

ISSN 115 - 960X



Ilorin Journal of Business and Social Sciences

Volume 15, No 2

August, 2013

*Published by the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences
University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin, Nigeria.*

PUBLISHED BY

ORIRE

THE FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN,
P.M.B. 1515, ILORIN, NIGERIA.
E-mail: fbssjournal@gmail.com

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Noah Yusuf

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Business and
Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Associate Editors

Yahaya, K. A. Mrs. (Ph.D.)

Department of Accounting, University of Ilorin, Ilorin,
Nigeria.

Gbadeyan, R. A. (Ph.D.)

Department of Business Administration, University of
Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Bello, R. A. (Ph.D.)

Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, Ilorin,
Nigeria.

Ajibade, L. T. (Ph.D.)

Department of Geography and Environmental
Management, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Saka, Luqman (Ph.D.)

Department of Political Science, University of Ilorin,
Ilorin, Nigeria.

Adekeye, D. S. Mrs (Ph.D.)

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Business and
Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Editorial Advisory Board

Prof. Steven, M. Jubwe,	Dean, Liberia College, University of Liberia, Moronvia.
Prof. A. S. Jegede,	Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
Prof. Nancy Lundgren,	Department of Sociology, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.
Prof. Graham, P.C.,	Department of Geography, Lancaster University, United Kingdom.
Prof. Adeniyi Gbadegesin,	Department of Geography, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
Prof. Albert, M. Abane,	Department of Geography and Tourism, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.
Ayuba, H.K. (Ass. Prof.),	Department of Geography, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria.
Prof. Stephen, B. Kendle,	Centre for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.
Prof. Oyinloye Olaniyi,	Department of Economics, University of Abuja, Nigeria.
Dr. Vijay Bashin,	Department of Economics, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.
Prof. A.U. Inegbenebor,	Department of Business Administration, University of Benin, Nigeria.
Prof. Okon Eminiue,	Department of Political Science, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
Ogunbodede, E.F. (Ph.D.)	Department of Geography and Planning Sciences, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, Ondo State, Nigeria.

10. The Impact of Education and Gender on Personal Income
Tax Compliance in Kwara State
Salam, M.O., Aliu, O.A. and Abdulkadir, R.I..... 127-138
11. Re-thinking the 2005-2006 attempt at Reviewing the
Nigerian Constitution
Muhammad, A.A..... 139-151
12. African Union and the Promotion of Democratization in Africa:
Prospects and Challenges
Adebisi, O.M..... 153-170
13. The Planning Implications of Age at First Marriage in the
Traditional Urban Setting of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria
Olorunfemi, J.F and Oire, I.O..... 171-180
14. Perceived Job Security Level and Commitment to Work in
Selected Banks, Southwestern Nigeria
Aluko, M.A.O., Aliyu, T.K., Alabi, A.M..... 181-193

THE PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE IN THE TRADITIONAL URBAN SETTING OF ILORIN, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

Olorunfemi, J.F

Department of Geography & Environmental Management,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

and

Orire I.O.

Department of Geography & Environmental Management,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Abstract

The survey examined the age at first marriage amongst residents' of Ilorin in a spatio-temporal perspective. Samples were drawn from women within three birth cohorts (1960s, 1970s and 1980s) who at the time of survey were between ages 15 – 44yrs and reside within Ilorin metropolis. The study discovered that the proportion of single 'unmarried' adult women decreased as cohort age increased. About 73.5% of sampled respondents had their first marriage between ages 20 -29yrs. The chi-square test revealed that both level of education and religious belief were found to have significant influences on residents' age at first marriage. This definitely has an important implication on their lifetime fertility and global population figures. Early or Teenage marriages tended to decrease even though teen pregnancies outside wedlock still abound in some sections of the metropolis.

Keywords: Fertility, Birth cohort, Women, Ilorin metropolis.

Introduction

According to the United Nation and World Health Organisation "live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation breaths or shows any other evidence of live. Such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live born".

