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TABLE OF CONTENT

Copyright	ii
Editorial Board	iii
Editorial Note	iv
Notes To Contributors	v
Towards The Philosophy Of Sociology Of Education For Sustainable Development Abiogun, Godwin .C.	1-4
Availability Of Assistive Technology In Special Needs Schools In South-west, Nigeria Adegunju Kabir Adewale Adeleke, Feyisike Olubunmi, Afe, Titilayo, Ohawuiro, Onyechi Emilia & Onivehu Adams Ogirima	5-11
Basic School Teachers' Attitude Towards Inclusive Education Practices For Sustainable Development In Kwara Central Senatorial District, Nigeria Akinsemoyin, L. O., Bello, M. B; Yusuf, A. & Uyanne, E. O.	13-17
Adult Education In A Contemporary Nigeria: Implications For Socio-economic Development A.O.K Noah, A.B. Aromolaran, C.O Tihamiyu & S.K Odunaro	19-25
The Influence Of Emotional Intelligence On The Academic Achievement Of First Year Students Of College Of Science And Technology Oduduwa University, Ile-ife. Olufunmilayo Deborah Ayodele	27-32
Relationship Between Parental Background And Performance Of Civic Education Students Towards Sustainable Development In Ilorin South Bello, M.B., Yusuf. A., Daramola, D. S & Obimuyiwa, G.G.	33-40
Effect Of Parents' Educational Status On Girl-child Enrolment In Education In Kalgo Local Government Area Of Kebbi State: Implication For Sustainable Development. Hajara Danjuma Senchi	41-48

Education As A Panacea For Peaceful Coexistence In Nigeria Dakom Zumnan Tanka,; Peter John & Samuel Mela	49-51
An Assessment of Child Labour in Zaria Metropolis: Implication for Sustainable Development Ismaila, Suleiman & Alabi Abdul Ganiyu	53-59
Nigeria Educational System And Sustainable Development Kootu N. Cletus.	61-67
Challenges Facing Primary Education As A Tool For Sustainable Development: A Study Of Selected Primary Schools In Katsina State Murja Lawal Musa	69-74
Managing The Positive And Negative Socialising Influences Of The Internet: Task Of Sociologists Of Education Steve Nwokeocha	75-84
Demystifying Gender Equality Through Education For Sustainable Socio-economic Development In Nigeria Nyorere, O. Ifeany, Emana, I. Edem & James, I. Okon.	85-90
Vocational Education: A Variable Tool For Sustainable Development In Nigeria O.P Nwanna-Nzewunwa	91-95
Rehabilitative Programmes In Nigeria Prisons For Sustainable Development: The Perspectives Of Inmates. Odofin Sinmiat & I.O.O. Amali	97-103
Perceived Social Expectation Of Religious Clerics In Promoting Peace Through Religious Education For Sustainable Development In Ilorin, Nigeria Ojo, Raphael Sunday	105-110
Functional Education A Veritable Tool For Sustainable Development On Upper Basic Students In Abia State, Nigeria Okafor, I. P, Ajibola, Bolaji C, Balogun, A.O & Chibundum, Cyprian Alozie	111-118
Women Education: A Tool For Sustainable Development Nasiru Abubakar Katami	119-124

- Assessment Of Undergraduate Teacher Trainees' Awareness Of Sustainable Development Goals In Ilorin, Nigeria 125-129
Olokooba, I. Nasiru & Abdulsalam, Alliyu Ayodele
- Education, Agriculture And Sustainable Development In Nigeria 131-137
Olaniran, Olakunle Lateef Kassim, Olayemi Idowu Ogunyanwo, Olawale Taiwo & Erinle, Odunayo
- Impact Of Family Life Education On Sustainable Women Empowerment In Oshimili South Local Government Area Of Delta State 139-144
Onyema, Pat Solomon
- The Role Of Ict In Education For Sustainable Development In South-east Universities, Nigeria 145-151
Oyeoku Eke Kalu, Ohia Nkiru, Nweke Prince Onyemaechi & Okop Ekaette Okon
- Availability Of Assistive Technology In Special Needs Schools In South-west, Nigeria 153-159
Adegunju Kabir Adewale Adeleke, Feyisike Olubunmi, Afe, Titilayo., Ohawuiro, Onyechi Emilia & nivehu Adams Ogirima
- Feeding Patterns Among Major Nigerian Ethnic Groups In Ilorin Kwara State: Implications For The 3rd Sustainable Development Goal In Nigeria 161-168
Rasheed, S.a.; Ajayi, O.S.
- Examine Civic Education As A Tool For Promoting Sustainable Development In Nigeria 169-174
Rimfat, S. A.
- Peace Education As An Instrument For Curbing Violence In Nigeria 175-178
Rimfat S. A.
- Post-graduate Students' Perception Of Child Marriage And Girl-child Education As Social Paradox To Sustainable Development In North-central, Nigeria 179-187
Shoyemi, Adekunle Adeyinka, Onibaniyi, Bamidele Mathew & Hassan, Oluwatoyin Enitan

