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MANUSCRIPT GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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The International Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences (IJFACS) aims to publish high quality research on all aspects of Consumer Sciences/Home Economics and related fields. As an international academic journal, provides a global and multidisciplinary forum to understand consumers from psychology, sociology, anthropology, marketing and consumption economics perspectives. All submissions will go through a strict double-blind peer-reviewed procedure based on strong theoretical conceptualization and rigours research methods. Short research notes and commentary, with innovative approach and insightful ideas are also welcome.

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**PARENTAL MANAGEMENT OF ADOLESCENT REBELLIOUS BEHAVIOUR:
IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELING**

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed parents' opinions on the techniques for managing Adolescents' rebellious behaviours. Sample size comprised 260 purposively drawn parents in Nigeria. Structured questionnaire with .75 reliability coefficient was used. Descriptive statistics as frequency counts and percentages was employed to interpret data. Results revealed some forms of Adolescents' rebellious behaviours; being argumentative 71.6%, outright disobedient 62%, Trial with drugs and alcohol 53%, opinionated 52.7%, manipulative manners 52.3%, Resistance to parents choice of dress code 51.9% and choice of friend 51.5%,. The result also showed some parental management techniques which include; advice on the consequences of behaviours 59%, establishing good rapport 56%, seeking counseling assistance 51%, showing loving and caring attitude 39% among others. In conclusion, this study observed that parents are generally inadequately empowered in managing adolescents' rebellious behaviours. This study therefore, emphasized the need to educate parent on how to manage their adolescent and introducing school counselors to all secondary school in Nigeria. This will provide counseling help for both parents and adolescents.

Keywords: Adolescent; rebellious behaviour; parental management; counseling.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Parenting adolescent is a very challenging period for parents all over the World (Heidi and Sallee, 2011) and also in Nigeria. For many parents, the adolescence period of a child tends to be the most trying, difficult, worrisome and challenging time of parenthood (Heidi and Sallee, 2011), as the child suddenly becomes unpredictable, uncooperative, unrealistic, unbalanced and unstable (Egendorf and Hurley, 2004). The transition period from childhood to adolescence comes with a feeling of wanting to be in control and exercising one's own authority (Cumsille, Darling, Flaherty and Martinez, 2009; Callan and Noller, 1986). Parents in response to this sudden change in their adolescent behavior may set up rules and restrictions in order to "protect", guide, curb their adolescents' excesses or exert their own authority (Lerner, Boyd and Du, 2010).

The adolescent may feel restrained and thus feels a need to prove that he or she is now grown enough to make his or her own decisions. This situation could emanate into conflict whereby the child begins to rebel against authority figures as a way to break free of these restrictions and to pronounce his/her independence and individuality; enforcing that he/she has quitted childhood (Hewitt, 2011). These rebellious behaviours can have adverse effects on a person's entire life (Hewitt, 2011). The proper management of adolescents rebellious behaviour by parents is therefore very crucial as parent's inappropriate management of these has been a major cause of drastic deterioration in the parent child relationship (Mathye, 2009); and strong family support is still a profoundly important part of teenage development (Harvard Family Research Project, 2007).

Adolescence is a period of life in which the biological and psychosocial transition from childhood to adulthood occurs. The Adolescence Phase is defined by American Psychological Association (2002) as the period of time from the onset of puberty until an individual achieves economic independence. Adolescence is also defined as the period in life when most of a person's biological, cognitive, psychological, and social characteristics are changing in an interrelated manner from what is considered childlike to what is considered adult like, that or which is characterized by stress and anxiety (Lerner, Boyd and Du, 2010). For the purpose of this study, the adolescent age was defined as people of ages 12 through 18 years (Ajayi, Ogundele and Aminu, 1998).

The Thesaurus defined rebellious as resisting control or authority or not submissive to authority. It can also be defined as violation of societal norms. Nicole (2011) sees rebellious behaviour as when children begin to act in an oppositional manner. It involves emotional turmoil, being argumentative, conflict within the family, alienation from adult society, reckless behaviour, rejection of adult's value, and egocentric behaviour. For some teens, their rebellious behaviour may appear in the form of spending more time with friends away from family members; persistent hostility, rejection of rules or curfews; outright –disobedient, school problems like cutting classes, missing school, drop in grades; revolting parent's choice of friend and career, resistance to parents choice of dress code, being difficult and disorderly, substance abuse such as experimenting with alcohol and illicit drugs; change in appearance or interests, trying out new clothing styles, hairstyles, tastes in music that are outside the socially accepted norm; being argumentative, quick to anger, overly defensive; running away from home and so on. These could be as a result of family conflict, mood swings, depression and risky behaviour (Arnett, 1999). Greydanus *et al.*, (1997) on their own part, gave a spectrum of rebellious behaviours to include: sexual acting out and associated consequences, aggression and violence, running away from home, prostitution, substance abuse, gang membership, carrying of

weapon, self harm and self mutilation and suicide. Bukobza (2009) gives evidences of rebellious behaviour to include bitterness, stubbornness, undisciplined living, not being an intelligent listener, always arguing and debating with parents, manipulative manners, withdrawing and evading parent's company, hanging out with friends all the time, wearing or saying shocking things, being sloppy and lack of care about anything. Different researchers had given different reasons why Adolescents rebel. One of the causative factors of rebellious behaviour of adolescents is said to be environmental in nature (Sorotzkin, 2005). Sorotzkin (2005) said that the vulgar and decadent media the internet and western culture in general portrays are too appealing for many contemporary adolescent to resist. The assumption is that the pull from the outside is so strong, that even well adjusted, happy youngsters who have positive relationships with their parents can easily be influenced to abandon their family's way of life and become rebellious. Another of such environmental factor is the influence of bad friends (Sorotzkin, 2005). Inappropriate parenting skills and the resulting deficiencies in the parent-child relationship; plus anger and frustration resulting from feeling of being unaccepted and ejection by parents are also seen as major reasons of rebellious behaviour (Sorotzkin, 2005). Glen (2008) also highlighted some unhealthy causes of teenage rebellion to include: parental discord; parental discipline methods; family confusion such as alcoholic parent, abusive situations and financial pressures; peer influence; fear of failure and low self worth.