In Nigeria and Ilorin in particular, marriage is generally associated with fertility because it is correlated with exposure to the risk of pregnancy. The duration of exposure to pregnancy also depends primarily on the age at which women first marry (NDHS, 2008). Besides, RAPID project (1985) quoting from the World Fertility Survey of 1985 confirmed that if a woman marries early, she is likely to bear more children because she would have about 3 decades of fecundity. Marriage is therefore a primary indication of women's regular exposure to the risk of pregnancy and therefore it is important for the

understanding of fertility estimates. Age at first marriage is one of the most important fertility determining factors because early marriage is known to enhance early child bearing (Blakie, 1975; and Billari and Kohler, 2004). Studies by Westoff (1975) and Mosher (1988) also identified age at marriage as probably the best single predictor of fertility. Sweet (1975) noted that the probabilities of higher-order transitions are affected by the age at first marriage. In the opinion of Francis (1991), women who marry at a very youthful age have higher probabilities of transition from first to second birth, second to third birth, etc., than women marrying at more advanced ages.

Since the occurrence of live birth is the natural determinant of population (Barrete, 1996 and Olorunfemi, 2004), it becomes imperative for us to understand the socio-cultural value placed on marriage in the study area. As a matter of fact, in the child-centred Nigerian family structure, more live births is the only way a woman could raise and indeed measure her status and also boost her husbands' social standing within the family and the community (Caldwell, 1993 and Edewor, 2001). Changes in fertility are strongly affected by personal preferences, attitude and motivations of couples, and socio-economic as well as physical factors. This makes the interpretation and analysis of changes in fertility a more complex matter than that of mortality, which is much less influenced by social and psychological factors. Interesting differences in fertility levels do exist among adolescents with respect to such characteristics as marital status, marriage type, residence, educational status and age at first marriage. The latter is the focus of this study.

The Study Area

The study setting is Ilorin, the administrative and political headquarters of Kwara State (Figure 1). It is one of the fast growing urban centres in Nigeria located on latitude $8^{\circ} 30' N$ and longitude $4^{\circ} 35' E$. The mean temperature is about $26.80^{\circ}C$ with five hours average daily Sunshine. The mean annual rainfall is about 125mm. The dominant streams are Asa, Aluko, Amule, Okun and Agba. The vegetation is guinea savanna interspersed by trees of different species. The situation of the city between the dry North and wet South of Nigeria gave Ilorin the apt description as the "gate way" between the North and South of Nigeria (Adedibu, 1980). The climate is therefore tropical characterized by a distinct wet and dry seasons. The growth of Ilorin both physically and in terms of the population have been well documented (Oyebanji, 1984; Aderamo, 1997; and Olorunfemi, 2001 amongst others). Evidences from these studies attest to the rapid and continuous growth in size of Ilorin. The metropolis is divided into twenty traditional wards for the purpose of political administration of the city (Figure 2). It contains about 766,000 inhabitants by the year 2006 with an annual growth rate of 2.8% (NPC, 2006), while the 2010 population of the city has been put at 855,461 based on the projection of the 2006 population census. An interesting aspect of the population of Ilorin is its ethnic plurality. According to Ayinla (1999) and Olawepo and Ahmed (1999) Ilorin comprises Yoruba (60%), Fulani (20%), Hausa (2.89%), Nupe (3.91%) and other ethnic minorities (13.2%) constituting the remainder of her population (Figure 3).