- Challenges Facing Students' Teacher During Teaching Practices Exercises 189-195
Siddique, B.T.,
Muhammad, R.,
Alabelapo, A. A. &
Mohammad, AF
- The Role Of Inclusive Education In Promoting Sustainable Development In The Nigerian Society 197-201
Solomon Goteng Bodang,
Dakom Zumnan Tangkat &
Tina Silas Randawa
- Gender Equality And Sustainable Development In Kogi State. 203-211
Suleiman Femi Hafiz
- Education As A Panacea For Peaceful Coexistence In Nigeria. 213-215
Dakom Zumnan Tangkat,
Peter John,
Samuel Mela &
Emmanuel Goteng
- Career Counselling For Employment And Sustainable Development In Nigeria. 271-224
Augustine C. Ukwueze
- University Education Management As Correlate To Sustainable Development In Nigeria. 225-232
Umar Muhammad,
Awwal Muhammad Inuwa &
Nuhu Ja'afar Ishaq
- Knowledge And Utilization Of Privacy Options On Facebook Among University Of Ilorin Students 233-240
Uyanne, E. O.,
Akintola, M. &
Odutayo, A. O.
- Social Studies Teachers' Competence In The Use Of Information And Communication Technology In Basic Schools In Ilorin Metropolis 241-249
Yayi, T. O.,
Onivehu A.o.,
Oyeniran, B.j., &
Ohawuiro, O.E.
- Curriculum, Wealth And Creativity: The Need For Entrepreneurship Education In Higher Education Institutions. 251-257
Justina Lere Charles – Zalakoro

- The Attitude Of Married Women Towards Virginity Among
Young Ladies In Ilorin Metropolis 259-263
Aburime, A. Ozohu,
Jekayinfa, Oyeyemijumoke &
Odejobi, S. Oluwaseyi
- Civic Education And Political Participation For Sustainable
Development In Nigeria: A Study Of Selected Geo-political Zones 265-270
Igwe, Oji Igwe
Olatuji, Sule,
Okoro, Eric N. &
David, Uriah Daniel
- Sustainable Women Economic Empowerment And Educative Community Network
Of Social Relationships In Itu/ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency, Akwa Ibom State. 271-282
Nyorere, Ogbo Ifeanyi, &
James, Idopise Okon
- Commensurate Deterrent Mechanisms For Sustainable Crime-free Tertiary
Institutions: The Opinions Of Managers Of School Crimes In South West Nigeria. 283-293
Ayorinde, Agbonna Samuel
- Effective Utilization Of Improvised Materials For Teaching And Learning Of Social
Studies In Secondary Schools For Sustainable Development In Ogun State, Nigeria. 295-299
Adediran, A. A., Adelegun, K. G. & Olugbuyi, K. O.
- Osu Caste In Igbo Land: The Role Of Education For Sustainable Development. 301-306
Ijeomah, Eucharua Udeaku & Amalikolo Eucharua O.
- The Role Of Physical Education And Sports In Achieving
Sustainable Development In Nigeria. 307-309
Ajadi Memunat Tunrayo
- Education For Sustainable Development In Nigeria: Some Questions For Reflection. 311-315
ER Peter Luka, Sani, F.B. &
Pogu Mwada Ndirmbita
- Civic Education And Sustainable Development 317-323
Lawal Usman &
Zaitu Jummai John

THE ATTITUDE OF MARRIED WOMEN TOWARDS VIRGINITY AMONG YOUNG LADIES IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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Abstract

Virginity and its effects have been a major source of concern within Ilorin Metropolis. The main objective of the study was to investigate attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis. The research design adopted for the study was a descriptive research survey and it considered variables of age, educational qualification and religion. The researchers employed the simple random sampling technique which was used to select 100 married women in Ilorin metropolis. The researchers developed a questionnaire which was used to elicit information from the respondents. It consists of two sections; section A deals with their personal data, while section B contains 20 items relating to the subject matter of the study. The findings of the study showed that 87% of the respondents viewed virginity as very important while the remaining 13% viewed virginity as less important. Also, findings that there is a significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis based on age and educational qualification while there is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis based on religion. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that much emphasis should be placed on virginity in the society because this will help curb the issue of divorce and enhance marital stability. It was recommended that Government should place more emphasis on sex education. Also, counseling should start from home to school and through all the levels of education from primary school to tertiary institutions. There should be seminars, symposium, on sex, sex education, virginity and all issues related to marriage and workshop on other viral sexual diseases.