The Biological-Maturational Theory assumes that adolescence begins with the biological changes accompanying puberty and that there is a direct link between biological factors and psychological development (Mwale, 2010). Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development (Role and Identity): According to Erikson, adolescence was best defined as a time in which the individual struggles to gain acceptance while formulating an independent identity. Freud's Psychosexual Stages (Genital Stage): According to Freud, at puberty, hormonal and physical changes causes adolescent to focus on sexual thoughts. School, family and other factors that have been important until now are displaced by sex in the mind of the adolescent. This causes individuals to rebel against their parents and to be self-absorbed. Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory: Adolescents according to Piaget's classification of cognitive development now form concrete thinkers, able to think abstractly, are able to analyze situations logically in terms of cause and effect, they think critically, reflect and plan for the future. They therefore believe they can make their own decisions.

Parental management of rebellious behaviour

At the phase of adolescence, adolescents fare best and their parents are happiest when parents can be both encouraging and accepting of the child's needs for more psychological independence. A secure, loving and supportive family environment is known to be highly effective in teaching children social skills (Heidi, and Sallee, 2011). It is important to note that rules without relationship gives birth to rebellion (Baumrind, 1991), thus it is important that in guiding a young person to adulthood, a parent must have patience, stamina and a good sense of humor (White and Godley, 2007). The trick therefore is for a parent to form a strong bond with his/her adolescent so that he/she feels close enough to reveal all of his/her problems and confusions to the parent (Kopko, 2007). Developmental psychologists overwhelmingly endorse authoritative parenting as the optimal parenting style for raising adolescents (Steinberg, 2001). This type of parenting is associated with healthy adolescent development and provides a balance between affection and support and an appropriate degree of parental control in managing adolescent behavior. This atmosphere provides opportunities for the adolescent to become self-reliant and to develop a healthy sense of autonomy within a set of parental limits, guidelines and rules (Kopko, 2007). Parents may facilitate adolescent's general adjustment when they are both demanding and responsiveness (Steinberg, 2001). Demandingness refers to the extent to which parents show control, demand maturity and supervise their children, establishes and enforces boundaries for behaviour, while responsiveness, refers to the extent to which parents are warm, accepting and involved (Steinberg, 2001). On the other hand, indulgent, neglectful or authoritarian rearing styles, hostile interactions marked by negative emotions and the display of problem behaviors can result in significant problems especially rebellious behaviour of adolescent (Steinberg, 2001). Darling *et al* (2008) believed that rules without relationship give birth to rebellion. Adolescents at this time may feel all powerful and all-knowing at the same time that they still need an adult to relate to, but in a different way than they did when they were younger (Barbot and Hunter (2012). In White and Godley (2007) opinion, guiding a young person to adulthood often requires patience, stamina and a good sense of humor. The trick therefore is to form a strong bond with adolescents so that they feel close enough to reveal all their problems and confusions to their parents (White and Godley, 2007). Baumrind (1991) suggested some ways of coping with adolescents' rebellion to include; practicing loving and consistent discipline early; continuous setting of limits, while gradually working toward providing reasonable responsibility and decision making opportunities; being approachable, flexible and understanding; providing adequate substitutes for banned activities or practice; creating time for and spending time with the adolescent; showing acceptance, forgiveness and encouraging the adolescent.

Adolescent's rebellious behaviour: the role of counseling

Counseling is a form of psychological or talking therapy that offers people a chance to change how they feel and to live better. Counseling provides a regular time and space for people to talk about their troubles and explore difficult feelings in an environment that is dependable, free from intrusion and confidential. Research findings indicate that school-based counseling is important as it will give adolescents and parents the opportunity to discuss their challenges with a professional who is willing to listen and may be an effective means of reducing psychological distress in young people (McArthur, Cooper, and Berdondini, 2012).

Study objective

The specific objectives are to

- identify the various forms of rebellious behaviour amongst adolescents;
- find out the parents' perception of why adolescents rebel; and
- establish the various parental methods of managing adolescent's rebellious behaviour.

METHODOLOGY

Study design and sample selection:

This study adopted an investigative survey design to investigate the management techniques adopted by parents in the management of adolescents’ rebellious behavior in Ikeja Local Government area of Lagos State, Nigeria. 300 parents of adolescent’s between the ages of 12-18years were purposively selected. Purposive sampling method was adopted because only parent with adolescent children between the ages of 12 -18 can be recruited for the study.

Instrumentation

The study used a structured questionnaire designed and validated by the researcher. The questionnaire adopted a 4-points Likert-Scale, expressed as strongly Agreed (4), Agreed (3), Disagreed (2), and Strongly Disagreed (1). The questionnaire was divided into four sections. Section A was designed to collect the demographic characteristics; section B, C, and D was based on the various forms of the rebellions behaviour, reasons for the behaviors, and parental management techniques of the behaviour respectively. 30 parents in Ibadan-North Local Government area of Oyo State were used for the pilot study to establish the validity and reliability of the instrument. The cronbach alpha were: 0.78, 0.75, and 0.89 of sections B, C & D.

Procedure for administrating the instrument

The researcher visited some public and private secondary schools (since this is the school level for adolescent age) during their various Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) meetings to distribute the questionnaires. A total of three hundred 300 questionnaires were administered but only two hundred and sixty (260) questionnaires were used for the analysis. 25 questionnaires were not returned and 15 were dropped during data cleaning because they were not completely filled.

Data analysis: The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. These are presented in frequency tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section of the paper presents the result of the research. Descriptive statistic was adopted and results are presented as follows.

Demographic characteristics of the sample

Table I shows that out of the two hundred and sixty (260) respondents, one hundred and eight (108) were men. This constituted 41.5% of the sample, while one hundred and fifty-two (152) respondents were women, constituting 58.5% of the sample. The age of the respondents in the study ranges from 24 to 59 years old, the average being 43years. 0.4% of the study population fell between the age group of 20 – 29 years, 37.3% were in the group 30 – 39 years, 46.5% were between 40 – 49 while respondents who are above 50 years of age constituted 15.7%. The married respondents constituted 81.2%, the single parents were 15.4%, while the divorced and separated respondents constituted 1.5% and 1.9% respectively. Majority of the respondents are in a monogamous marriage (90.4%) while those who are polygamous constituted only 9.6%.