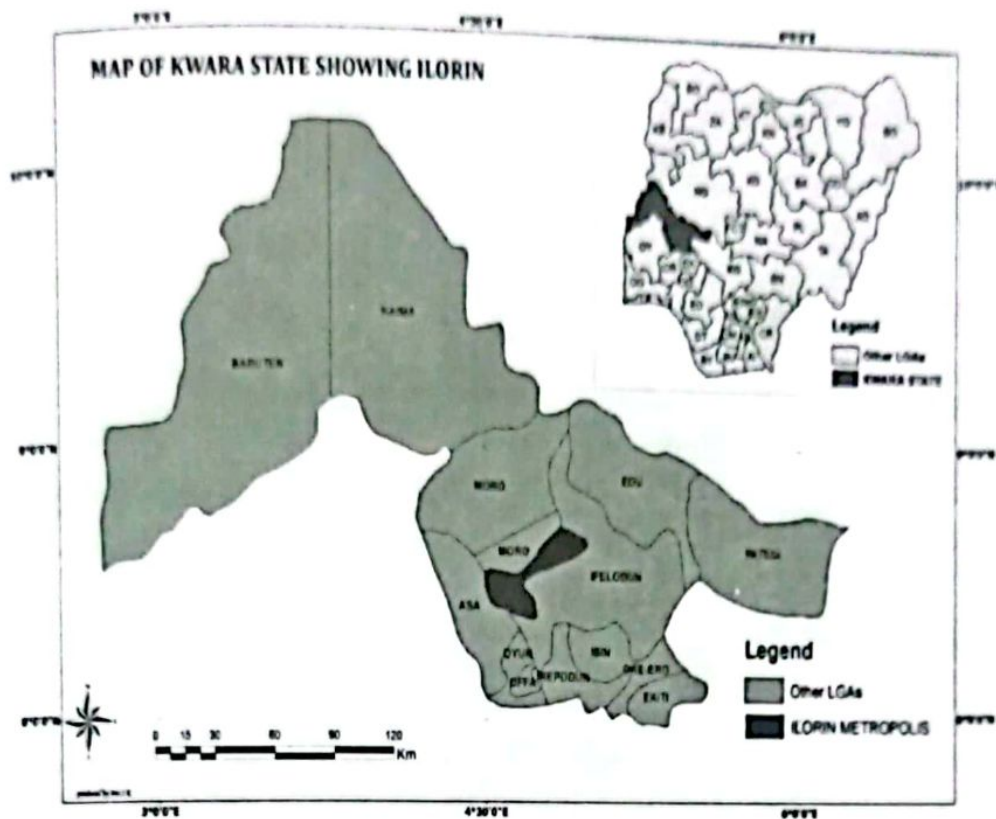


Figure 1: Map of Kwara State Showing Ilorin City (Inset: Map of Nigeria Showing Kwara State. Source: Kwara State Ministry of Lands and Survey (2012)