Keywords: Attitude, Married Women, Virginity, Young Ladies.

Introduction

Virginity is defined as an intact of the hymen in the vaginal that is a break or tears at the hymen which can be caused during sex. Broken hymen can also be caused during sporting activities like horse riding etc. (UNICEF, 2001). In Ilorin metropolis, parents and married women have positive and negative feelings towards young ladies who still possess the virginity within them or that might have lost it.

According to Cooksey, Elizabeth, Frank and Stefaine (2002), the first act of sexual intercourse by a female is commonly considered within many cultures to be an important personal milestone. Its significance is reflected in expressions such as "saving oneself", "losing one's virginity", and sometimes "deflowering". The occasion is at times seen as the end of innocence, integrity, or purity, and the sexuality of the individual. Traditionally, there was a cultural expectation that a young girl would not engage in premarital sex and would come to her wedding a virgin, which would be indicated by the bride wearing a white gown, and that she would "give up" her virginity to her new husband in the act of consummation of the marriage (Goodson, Evans and Edmundson, 1997). In some cultures, it is so

important that a young lady be a virgin, which is refraining from inserting any object into her vaginal, such as a dildo, or undergoing some medical examinations, so as not to damage the hymen. Some females who have been previously sexually active (or the hymen has been otherwise damaged) may undergo a surgical procedure called hymenorrhaphy or hymenoplasty, to repair or replace her hymen, and cause vaginal bleeding on the next intercourse as a proof of virginity. In some cultures, an unmarried female who is found not to be a virgin, whether by choice or as a result of rape, can be subjected to shame, ostracism or even killing. Virginity is regarded as a valuable commodity in some cultures, and the right to have sexual intercourse with a virgin can be bought. For example, in Japan, Geishas would sell their right of first access in a ritual called mizuage. This is also legendary droit du seigneur ("the lord's when it often conflated with the Latin phrase "ius primaenocit") which allegedly entitled a lord or part of an estate to take the virginity of the bride on the night of their marriage, a rite of passage of can trade for money (Carpenter, 1997). Governments, religions, and custom in some societies are some of the who seduced or raped a virgin. The processes of civic compensation to her father (Mey, Peter & Josh, 2012).

the late 20th century, a woman could sue a man who had taken her virginity but did not marry her. In some cultures, the compensation for these damages is called "wreath money". (Randall & Bye, 2003).

Some cultures require proof of a bride's virginity before her marriage. This has traditionally been tested by the presence of an intact hymen, which was verified by either a physical examination (usually by a physician, who provided a certificate of virginity) or by a "proof of blood", which is referred to as virginal bleeding that results from tearing of the hymen after the first sanctioned sexual contact. In some cultures, the nuptial blood-spotted bed sheet would be displayed as a proof of both consummation of marriage and that the bride was a virgin. (Randall and Byers, 2003).

According to a study by the National Center for Health Statistics (2006), 27% of young men and 29% of young ladies from the ages of 15-24 has never had any kind of sex. The largest and most in-depth federal report to date on sexual behavior, sexual attraction and sexual identity in the U.S covers 2006-2008 and includes 5,082 participants in the 15-24 year old group. According to the analysis of the report, 58% of girls age 15-17 have had no sexual contact. For ages 20-24, 12% are also reported likewise.

The institute of Shangi academy of social science findings was based on virginity loss of young ladies, attitude of mainland China to the issue, the comparison of mainland China and United States of America ladies in the average of losing their virginity is that there is inadequate sex education to evacuate the issue of virginity loss and curbing the negative attitude of people toward this. (Xiong, 2013). Xiong (2013), was of the opinion that many young ladies of the past centuries would always want to give their life to any male friend that they lose their virginity to. According to Xiong (2013) study, he discussed a recent 'Sex' survey which suggests that average age of Chinese losing their virginity has decreased dramatically in the last 2 years, this trend and speculates on whether or not China will catch up with the liberal attitude towards sex held by many western countries, many young mainland Chinese are becoming increasingly open-minded when it comes to their view on sex. Recent investigation shows that the average age which mainland Chinese lose their virginity has dropped from 22 years old to 18 in the last 20 years, significant change (Ramusack, Sharon and Barnara, 1999).

The African society in general and the Nigerian society in particular placed so much value on female virginity. Virginity serves as core value of integrity and dignity to the woman in the society. Virginity is symbolic of the societal value and virtue and it is a taboo for a woman to lose her virginity before marriage. It connotes impurity and lack of respect for societal tradition. It therefore, becomes a disgrace to the family of the bride if she is not found intact on her wedding night. Loss of virginity could be caused by lustful desire, sexual abuse, poverty, lack of proper sex education, etc.