Table I: Frequency distribution of the demographic characteristic of respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	108	41.5
	Female	152	58.5
Age	20-29	1	0.5
	30-39	97	37.3
	40-49	121	46.5
	50 and above	41	15.7
Marital Status	Married	211	81.2
	Single Parent	40	15.4
	Divorce	4	1.5
	Separated	5	1.9
Type of Marriage	Monogamous	235	90.4
	Polygamous	25	9.6
Number of children	One-two	73	18
	Three-four	97	37.3
	Five –six	37	14.2
	Seven-eight	11	4.2
	Nine and above	42	16.2

Table II revealed that being argumentative is the first highest form of rebellious behaviour (71.6%). It is not surprising that parents rated this as the highest act of rebellion as arguing with ones parent is highly frowned at and unaccepted in the social context where the research took place. This was followed by outright disobedient (62%), trial with drugs and alcohol (53%), being opinionated (52.4%), manipulative manners (52.3%), resistance to parents' choice of dress code (51.9%), resistance to parents choice of friend (51.5%), Persistent hostility (50.7%), Egocentric (37.6%), and treat of leaving home was only agreed to by 6.2% of the respondents. These

finding is in consonant with literature and revealed that parents agreed that their adolescents rebel and they are fully aware of the forms of rebellious behaviours exhibited by them.

Table II: Distribution showing the identified forms of rebellious behaviors

	SD Freq (%)	D Freq (%)	A Freq (%)	SA Freq (%)	Total Disagree %	Total Agree %	Ranking
Argumentative	36 (13.8)	83(31.9)	126(48.5)	60(23.1)	28.4	71.6	1st
Persistent hostility	45 (17.3)	69(26.5)	108(41.5)	24(9.2)	49.2	50.7	8th
Outright disobedient	30(11.5)	88(33.8)	120(46.2)	41(15.8)	38.0	62.0	2nd
Opinionated	35(13.5)	89(34.2)	112(43.1)	25(9.6)	47.3	52.7	4th
Manipulative manners	35(13.5)	83(31.9)	112(43.1)	24(9.2)	47.7	52.3	5th
Trial with drugs and alcohol	39(15.0)	89(34.2)	102(39.2)	36(13.8)	46.9	53.0	3rd
Resistance to parents choice of friend	37(14.2)	91(35.0)	111(42.7)	23(8.8)	48.4	51.5	7th
Resistance to parents choice of dress code	34(13.1)	84(32.3)	109(41.9)	26(10.0)	48.1	51.9	6th
Treat of leaving home	160(61.5)	81(31.2)	21(0.8)	14(5.4)	93.8	6.2	10th
Egocentric	89(34.2)	38(14.6)	71(27.3)	19(7.3)	65.4	34.6	9th

Table III indicated that most adolescent rebel because they feel they are no longer young children (78.1%) and thus need to prove the point to their parents that they need to start making their own decisions (Nicole, 2011, White and Godley, 2007, Arnett 1999). Peer influence was rated the second (78%) reason adolescent rebel. The need to conform to the standard of their peer and be accepted by them makes adolescents rebel against their parents (Sorotzkin, 2005). Enforcement of boundaries came third on the rank with 65.7% of the parents agreeing to fact that adolescent rebel in an attempt to break loose of the boundaries set for them by their parents. They begin to test limits and parent's patience in the journey into discovering their identity (White and Godley, 2007). The influence of westernization was also an important reason agreed to by 61.9% of the parents. Exposure to the western culture, vulgar and corrupt information through the internet and media sounds so appealing to the adolescents that they want to live it (Sorotzkin, 2005). Restrictive parent's rule took the fifth rank (61.1%) in the reason why adolescents rebel. When parents set rules without forming a relationship with their teenager or letting them understand why those rules are important, the adolescent tend to rebel against the rule (White and Godley, 2007). 60.8% of the parents agreed that their adolescent rebel when they feel their parents are not treating them with respect. 60.7% of the parents agreed that adolescent rebel to avoid imposition of responsibility. Deprivation from taking decision was ranked 8th by parents with 52.7% of them agreeing to this. When adolescent are not given the opportunity to exercise their autonomy and exercise their newly found concrete thinking ability, they tend toward rebelling (Cumsille, et al 2009). Less than average of the respondents agreed that their interference with their adolescent's independence (48.9%) and being harsh with their adolescents (43.8%) are reasons for adolescent rebellion. However, the need to gain independence especially in early adolescence had been identified by researchers as reason why adolescents rebel (Seehorn 2012; Hewitt, 2011).

Table III revealed parents opinions of the reasons why the adolescents rebel. This looks more like a permissive or neglectful parental approach to handling the behaviour, and could be detrimental to the absolute development of the adolescent (Okorodudu, 2010; Steinberg, 2001). Eugene (2008) said that recognizing and dealing with rebellious behaviors as a parent is the most significant step to being a successful parent. Advising them was rated second (58.5%), and was followed by establishing a good rapport (55.8%). However, Lynn (2008) suggested that a good relationship must first be formed before setting rules to avoid rebellion. Deprivation was ranked forth (53.9%), followed by encouragement (53.9%), and then taking strict actions (53.4%). Jaffe (1998) suggests that the ideal environment to influence and make a meaningful impact is created when parents are high on nurturance

rather than being distant, setting moderate limits and rules,

Table III: Distribution showing the parent's opinion of the reasons why adolescents rebel

	SD Freq (%)	D Freq (%)	A Freq (%)	SA Freq (%)	Total Disagree %	Total Agree %	Rank
Interference with independence	63 (24.2)	70 (26.9)	106 (40.8)	21 (8.1)	51.1	48.9	9th
Influence of westernization	22 (8.5)	77 (29.6)	112 (43.1)	49 (18.8)	38.1	61.9	4th
Being treated as young children	12 (4.6)	45 (17.3)	149 (57.3)	54 (20.8)	21.9	78.1	1st
Restrictive parent's rule	34 (13.1)	67 (25.8)	88 (33.8)	71 (27.3)	38.9	61.1	5th
Peer influence	16 (6.2)	41 (15.8)	150 (57.7)	53 (20.4)	22	78	2nd
Enforcement of boundaries	19 (7.3)	70 (26.9)	89 (34.2)	82 (31.5)	34.2	65.7	3rd
Parent's harshness	25 (9.6)	121 (46.5)	58 (22.3)	56 (21.5)	56.1	43.8	10th
Being deprived of taking decisions	33 (12.7)	90 (34.6)	92 (35.4)	45 (17.3)	47.3	52.7	8th
Avoiding imposition of responsibility	26 (10.0)	76 (29.2)	128 (49.2)	30 (11.5)	39.2	60.7	7th
Not being treated with respect	21 (8.1)	81 (31.2)	129 (49.6)	29 (11.2)	39.3	60.8	6th