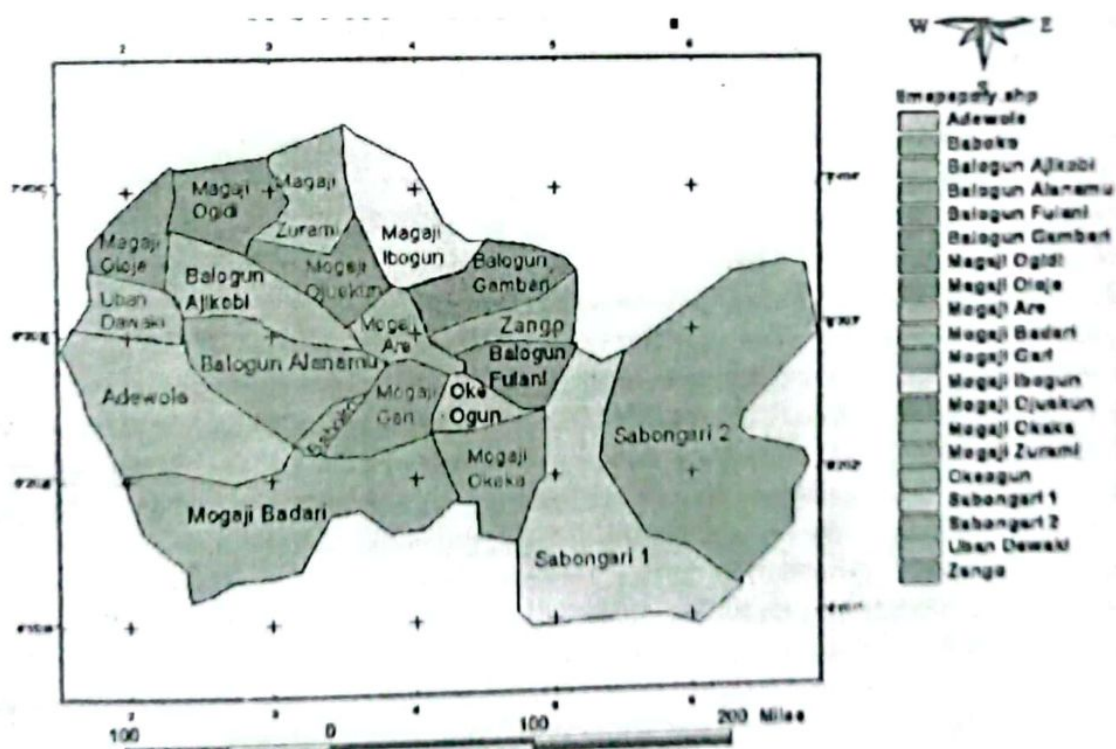


Figure 2. Map of Ilorin Showing the Wards
Source: Kwara State Ministry of Lands and Housing, Ilorin (2009).

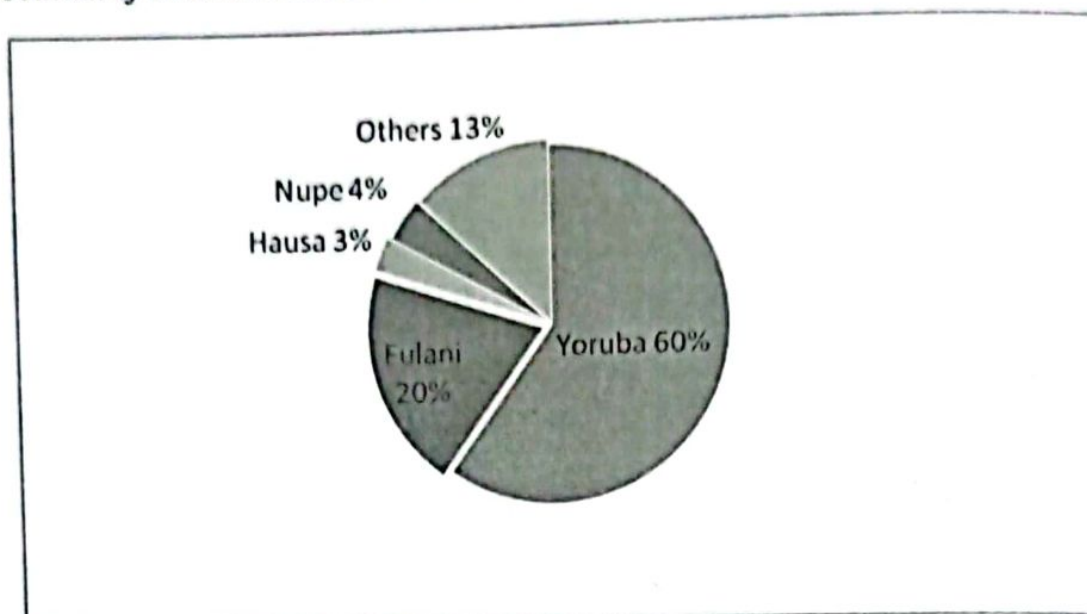


Figure 3 Ethnic Composition of Ilorin.

Materials and Methods

The data required for this study were collected from primary and secondary sources. Information on respondents' fertility behaviour, age at first marriage, personal bio-data, birth history, etc., were collected through the administration of a questionnaire. Furthermore, secondary data from published and unpublished reports, literature, documents, statistical bulletins and National Population Commission Analytical Reports, etc., were employed at different levels. Since time plays a major role in the understanding of fertility changes, the studied population of women was grouped into 3 age cohorts based on year of birth. These were: 1960-1969; 1970-1979; and 1980-1989. Their age cohorts at time of research were 35-44; 25-34 and 15-24 years, respectively.