The objective of this study is to ascertain:

1. The attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis.
2. If there is any significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies base on age, academic qualification and religion.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised based on the statement of problem:

1. What is the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis?
2. Is there any significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age?
3. Is there any difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of highest educational qualification?
4. Is there any difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion?

Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were generated to guide the conduct of this study.

1. There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of educational qualification.
3. There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on

the basis of religion.

Methodology

The research design that was adopted for the study is the descriptive survey. The population for the study comprises all married women in Ilorin metropolis. The researcher went to religious organizations, such as churches and mosques; also government establishments to administer the questionnaire. One hundred (100) respondents were randomly selected in Ilorin metropolis. The sampling technique used in the research ensures bias selection of respondents to represent the population, drawing a sample from the population, and making statistical inferences. Married women are used as respondents chosen from Ilorin metropolis and their responses are used to obtain necessary information for the study. The simple random sampling technique was used. The random selection also has adequate representation of

respondents in terms of age, marital status, religion and educational qualification.

The instrument used in collecting useful information for this study is a researcher designed questionnaire tagged "Attitude of Married Women towards Virginity among Young Ladies (AMWTVAYL)". The instrument consists of two sections. The first section consists of the demographic data of the respondents while the second section elicit information on the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies. The Likert rating scale was adopted.

Data Analysis

Research Question 1:

What is the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis?

Table 1: Attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis

S/N	ITEMS	Agree		Disagree	
		No	%	No	%
1	Virginity is very important in marital life	87	87%	13	13%
2	Virgin couples are the best in marriages	62	62%	38	38%
3	Virginity is a factor to be taken seriously in determining choice of partner	54	54%	46	46%

Table 1 shows that 87% of the respondents agreed that virginity is very important in marital life while the remaining 13% disagreed, 62% of the respondents agreed that virgin couples are the best in marriage while 38% disagreed. Also, 54% of the respondents agreed that virginity is a factor to be taken seriously in determining choice of partner while 46% disagreed. This shows that there is a positive attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis.

Hypotheses Testing

Research Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age.

Table 2: t-test analysis on the difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Sig (2 tailed)	Decision
30years&below	38	34.9	5.03	-2.015	58	.039	Reject
31years&above	62	37.2	3.34				

P<0.05

Result from table 2 shows the t value yielded -2.015 which is significant with P value .039 < 0.05. This shows a significant result. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant difference in the attitude of married

women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age. This is in favour of the older women with a mean of 37.2 which is greater than that of the younger women with a mean of 34.9 i.e. $37.2 > 34.9$.

Research Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of educational qualification.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Sig (2 tailed)	Decision
NCE & below	42	32.5	5.03	-1.185	58	.042	Reject
1 st deg&above	58	35.7	3.34				

Table 3: t-test analysis on the difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of educational qualification

$P < 0.05$

Result from table 3 shows the t value yielded -1.185 which is significant with P value .042 < 0.05. This shows a significant result. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a

significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of educational qualification. This is in favour of the more-qualified women with a mean of 35.7 which is greater than that of the less-qualified women with a mean of 32.5 i.e. $35.7 > 32.5$.

Research Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Sig (2 tailed)	Decision
Christian	30	13.3	2.05	-.675	58	.502	Do not Reject
Muslim	70	13.6	1.48				

Table 4: t-test analysis on the difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion

$P > 0.05$

Result from table 4 shows the t value yielded -.675 which is not significant with P value .502 > 0.05. This shows a non-significant result. Hence, the null hypothesis is not rejected. This means that there is no significant difference in the attitude of married women towards virginity among young ladies in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of religion.

Conclusion

It was concluded that, though the lost of virginity before marriage connotes impurity, lost of integrity, honour and pride in the society. It also portrays lack of respect for societal tradition and culture in some society. On the contrary, the issue of virginity is a personal issue. It depends on how the individual want to be received and what legacy the individual want to leave behind.

Recommendations

Much emphasis should be placed on marital stability, not virginity. The issue of virginity should not be taken into consideration in determining choice of partner. However, both male and female should

abstain from premarital sex to obey God commandment in the Holy Bible and the Noble Quran.

The researchers also recommend that there be counseling at every point in time to check and balance the youths from time to time. Therefore there should be counselors at each level of education: primary, secondary and even the tertiary institution. There should be seminars and symposium on sex, virginity, and issues related to marriage, workshops on viral sexual diseases.

Parents should also endeavour to help talk to the youths on sex education and not shy away from talking to their kids.

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