and high on reasoning with adolescents rather than being dictatorial or command oriented. Ardet and Day (2002) also found that adolescents with strong parental support are less likely to be rebellious. Sought for counseling assistance was ranked 7th with 50.8% parent agreeing that this is a form of management technique of adolescent behaviour. This shows that seeking help from counselors is yet to be appreciated in the environment where the research took place. Restrictions from social activities was ranked 8th with only 48% of the parents agreeing to this. Extreme satisfaction of needs was rated 9th with 42.6% of the parents believing that when you provide your child with every of his need, then he won't rebel against you. Showing caring and loving attitude (38.9%) was the last management technique the participants agreed to. This shows that parents need to be educated and equipped in the management of adolescents' rebellious behaviour as showing loving and caring attitude is the foundation on which discipline must be built (Kopko, 2007), but 56.1% of the parents disagreed to this.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study investigated the techniques parents adopt in the management of adolescents rebellious behaviour. A total of 260 questionnaires were analyzed from the 300 distributed purposively to parents that have adolescent child/ren of ages between 12-18 years old. The objectives include identifying the various forms of rebellious behaviour amongst adolescents; finding out the parents' perception of why adolescents rebel and to establish the various parental methods of managing adolescent's rebellious behaviour. The study revealed that rebellious behaviour do exist in the study area as the parents identified with the different forms of rebellious behaviour which include argumentative behaviour, outright disobedient, trial of drugs and alcohol, being opinionated, manipulative manners, resistance to parents choice of dress code, resistance to parents choice of friend, persistent hostility, being egocentric, and treat of leaving home. Surprisingly, the parents are not so knowledgeable in the reasons why adolescents rebel and are also not well equipped in the management of the behaviours. For example, literatures and research findings had revealed that adolescents rebel in an effort to gain independence (Roach, 2007), and this reason was not agreed to by 51.1% of the parents. In relation to management technique of the adolescent behaviour, 61.2% of the parents do not agreed that showing caring and loving attitudes is a management technique. Showing caring and loving attitude is however the prerequisite on which proper and effective management of such behaviour must beviewed (Darling *et al.*, 2008). In conclusion, the study revealed the importance of counseling both for parents and adolescents alike. School counselors should be introduced to all secondary schools to give adolescents the opportunity to talk to a professional when they feel low or moody, or why they are not sure of the feelings they are going through. Parents also need to be educated on the changes to expect during the stage of adolescence, and trained on the best way to handle this stage and make it as enjoyable as possible.

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DRESSMAKING SKILL AS A MEANS OF ERADICATING POVERTY IN SOUTHWEST, NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF NAPEP – CAPACITY ACQUISITION SCHEME

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed dressmaking skill, a means of eradicating poverty in southwest, Nigeria: a case study of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme. It was guided by three (3) hypotheses. The study adopted an ex-post facto research design which was descriptive in nature. The action of the independent variables on the dependent variables had already occurred thus no manipulation of variables. A sample of 484 dressmakers of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme was selected from two States (Ogun and Osun) from Southwest Nigeria. Structured questionnaire was used to collect information from the respondents. Data was analysed using frequency count, standard deviation and T-test to determine the significant difference between two groups using Statistical Package for Social Science. The findings showed that both male and female participated in skill acquisition. The respondents are educated (100%), majority of them are married (44%) and single (52.68%). The findings also indicated that the respondents agreed that monthly allowance was given during training, provision of sewing machine, monitoring of this cottage enterprise after graduation influences acquisition of the skill. In addition, the respondents perceived that NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme in dress making serves as a means of creating job for sustainable living. Based on this, it was concluded that if dress making acquired is properly utilized, the money realized can sustain individual that will lead to National development. Also among the recommendations stated is that all organizations including local, international and non-governmental agencies should involve fully in capacity building and popularize the programme for many to gain and be economically viable.

Keywords: Dressmaking, Skills, Eradication, Poverty and Capacity Acquisition.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria today is facing economic challenges which among other things have given rise to high rate of unemployment, poverty and hunger. The present economic situation in Nigeria calls for entrepreneurial skills that will equip the citizens with employable skills needed for self reliance. It is important for both male and female to involve in acquisition of skill for national development. There is growing consciousness that both male and female constitute driving forces for national development. This is in line with Morgan (1992) that pointed out that there is rising global consciousness in both grass root and policy level regarding the fully participation of both male and female in education and national development. Entrepreneurial skills is defined by Ezeoguine (2009) as the acquisition and development of appropriate knowledge and skills that will enable an individual to maximize the resources around him within the limits of his capabilities. Possession of these necessary skills, knowledge, abilities and competencies are necessary tools which the present business environment demands to meet the challenges of employability. Vocational and technical skills are basic and instrumental to technological advancement of any nation (Ezeoguine and Ukpore, 2011).

Unemployment is the root cause of poverty and it has been categorized as one of the serious impediments to social progress. Apart from it representing a colossal waste of a country's manpower resources, it generates, welfare loss in terms of lower income (Akinboye 1997 and Reed, 2005). Unemployment is a serious issue in Africa (Rama, 2008) and particularly in Nigeria (Oyedepi, 2004). Inspite of government's interest in initiating programmes and projects for the improvement of the living

standard of Nigeria, there has been increase in the poverty level. These alarming indicators made government to review the existing poverty alleviation scheme with a view to harmonizing and improving on them. it is on this basis that National Poverty Eradication Programme – Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) was implemented, executed and monitored from the office of President of Nigeria to train unemployed and unskilled youth. Dress making skill was incorporated into NAPEP-skill. If an individual knows how to design, draft, cut and sew various styles, the person will be able to make garment for himself and others, thereby realize some money that could be used to solve many challenges (Adebisi, 2009). Arubayi (2009) pointed out that dressmaking skill acquisition is one of the way out of the harsh economic condition in Nigeria and other developing countries of the world. Igbo and Izoje (2012) asserted that dressmaking skill can be very rewarding if the skill in pattern making could be followed systematically. They stressed the importance of blocks, pattern drafting, symbols or marks in fitness of any garment. In line with this, Anene – Okeakwa (2011) explained that in dressmaking skill, it is essential to follow the processes (stitches, seams, fastenings, facings, openings and fullness) sequentially and mechanically so that attention can be concentrated on methods or processes being used to achieve the desired and exert fit.