The focus on women was because they are easier to contact, most likely to co-operate, give less ambiguous and more accurate information on fertility and child survival than men (Dare and Cleland, 1994). In any event, women are directly involved with child rearing. Data collection was based on personal interview of respondents and questionnaire administration. The Census Enumeration Areas (E.As) of Ilorin, that are not congruent to one another, but also representing two distinct socio-economic status (older indigenous and newer elite areas) were used. In particular, 20 Enumeration Areas (NPC,1999) located in 10 wards, of Ajikobi, Gambari, Fulani, Magaji Ngari, Oloje, Adewole, Badari, Okaka, Sabon gari 1 and Sabon gari 2 (Fig.2), formed the sampling frame. From this frame, the questionnaire was administered at random to 10% of the population in each enumeration area. Descriptive statistics including frequency distribution, percentages, mean, tables, variance and covariance were used in describing the nature of households, socio-economic attributes and associations within the study area. The chi-square was used to determine the relationships between education, religion, spatial groups and age at first marriage amongst residents.

Characteristics of Respondents and Nature of Household

The percentage distribution of sampled population according to sample size, area and cohort distribution are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondent Population according to Size, Area and Cohort Distribution

AREA	1960s	1970s	1980s	TOTAL%
Ilorin West	55.7	34.4	9.8	100
Ilorin East	50	39.5	10.5	100
Ilorin South	55.6	36.1	8.3	100

Author's Field Survey (2012).

Table 2: Age at First Marriage by Respondents

Age Cohort (Yrs)	West	East	South	Total (%)
14 – 19	2	2	6	10 (7.4)
20 – 24	15	10	9	34 (25)
25 – 29	29	18	19	66 (48.5)
30 – 34	4	5	3	12 (8.8)
Unmarried	5	4	4	13 (9.6)
No response	1	0	0	1 (0.7)

Author's Field Survey (2012).

Table 2 highlights the distribution of 136 surveyed ever-married women by single years of age at first marriage, by the age ranges 14 – 34 yrs. Respondents whose age at first marriage were between age range 20 -29 years represented about 73.5 % of the ever-married women surveyed, which also cuts across the three local government areas of the study area.

The average number of respondent in the age cohorts who were married as at the time of study for the LGA groupings (Table 3) are 13 mothers (Ilorin West) and 9 mothers each for the East and South LGAs. The covariance analysis between the sub population groups indicated that the covariance between West and East (COV (W,E) was about 65%, which means there was a moderate association between the number of married people in the two areas. Also, a moderate level of association (62%) was observed between West & South (COV (W,S). There was a low level of association (34%) amongst the number of married people between the Eastern & Southern parts of the city (Table 3).

Table 3. Summary Table of Mean, Variance and Covariance

Age	Ilorin West	Ilorin East	Ilorin South	Mean
14-19	2	2	6	3.333333
20-24	15	10	9	11.33333
25-29	29	18	19	22
30-34	4	5	3	4
Mean	12.5	8.75	9.25	10.16667
Unmarried	5	4	4	4.333333
No response	1	0	0	0.333333
Mean	9.33	6.5	6.8	
VAR	153.6666	48.91666	48.25	
COV (W,E)	64.625			
COV (W,S)	61.875			
COV (E,S)	33.813			

Furthermore, the following hypotheses were formulated and empirically tested using chi-square (X^2) test of significance so as to know the level of differences (if any) in the pattern of age cohort marriages in the town.

Hypothesis 1

H_0 : There is no significant difference among cohort ages at first marriage.

Table 4. Table on Cohort Ages at Marriage

Chi square Calculated Value	Chi square Table Value
$X^2 = 11.89$	$X^2 = 12.59$

With a table value of 12.59 and a calculated chi-square value of 11.89, the Null (H_0) was accepted. In other words there is no significant difference between cohort ages at first marriage amongst respondents in the study area.

Hypothesis 2

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between educational level and age at first marriage.

