmonjo, 2015). However, this study sought to investigate university students' perception of delayed marriage. The present study is a small attempt to throw light on the perception of female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage which to the knowledge of the researcher have received little scholarly attention in Kwara State. This is the gap which the present study aims at filling and perhaps constitutes the problem of the study.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the perception of female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage among women in Kwara state. Specifically, the study would investigate the following:

1. Perception of female undergraduates on the causes of delayed marriage
2. Differences in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are causes of delayed marriage among women in Kwara State as perceived by female undergraduate students?
2. Is there any difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

In this study, the following null hypotheses was formulated and tested

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage

METHODOLOGY

The research was limited to only University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara state, Nigeria. Two faculties were sampled for this study. These faculties are Faculties of Arts and Education. The female undergraduate students of the above faculties were randomly selected using multi-stage sampling technique. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select 50 female undergraduate students in every department. This has made the total of respondents to be 400. The content for this study was perception of female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage. Questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The questionnaire comprises two sections. Section A deals with respondents relevant bio-data. Section B is devoted to questionnaire items on the causes of delayed marriage. The expected responses in section B are structured in accordance with Likert-type rating scale of strongly agreed (SA), agreed (A), disagreed (D) and strongly disagreed (SD). The respondents are requested to select the option that best suit their perceptions. Also, the data collected were analysed through descriptive statistics.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULT

The organization of the data analysis was based on the research questions raised and the hypothesis postulated for the study. The questionnaire was used to elicit information on the perception of female undergraduate students on the causes of delayed marriage among women in Kwara State. 400 filled questionnaires were collected and used. Frequency counts and percentage were used to describe the demographic data of the respondents and answer research question number 1 while research question number 2 has corresponding hypothesis and t-test statistics was used to test null hypothesis formulated for the study.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
single	340	87.5
married	60	12.5
Total	400	100

In the table 1, out of the 400 female undergraduate respondents that were sampled, 340 (87.5%) were singles, while 60 (12.5%) were married.

ANSWERING THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

what is the perception of female undergraduates on the causes of delayed marriage?

To answer research question number 1, the responses to questionnaire items was analysed in accordance with the stems of the questionnaire.

Table 2: Responses on Home/Family Background as a Cause of Delayed Marriage

CAUSES OF DELAYED MARRIAGE	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1 Ambition to show obedience to my parents makes ladies delay marriage	64	16.0	147	36.7	123	30.8	66	16.5	400	100
2 The experience of others like divorcee and adulterous relationship also cause single women not to marry on time	64	16.0	296	74.0	nil	nil	40	10.0	400	100
3 Some single ladies from their family background	26	6.5	351	87.8	23	5.8	Nil	nil	400	100
4 Parental principle makes single ladies delay marriage	22	5.5	317	79.3	61	15.3	Nil	Nil	400	100
5 Parental economic status makes women delay marriage	21	5.3	147	36.8	212	53.0	20	5.0	400	100

It could be seen from the table 2 that the higher percentage of the respondent subscribed positively to the items number 1 -4. While the number of those who disagreed with item number 5 is more than those who agreed. It could be deduced that the majority of the respondents supported the view that family background is among the causes of delayed marriage among women.

Table 3: Responses on Financial Factor as a Cause of Delayed Marriage

CAUSES OF		F		SA		A		D		SD		Total	
DELATED		MARRIAGE		Freq.		%		Freq.		%		Freq.	
Financial Factor				23		5.8		64		16.0		186	
6	Delaying marriage is more enjoyable than early marriage			42		10.5		166		41.5		83	
7	Fear of financial implication of marriage makes single women delay marriage			23		5.8		185		46.3		146	
8	The aspirations to gather and save money in order to be financially stable makes single women delay marriage			2		0.5		230		57.5		148	
9	The aspirations to marry a wealthy or rich man makes single women delay marriage			41		10.3		148		37.0		144	
10	The desire to be self-reliant without necessarily in need of financial support from any man makes women delay marriage			40		10.0		195		48.8		125	
11	The financial problem of parent is one of the causes of delaying marriage by single women.												