National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) is one of the National Programme set-up to tackle poverty in Nigeria. Capacity Acquisition Scheme was one of NAPEP designed Schemes to enable participants of different educational levels to acquire skill and professional training in chosen trades. Some of the priority areas for interventions are: agricultural activities, agro-allied, processing local manufacturing and craftsmanship including dressmaking.

There are four major objectives of NAPEP. These are training unemployed youths with entrepreneurial skills, payment of monthly allowance during training, provision of equipment to set-up Cottage industry after completion and monitor and co-ordinates the business for certain periods.

Today, entrepreneurship has become an important issue because of the quest of government to develop the economy and the living standard of the citizens. Although, people seem to lack the necessary technical and managerial skill needed to manage an enterprise successfully, however, governments at various levels in Nigeria are now making effort along with other concerned agencies to train people on a simple skill to manage successful enterprise (NAPEP 2009).

Objective of the study

The major objective of the study is to assess Dressmaking skill as a means of eradicating poverty in Ogun and Osun States of Southwest, Nigeria. NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme as a case study.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- (i) Examine the demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study areas.
- (ii) Assess the influence of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme on graduates in utilizing dressmaking skill as a means of eradicating poverty in Ogun and Osun States, Nigeria.
- (iii) Identify perception of graduates on the influence of NAPEP-CAS dress making skills as a means of eradicating poverty.

Research hypotheses

The study was guided by three null hypotheses that were tested at the 0.05 level of significance. They are:

H01: There is no significant difference between the influence of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme on rural and urban graduates in their abilities to run their enterprises as a means to eradicate poverty in Ogun and Osun States Southwest, Nigeria.

H02: there is no significant difference between perception of urban and rural graduates on the influence of NAPEP-CAS dress making skills as a mean of eradicating poverty

METHODOLOGY

Design of the study: This study adopted an ex-post facto research design which was descriptive in nature. The action of the independent variables on the dependent variables already occurred thus no manipulation of the variable. Also it is an empirical enquiry but there is no direct control of the independent variable because their manifestation had already occurred.

Population of the study: The target population included all Ogun and Osun NAPEP graduates of Capacity Acquisition Scheme in dressmaking for five years (2003 – 2007) when the scheme was functional and viable in south-western geo-political zones of Nigeria. There are six (6) States in South Western Nigeria. They are Lagos, Osun, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti. Only two (2) States (Ogun and Osun) were purposely selected based on the number of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme dressmaking graduates graduate between 2003 to 2007 when the skill was viable. In all, a total number of two thousand, three hundred and ninty-six (2,396) graduates were involved in the training. From Ogun State, 1,327 graduates and from Osun state, 1,069 graduates benefitted from the programme.

Sample and sampling techniques: four hundred and eighty four (484) respondent where used for the sample of the study. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select the 484 respondents out of 2,396 that were involved in the study. At stage one all 2,396 dressmaking graduates of Capacity Acquisition Scheme from the two (2) states (Ogun and Osun) sectorial districts in the southwestern, Nigeria from 2003-2007 were purposely sampled for the study. At the second stage, they were stratified into urban and rural locations based on the senatorial districts of the graduates.

From Ogun State, Ogun Central and West were used. Based on this selection, Ogun Central was grouped as urban with 205 graduates while Ogun West was categorized as rural location with 106 graduates. From Osun State, Osun Central were made up of 191 graduates and this area was classified as urban while Osun West as rural location with 97 graduates.

Research instrument: Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. Primary data was collected from the graduates using questionnaire of 4-points likert scale of Strongly Agree (4 point), Agree (3 point), Disagree (2 point) and Strongly Disagree (1 point). This scores where aggregated for each item and the mean score was obtained. A score of 2.5 was used as a cut off point for Agreed and Strongly Agreed with the items. Any mean value below 2.50 was taken as disagreed and strong disagreed. Secondary data were collected from Ogun and Osun NAPEP offices.

Validation of research instrument: The research instrument was validated by 2 lecturers in Home Economics (Clothing and Textiles option) and other lecturers in statistic department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and two Research officers with Ogun and Osun National Poverty Eradication Programme.

Reliability of the research instrument: A pilot test using test – retest method of the instrument was carried out. The instrument was administered to 59 graduates of the OGNAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme in Abeokuta zone. This group was excluded from the final sampling. The instrument was administered on the same respondents at an interval of two weeks. The two test scores were used. Cronbarh's Alpha statistical tool was used to ascertain the reliability coefficients of r = 0.769.

Method of data collection and analysis: The data collected was analysed descriptive statistical tools like frequency count, mean, standard deviation and t-test were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I: Demographic characteristics of Ogun and Osun NAPEP dressmakers.

Ranks	Variables	Respondents	Frequency N= 484	Percent (%)
1	State	Ogun	254	52.47
		Osun	230	47.64
2	Location	Urban	360	74.38
		Rural	124	25.61
3	Gender	Female	285	58.88
		Male	199	41.11
4	Educational	Primary Six Certificate	54	11.15
	Status	Junior Secondary School Certificate	170	35.12
		Senior Secondary	232	47.93
		Tertiary Education	28	5.77
5	Marital Status	Single	255	52.68
		Married	213	44.00
		Divorced	11	2.27
		Widowed	5	1.03

Source: Field Survey 2012

Presented in Table I above are the demographic variables of four hundred and eighty four (484) graduates that participated in the study. The information in Table I was obtained from Section A questionnaire. The result indicated that 52.47% of the respondents participated from Ogun State while 47.64% of the respondents were from Osun State. The data revealed that 74.38% are from urban centre while 25.61% were from rural location.