Table 5: Respondents' Educational Level and Age at First Marriage Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	233.820(a)	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	214.449	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	66.564	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	122		

The observed P value (0.000) is less than the standard P- value (233.82), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between level of education and age at first marriage. Indeed, it was discovered that about 84% of the women have formal education (55.2% tertiary, 23.5% secondary, and 5.1% primary). The marital status of the youngest cohort group 1980 (15-24 years) indicates that only 20% were married, while 73.3% were yet to be married. This is a likely effect of increased awareness about female education and levels of study, leading to the shift in the age at first marriage of women in Ilorin.

Hypothesis 3

H₀: There is no significant relationship between respondents' religious affiliation and age at first marriage.

Table 6. Respondents' Religious Affiliation and Age at First Marriage Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	105.690(a)	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	142.071	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	66.457	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	115		

It is generally believed that certain religion favour early marriages in Ilorin. Thus, the purpose of this hypothesis is to empirically document if there is any iota of truth in this claim or that they are mere myths. The observed P-value (0.000) is lower than the standard P-value 105.69). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. In other words, there is a significant relationship between religion and age at first marriage. The practice of "Bride Gift" in Ilorin amongst the mainly Muslim indigenous communities may have favoured this tendency.

Marriage Patterns in Ilorin

The pattern of marriage often has a very direct effect on achieved fertility levels, because in almost all human societies, just as in all parts of Nigeria, especially from the North-central region upwards and confirmed by this study, child bearing occurs mostly within a socially recognised and stable marital union between a man and woman/women (Table 7). Marriage is a very universal phenomenon among the people of Ilorin. Almost all adult women in Ilorin (83%) are in a union. As a matter of fact, some entered at relatively early ages in their life (7.4% under 20years and about 74% between 20 and 29years (Table 2). The cultural norms and belief of the people may be responsible for this trend. In general, the earlier the age at first marriage, the greater the natality. Evidence from Britain and USA (see Registrar General Statistical Review for England & Wales, 1967) also points to this. Additionally, age at entry into such stable sexual unions, duration and stability of union are all positively associated with achieved fertility (NDHS, 1999).

However, a look at the 1999 and 2008 National Median age at first marriage amongst the regions in Nigeria indicates that the North has the lowest for women age 25-49years (Table 7). The implications of improved age at first marriage will certainly reduce fertility level or reduce denial of the rights of the girl child to education, health, reproductive health and development (NDHS, 1999). Although there is an increase in the median age at first marriage in Nigeria, the regional average in all of the northern parts of Nigeria is equal or less than the national average (See Table 7). There is a social consequence of early marriage though, which may often be overlooked and that is, that fewer births occur outside marriage.

Table 7. Regional Median Age at First Marriage

Region	Median Age At First Marriage	
	(1999)	(2008)
North East	15.0	15.6
North West	14.6	15.2
South East	20.2	22.8
South West	20.2	21.8
Central	17.9	18.3
NIGERIA	17.9	18.3

Source: NDHS 1999, 2008.

According to the 1991 population census, the northern states have higher percentages of 'married' among both sexes (70% of females and 50% of males) compared with the southern states (40% and 45% of both males and females respectively) (NPC, 1998). Thus fertility levels among single adolescents, is low compared to those who have ever been married. Nonetheless, there are evidences of teen pregnancy outside wedlock amongst those with low level of literacy and the lower echelon of the society (Table 9). Further analysis of the data points to the decrease in polygamous unions. A trend

The Planning Implications of Age at First Marriage in the Traditional Urban Setting of Ilorin

favouring the practice of monogamy was noted amongst the natives and non natives as the years progressed. A further subdivision into type of union amongst natives of Ilorin and other non native (Kwara) residents revealed that 25% are into polygamy, while majority (52.1%) engaged in monogamy (Table 8). The fact that as high as a quarter of the native people are into multiple wife marriages is still a source of concern for population growth.

Table 8. Types of Marital Union & Distribution of Respondents

Type of Union	Natives %	Non-Natives %
Polygamy	25	19
Monogamy	52.1	70.9
No response	22.9	10.1

Author's Field Survey (2012).