It could be seen from the table 3 that the higher percentage of the respondent disagreed with the item number 6 which stated that delaying marriage is more enjoyable than early marriage. 208 (52%) of the respondents agreed with the items number 7 and 8 respectively while, 192 (48%) disagreed with the items. Also, 232 (58%) agreed with the item number 9 while 168 (42%) disagreed with the item. 189 (45.7%) agreed with the item number 10 while 201 (54.3%) disagreed. Lastly, 235 (58.8%) agreed with the item number 11 while 165 (41.2%) disagreed.

It could be deduced here that it appeared there is no concession in the view of respondents on the fact that financial factor does cause single women to delay marriage. It could be concluded therefore, that majority of single ladies do not delay marriage on the ground of their financial status.

Table 4: Responses on Educational Factor as a Cause of Delayed Marriage

CAUSES OF DELAYED MARRIAGE	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
12 Educational Factor	66	16.5	208	52.0	86	21.5	40	10.0	400	100
13 Desire to acquire a higher educational qualification before entering into a matrimonial home makes single women delay marriage	64	16.0	257	64.3	59	14.7	20	5.0	400	100
14 Educational ambitions contributes to single women delaying marriage	21	5.3	277	69.3	102	25.4	Nil	Nil	400	100
15 The influence of Education acquired makes single women to delay marriage	21	5.3	272	68.0	87	21.7	20	5.0	400	100
Looking for a soul mate who is a learned as a woman also cause a delayed marriage										

It could be seen from the table 4 that the higher percentage of the respondent agreed with the item number 12 which stated that desire to acquire a higher educational qualification before entering into a matrimonial home makes single women delay marriage. 321 (80.3%) of the respondents agreed with the item number 13 while, 291(73.8%) agreed with the item number 14. Also, 293 (72.5%) agreed with the item number 15.

It could be deduced here that most of the respondents subscribed to the fact that education serves as a major contributing factor prompting single ladies to delay marriage.

Table 5: Responses on Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors as Causes of Delayed Marriage

CAUSES OF DELAYED MARRIAGE	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%

MARRIAGE

Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors

16	Sometimes social maladies makes single woman to delay marriage	40	10.0	192	48.0	168	42.0	Nil	Nil	400	100
17	Desire to continue enjoying social acceptance which single ladies benefit make single women delay marriage	40	10.0	252	63.0	108	27.0	Nil	Nil	400	100
18	Desire for equal opportunity and respect in the society makes single women to delay marriage	61	15.3	173	43.3	146	36.4	20	5.0	400	100
19	Delaying marriage affords single women opportunity of leading a happy life without necessarily in need of any male support.	39	9.7	188	47.0	132	33.0	41	10.3	400	100
20	Perceiving marriage as a barrier to achieve in life leads single women to delay marriage	40	10.0	220	55.0	99	24.7	41	10.3	400	100
21	Sometimes, pass personal experience of human is the cause of delayed marriage	80	20.0	206	51.4	93	23.3	21	5.3	400	100
22	Anxiety of finding a suitable match makes single woman delay marriage	40	10.0	257	64.3	82	20.4	21	5.3	400	100
23	Fear of challenges embedded in matrimonial circles makes single women delay marriage	60	15.0	212	53.0	128	32.0	Nil	Nil	400	100
24	Fear of losing independence makes women delay marriage	40	10.0	143	35.7	197	49.3	20	5.0	400	100
25	Anxiety of becoming a victim of violence causes single women to delay marriage	29	7.3	162	40.5	166	41.5	43	10.7	400	100

It could be seen from the table 5 that the higher percentage of the respondent agreed with the items number 16-23 while, the percentage of those who disagreed with items number 24 and 25 respectively is higher than those who agreed. Of all the 10 items on (Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors as Causes of Delayed Marriage), it is only the items number 24 and 25 that have higher number of the respondents that disagreed with them.

It could be deduced here that most of the respondents subscribed to the fact that (Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors as Causes of Delayed Marriage), serves as a major contributing factor inhibiting single ladies from getting married on time.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

The null hypothesis formulated earlier was tested with the use of independent t-test at alpha level of 0.05.