On gender, 58.88% of the respondents were females while 41.11% were males. On marital status, 2.27% of the respondents indicated that they were divorced. 52.06% indicated that they were single, 44% were married while 1.03% were widowed. The Table further showed the educational status of the respondents, 47.93% of the graduates had Senior Secondary School Certificates, those with Junior Secondary School were 35.17% and 11.35% had only Primary Secondary Leaving Certificate. 1.44% of the respondents had tertiary education certificate and 4.33% had no formal education.

Table II: The influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme on graduates in dressmaking skills.

S/N	Items	\bar{X}
1	Monthly allowance given to the graduates during training enhance enrolment and participation	*3.33
2	Prompt payment of allowance motivated the Capacity Acquisition scheme to be fully involved in all the training activities	*2.79
3	It enabled me to become productive and useful citizen	*2.99
4	Provision of equipment to the graduates to set up their business after completion of training assisted in reducing poverty.	2.46
5	Monitoring activities of the organizers of Capacity Acquisition Scheme assisted the graduates to sustain their business activities	*2.59
6	Proper co-ordination of NAPEP dressmaking cottage industries has reduced un employment rate.	2.35
7	The overall objectives of NAPEP are attainable	*2.62
	Total	*2.72

Source: Field survey, 2012

Note: N = Number of cases
X = the mean score
* = Agreed

Table II showed the influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme on graduates in dressmaking skills as a means of eradicating poverty in Ogun and Osun States. The table revealed that five (5) out of seven (7) items scored above 2.50 out off point which indicated that to a great extent most of the respondents agreed that NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme had influence on the graduates in acquiring dressmaking skills as a means of eradicating poverty. Items 4 and 6 indicated that the respondents scored below 2.50. This revealed that the two respondents disagreed with the two items. The total mean scores were 2.72 this implied that the respondents agreed that the influence of NAPEP-CAS dressmaking skill can be used as a means of eradicating poverty in the study area.

Table III: Perception of respondents on NAPEP- Capacity Acquisition Scheme dressmaking as a means of eradicating poverty.

S/N	Items	x
1	The graduates are loaded with abilities to run personal enterprises to sustain them	*2.90
2	Graduates posses' adequate skills to be professional dressmakers that can meet the test of time	*2.97
3	Passing through the training enhanced business confidence as a result of acquired skills in dressmaking	*3.03
4	The dressmaking skills acquired have assisted in using the 4Hs - Hand, Head, Heart and Health to get money to reduce poverty	*3.03
5	The training gives me sense of direction as to what opportunities exist in the dressmaking which can be utilized to have sustained and better living.	*3.04
6	Dressmaking skills acquired and gadgets given have helped me to run my own enterprises this improve my economic status	*2.97
7	The Scheme enabled me to become productive and useful citizen, therefore financial lack is a pass story in my life.	*2.77
8	Perceived that NAPEP-CAS dressmaking skill creates job and enhance sustainable living	*2.62

Source: field survey 2012

Research hypothesis one: There is no significant difference between the influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme in dressmaking on rural and urban graduates

Table IV: Influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition skill dressmaking on rural and urban graduates

N	x	SD	DF	t-cal	t-tab	Remark
124	1.0806	0.9016	482	2.4447	1.96	S**
360	2.1361	0.3890				

Source: field survey 2012

Table IV showed the t-test analysis on influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme dressmaking on rural and urban graduates as a means of eradicating poverty. Although the mean score of urban graduates of 2.1361 is higher than the mean score of rural graduates of 1.0806 but the t-calculated of -2.4447 is less than the 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This showed that there is no significant difference between the influence of NAPEP-CAS dressmaking skills on rural and urban graduates. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis two: There is no significant difference between the perception of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme on rural and urban graduates in their abilities to utilize acquired dress-making skill as a means of eradicating poverty.

Table V: T-test analysis on perception of NAPEP-CAS dressmaking on rural and urban graduates to utilize acquired skill as a means of eradicating poverty.

Sources of variation (impact of NAPEP-CAS)	N	X	SD	DF	t-cal	t-tab	Remark	Decision	
Rural	110	2.2184	0.7028	476	-17.3610	1.96	S**	Hypothesis	Accepted Combined
Urban	357	3.1232	0.3458						
	2.0970	0.6290							

Source: field survey (2012)

H02: S** = Not significant = t-cal -17.3610< tab 1.96@ 0.05 level of significance

Table V revealed that the t-test analysis of respondents on the influence of NAPEP-CAS dressmaking on rural and urban graduates on their abilities to utilize acquired skills as a means of eradicating poverty entrepreneurial development. The mean score for urban graduates is 3.1232 while 2.2184 is for the rural graduates. The mean score for urban graduates is significantly higher than that of the rural graduates. This also showed that t-calculated of -17.3610 is less than that of the t-tabulated value of 1.96, therefore, there is no significant difference between the influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme on rural and urban graduates to utilize dressmaking as a means of eradicating poverty, therefore the null hypothesis is accepted.

Discussion of the findings

Table I highlighted the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The study showed that Ogun and Osun State unemployed and unskilled youths participated in NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme. Urban and rural location were involved during the selection and training of the participants. There is no gender bias also. There is growing consciousness that both male and female constitute driving forces for national development. This is in line with Morgan (1992) that there is rising global consciousness in both grassroots and policy level regarding the participation of both male and female in education and national development. All the respondents possessed educational qualification. The respondents agreed that education is very important in day to day life. This buttress Igbo and Ileoje (2012) that pointed out that dressmaking skill can be rewarding if the skill in pattern making could be followed systematically. In line with this also, Anene – Okeakwe (2011) explained that in dressmaking skill, it is essential to follow the processes (Stitches, seems, Fastening, facings, openings and fullness) sequentially and systematically so that attention can be concentrated on the methods and processes being used to achieve the desired fit. It is education that will enhance this.

Table II showed the influence of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme on graduates in dressmaking skill as a mean of eradicating poverty in Ogun and Osun States. The respondents agreed that monthly allowance were given to them during training, provision of sewing machine and during training, provision of sewing machine and tools were given after completion of training and that there are proper monitoring and co-ordinating of the cottage enterprises established for them after graduation.

Table III indicated the perception of the respondents on dressmaking skills as a means of eradicating poverty. Majority of the respondents, perceived that the present economic situation in Nigeria especially in the study areas call for entrepreneurial skills that will equip the citizens with employable skills needed for self enhance in which NAPEP-CAS are able to fill the gap in Ezequire and Ukpore (2011) highlighted that possession of dressmaking skills, knowledge, abilities and competences are needed to meet the present challenges of employability.