Conclusion

From the present study, it was found that no significant difference exists between respondents' cohort ages at marriage and their locations. Age at first marriage increased majorly among respondents between 20 -29 years of age. Religion and level of education was found to have significantly influenced the residents' age at first marriage. A significant difference was found between cohort marital status, and age group over the studied years. There was a decline in the rank of single 'never married' adults as the age cohorts progressed. There is a strong belief in the institution of marriage in the city (only about 0.7% was separated and 83.1% married).

The fact that, as high as a quarter of the native population still practice polygamous marriage should be a source of concern because of its implication for population growth. There is a general increase in age at first marriage. This increase coupled with the effects of education may compensate for the expected increase in population due to polygamous marriage.

References

- Aderamo, A.J. (1997). The Structure of Traditional Settlements in Nigeria: The case of Ilorin. *Environmental Issues*, 2: 41-56.
- Ayinla, O.O. (1999). Women Education and Reproductive Behaviour: A Case Study of Ilorin. *Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis*. Department of Geography, University of Ilorin, Nigeria.
- Barrette, M. (1996). *Fertility and Decline in Punjab, Indian*. pp. 65-96.
- Billari, F.C. and Kohler, Hans-Peter (2004). Patterns of Low and Lowest-Low Fertility in Europe. *Population Studies*, 58(2):161-176. Available online at www.tandfonline.com
- Blakie, P.M. (1975). *Family planning in India: Diffusion and Policy*. Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd, London.

- Caldwell, J.C. (1993). Cited in Ogunleye-Adetona, C.I. (2004). Environment and Family Planning Programmes in Nigeria. *Geo-Studies Forum* 2 (1): 102-108, 2004.
- Dare, O. and Cleland, J. (1994). Reliability and Validity of Survey Data on Sexual Behaviour. *Health Transition Review*, 4, 93-110.
- Edewor, P.A. (2001). Fertility and the Value of Children among the Isoko of Delta State, Nigeria. *Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis*. Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Francis, F.O. (1991). Population Education Curriculum Content Development and Core – Messages: Nigeria's Perspective. *Proceedings*, No.8,1990. Population Association of Nigeria (PAN)
- Morah, B.C. and Afolabi, O.A. (1986). *Nigeria Fertility Survey, 1981/82. State Level Report (Kano State)*. National Population Bureau, Lagos.
- Mosher, W.D. (1988). Fertility and Family Planning in the United States: Insights from National Survey of Family Growth. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 20 (5): 207-217. Available online at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2135622>
- NDHS (1999). *The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey: Policy and Programme Implications*. National Population Commission, 2001.
- NPC & ICF Macro (2009). *Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 2008*. NPC, Abuja, Nigeria, pp.91-95
- NPC (1999). *National Population Commission 1991 Census Ilorin Enumeration Areas Description, Field Sheets*. NPC Ilorin East/South L.G.A Office Pake, Ilorin.
- NPC (1998). *1991 Population Census of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: Analytical Report at the National Level*. National Population Commission, Abuja-Nigeria, pp. 115-117.
- Olawepo, R.A. and Ahmed, Y.A. (1999). Factorial Ecology of a Traditional Urban Centre: The case study of Ilorin. *Centrepint*, 9(1):63-76.
- Olorunfemi, J.F. (2004). *Population and Health Planning. Social Science and Medicine*, 17 (9): 597-600.
- Orire, I.O. (2005). *Fertility Change in Ilorin: A Time and Space Perspective. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Geography, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.
- Oyebanji, J.O. (1984). Multiple Deprivations in Cities: The Case of Ilorin, Nigeria. *Applied Geography*, 4,71-80.
- RAPID Project (1985). *The Effects of Population Factors on Social and Economic Development (Nigeria)*. Prepared under the directive of FMH and NPB, Lagos.
- RGSR (1967). Registrar General Statistical Review for England & Wales, 1967.
- Sweet, J.A. (1975). Demography and the Family. *And Rev Social*. 3, 363-405.
- Westoff, C.F. (1975). The Yield of the Imperfect The 1970 National Fertility Study. *Demography* 12 (4), 573-580.