H₀1: There is no significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage

Table 6:t-test difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage

Variables	Frequency	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t value	Critical t- value	Remark
Single	350	66.0800	9.98620	68	1.828	1.23143	Significant
Married	50	66.6600	8.70751				
Total	400						

Critical Issues in Education: Annexing Educational Theory and Practice in Nigeria
Perception of Female Undergraduate Students on the Causes of Delayed-Marriage Among Women in Kwara State, Nigeria. Table 6 shows that the calculated t value is 1.823 while the critical value is 1.23 with 68 degree of freedom at alpha level of 0.05. Since the calculated t value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis 6 is hereby rejected. Therefore, there is significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

From the data collected and analyzed in respect of this research work the following are the major findings:

1. Family background is among the causes of delayed marriage among women.
2. Majority of single ladies do not delay marriage on the ground of their financial status.
3. Education serves as a major contributing factor prompting single ladies to delay marriage.
4. Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors as Causes of Delayed Marriage are major contributing factors inhibiting single ladies from getting married on time.
5. There is significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

It was revealed from the findings of the study that most of the respondents subscribed to the fact that family background is among the causes of delayed marriage among women. This finding tallies with the submission of Oderinde (2013) who noted that among the reasons for delay in marriage of some is because they have become so emotionally attached to their parents and find it difficult to break the home ties. Oderinde (2013) also revealed that the dysfunctional home life in which some young people are reared; Some past sad experiences with the opposite sex which many have had; unpleasant childhood experiences such as rape or child abuse; most of the times create fear in them and make it difficult for them to make friendship with opposite gender.

More so, the findings of the study revealed that, majority of single ladies do not delay marriage on the ground of their financial status. This is however contrary to the views of Beri and Beri (2013) who submitted that one of the main reasons why women stay single is because women today are more driven to get the next promotion, become financially secure and to enjoy the fruits of their education and hard work. The implication here is that it would be difficult to generalize the fact that economic or financial factor drive ladies to delay marriage.

Also, the findings showed that education serves as a major contributing factor prompting single ladies to delay marriage. This agrees with the findings of Zwang (2013) who found that the main arguments favouring late marriage have to do with schooling. The outcome of this study is in line with the submission of Hervish and Feldman-Jacobs (2011) when they stressed that keeping girls in school and delaying marriage can increase income for individuals and boost economic development for nations. The result of this finding it also tallied with the findings of Beri and Beri (2013). They emphasized that the trend among women to wed later is closely related to education. The more education a woman has received, the more likely she is to delay marriage.

The findings also revealed that (Personal/Social/ Psychological Factors as Causes of Delayed Marriage), serves as a major contributing factor inhibiting single ladies from getting married on time. This finding is in concord with the submission of Beri and Beri (2013) when they noted that the modern woman sees a life that is wide open for her and one with many opportunities and possibilities. While she is not against marriage, she wants to succeed at her chosen career and she wants to be able to contribute to the overall wellbeing of a family, including from a financial angle.

This finding also agrees with submission of Martins (2002) who observed that people who delay marriage have ample time to select marriage partner of their choice thereby leading to a stable matrimony. It also tallies with the findings of Oderinde (2013) who noted that personal standard is another hindrance to early marriage.

The finding of this study also revealed that there is significant difference in the perception of married and unmarried female undergraduate students on causes of delayed marriage. It appeared that married female respondents are not favourably disposed to delayed marriage.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was concluded based on the statistically backed findings of this study that family background, educational and psychological factors were perceived as causes of delayed marriage among women. In view of the results obtained and the conclusion reached from this research work, the following recommendations are made:

1. There is need for proper orientation of females on importance and values of marriage. Most importantly, getting married on time
2. There is need of inclusion of marriage education in the content of general studies curriculum. This would help in enlightening the female young adults the appropriate timing for marriage and get them acquainted with the scourge of delayed marriage.
3. Parents should live by examples, create good and peaceful home atmosphere for wards, so that the children would not be brought up under chaotic environment that would create artificial phobia in going to matrimony when they become adults.
4. There is need for provision of guidance and counseling for young adults most especially females, on how to make right selection of spouses.

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