Tables IV and V indicated T-test analysis of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition skills on rural and urban locations on the respondent on dressmaking skills as a mean of eradicating poverty in the study areas. Significantly, there are no difference between them this implied that location has no influence on NAPEP-CAS dressmaking skill.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the study has shown that dressmaking skill can be a means of eradicating poverty if properly utilized. The challenges facing Nigeria economy can be overturn if knowledge acquired from capacity building is actualized. Also, the personalities in the society will like to dress well to show their status. Seam mistresses and masters are the one that will sew the garments that they will use. In addition it is compulsory for all to cover their nakedness. It is this sewn article that they will still use to achieve this.

For meaningful result of poverty eradication programmes, a lot still need to be done in the areas of training and education of the grassroot population for sustainable living and job creation. The need therefore for the popularization of capacity building and training among rural and urban dwellers is necessary to discourage the rush for paid employment by Nigerians cannot be over – emphasized. Rhetoric alone will not do the potential to earn income but must be developed through practical actions by way of capacity building programme.

In light of this, it was recommended that adequate publicity through mass media should be used to enable majority to hear, know and inform others about skill acquisition programme.

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHILDREN TO THE FAMILY ECONOMY IN WINNEBA,
GHANA: ISSUES IN FAMILY FINANCE

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ABSTRACT

In the family economy, the role of children in the traditional setting was complementary. Changes in global economy have adversely affected such role in most developing nations. The study ascertained the contributions of 60 children in the family economy in Winneba, Ghana. The study found the reasons children engaged in economic activities in and outside homes, and challenges confronting them in performing the activities. A survey descriptive design and adapted interview schedule were used for the study. The study was carried out in four phases including an awareness session with children along the streets and beach, in the campuses and bus stations in Winneba, Ghana. Data collected were analysed using simple percentages and the findings were presented in tables. The findings were that children engaged in washing, cooking, cleaning and running errands in homes. In each of these activities, children spent less than an hour per day. Children were also engaged in trading and mending nets as outside production unit activities spending more than four hours per day. All the children (100%) gave the reason for engaging in economic activities outside homes as poverty. Majority of the participants (80%) were confronted with inadequate rest or sleep. The study concluded that in modern times, in attempt to contribute to family economy, children are vulnerable to low performance in schools and child abuse. In the study, it was recommended that concerted efforts should be made by Ghana governments to enact law to offer protection to all children against violence and abuse.

Key words:Economic activities, child labour, gender violence, household chores, participation, production unit.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The family is defined as a social group or unit of people living intimately together in one abode and depend upon the same income referred to as family income. Family income is however defined as that stream of money, goods, services, and satisfactions that come under the control of the family to be used by them to satisfy needs and objectives (Nickell and Dorsey, 1954). Family is also an important economic unit. The different types of families occur in a wide variety of settings and their specific functions and meanings depend largely on their relationship to their social institutions. Today, the family dynamics is considerably more complicated and its boundaries can seem endless (Nam, 2004; Rodaigmez, 2009 and Sim, 2011).

In the family economy, the roles of children are complementary. Children contribute to the family economy in their participation in the parents' activities, both direct and indirect ways of getting money, for the use of the family. In the traditional setting, children's roles in the family economy were highlighted by several authors among which are Asare and Kwafo (2007) as care for young siblings, help with cooking, run errands in the home and help clean the home. Others are fetch water, carry food and firewood from the farm to the house and wash clothes if old enough to do so. Older children may help in generating income.

In most African societies, the contribution of children is distinct. Children are well indoctrinated into their respective gender roles. The male has the responsibility of working in the field, pastures or shop to learn agricultural, herding or technical skills respectively. Males are expected to learn skills necessary for the roles of fathers to be while females are taught the necessary skills for the roles of mothers and wives. Sons are brought up to take the skills in farming, hunting, fishing, carpentry, etc. On the other hand, girls are engaged in household chores such as sweeping, washing, cooking, housewifery, mother care, etc. (Assad, 2001).

In discussing the traditional roles of children in economy, the basic cultural and traditional child bearing practices of the society should not be overlooked. In the traditional roles, children are seen not as economic burdens but as economic assets. This pre-supposes the arrestment of the societal relations existing among the members of the society, the values given to child bearing and rearing practices in a given culture, the roles expected of children in general and how the children develop within the family group. In the traditional rural societies, the extended family system which includes several generations plus cousins, uncles, aunties and nephews living in a compound or close to one another, form the family an economic unit in microcosm. Within this structure, children occupy a central place and are raised in close family group and the social development of the children is shared by the members of the community. Thus, the child usually develops a strong sense of social

responsibility from his earliest years and learns not only to be respectful and responsible but also financially supportive member to his extended family (Sayyid, 2002). As well, polygamy practices, in the traditional system, make the women all to complement the efforts of men in keeping the children irrespective of who the mothers are, and supporting the man's economic ventures. Polygamy practices support large family size comprising a lot of children. Large human resources in this context are perceived as a potential source of power especially in the agrarian society where cheap labour is the base of economic viability. The large population size is therefore a desirable value of parental financial profit (Ahenkora, 1991).

In recent years, a lot of changes have occurred. The changes in the economic trend in the family, changes that have brought technological advancement in information and business world and changes that have occurred after industrial ages. All this have all affected the roles or contributions of the family members including children in their contributions to the family economy. The prospects of children in their contributions to family economy depend on the families' social and economic standing, such as in the past. Their contributions have drifted from not only indirect economic roles but also to direct economic roles.

Statement of the problem

Children work both inside and outside the home to contribute to family economy. They work in whatever form, with their parents, guardians, relatives or in industries. The "work" has been recognized as one of the most intolerable forms of child work and is a sector that has been identified by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as slavery in the ILO convention in the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour (ILO Conventional 85). Even though "children working" has been in existence in years for ages in African context, it has escaped inspection and public discourse. It is a popular notion that a child working outside or and working in the home is a harmless occupation. The abusive violence and neglectful circumstances of children working outside the homes have neither been taken cognizance of, nor been dealt with a proactive and efficacious way. The common perception that children employed in family environments do not get abused further fuelled by another equally popular notion that employers of children are being philanthropic towards them in various activities. Another notion is that children are heritage and should assist their parents or guardians in their economic activities. In the wake of these notions, the violence faced by these children often remains hidden or gets ignored. Despite all efforts increase enrollment of children in schools in Ghana, children are still seen along the streets and various places selling wares when they are supposed to be in the classrooms. In addition to this, as much as the children are contributing to family economy in Ghana, many parents still have low economic status.

These are the underlying concerns that gave birth to the idea for this research. Another underlying concern is that in African context, children are seen as assistance to the parents' endeavors to make ends meet, after all, the struggle of the parents are towards the bringing up of the children.

The outcome of this mini-research will increase the body of knowledge in presenting the reality of the situation of children working outside and inside homes, thereby contributing to the family economy in Winneba, and the need to increase the body of knowledge in family financing. The result of the study will also answer the questions of the myths and misinformed perceptions about the oppression added to the lives of children working either inside or outside homes in contributing to their family economy.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to ascertain the contributions of children in Winneba, Ghana to the family economy.

Objectives of the study

The objectives set for the study were as follows to find out the:

1. Demographic characteristics of children contributing to the family economy.
2. The reasons the children engaged in the activities.
3. The challenges confronting the children in performing the activities.
4. The probable solutions.

Research questions

Research questions were raised include;

1. What are the demographic characteristics of children contributing to the family economy in Winneba?
2. Why do children engage in the activities?
3. What are the challenges confronting them?
4. What are the probable solutions?

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Winneba, Ghana, to interview children based on their residence and observation as the category of the children were frequently seen selling wares. The participated children were found trading or working along the beach, in the bus stations, market or campuses (North and South campuses of the University of Education, Winneba). All the children who were willing to participate in the study, with a total of 60, were used for the study. The study was carried out in phases:

Phase I: The researcher drafted the questions/interview schedule based on the research questions to collect information on the demographic characteristics of children, specific activities they engaged in, reasons for choice of activities, challenges confronting children in engaging in activities in and outside homes, and suggested solutions.

Phase II: This involved the awareness session with the children along the street, in the campuses, beach and bus stations, and wherever the children were found and were given tallies and badges.

Phase III: The adapted interview guide was face and content validated and administered to children not included in the study. This involved the pilot study where the researcher decided to carry out the individual interview with children in different places. The reliability co-efficient of $r=0.78$ made the instrument reliable to use for the study.

Phase IV: This involved the field work. The researcher went to meet the participants and carried out the individual interviews with them and recorded their responses immediately.

Phase V: In this report phase, the collected data were compiled individually, tabulated and interpreted using simple counts and percentages. A report was prepared on the basis of the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 60 children as respondents were interviewed. The information gathered from the responses was presented in Table I - VI as follows:
I. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the children contributing to family economy

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of children contributing to family economy in Winneba

Characteristics		f	%
a. Sex			
Male		24	40.0
Female	36		60.0
Total		60	100.0
b. Ages in years			
6 – 8		-	-
9 – 12		38	63.3
13 – 16	22		36.7
Total		60	100.0
c. Place of residence			
Near beach	21		35.0
In the town	11		18.3
Far from beach	12		20.0
Near the campus	6		10.0
Far from the campus	10	16.7	
Total		60	100.0
d. Whom children are living with			
Parents	48		89.0
Guardians	-		-
Relatives	12		20.0
Alone		-	-
Total		60	100.0

Findings from Table I show that out of 60 children interviewed on their contribution to the family economy, 40% were boys while 60% were girls; 36 (63.3%) of them were between 9 and 12 years old while 24 (36.7%) were between 13 and 16 years old. They were all living in Winneba but each of them specified their place of residence to be either near the beach (35%), near the campus (10%) and far from the campus (16.7%). This was to specify the distance to where they were found working. With the question of whom the children were living with, findings revealed that the majority of the children (80%) were living with their parents with both mother and father and only 12 (20%) were living with their relatives.

Findings in Table II indicated that the children were found working within the campus specifically (20%) selling sachet water, (20%) found selling jewelries sitting in a corner in the market, 36 (60%) were found on the boat mending nets along the beach with other boys. From their responses to the questions on the schools they attended or attending, 22 (36.7%) attended primary, 9 (15.0%) was still in J.H.S, 15 (25.0%) had completed J.H.S and 14 (23.3%) had never attended school. Probing further, the children were asked if they still continued schooling or had stopped. The responses indicated that 22 (36.7%) were still in school while 24 (40%) had stopped schooling. For those who had stopped schooling, the reasons were lack of school fees (10%), and death of parents (20%). Most of the children in the survey were (60%) girls. Age wise, they were evenly distributed in age categories of 9 and 12 years, and 40% had stopped schooling. Also, there were about 20% of participants who were illiterate. As noted, more girls were working outside the home. These findings corroborate Aghajaman (1979) that the low rate of male's participation in the economic activities is a matter of small number of participants as more boys were seen along the beach than girls.

Table II: Socio-economic characteristics of children contributing to family economy in Winneba

Characteristics	f		%	
a. Place found working				
Within campus	12		20.0	
In the market		12		20.0
At the beach	36		60.0	
Along the street	-		-	
Total		60		100.0
b. Schooling				
No schooling		14		23.3
Continue schooling	22		36.7	
Stopped schooling	24		40.0	
Total		60		100.0
c. School attended/attending				
Primary(Basic)	22		36.7	
J.H.S		9		15.0
Completed J.H.S	15		25.0	
S.H.S	-		-	
Total		46		40.0
d. Reasons for dropping out of school				
Lack of fees	8		33.3	
Death of parents	16		66.7	
Wish of parents	-		-	
Got pregnant		-		-
Parents fell sick	-		-	
Total		24		100.0

II. Children's specific activities in production unit of family economy - Children living with parents

Table III: Percentage responses of children living with parents on specific activities engaged in Winneba

Activities	f		%	
Washing	36		60	
Cooking	12		20	
Cleaning	48		80	
Fetching water	48		80	
Fetching firewood	-		-	
Working in the farm	-		-	
Helping with fishing	12		20	
Mending net		24		40
Selling things	24		40	
Running errands	48		80	

Data in the Table III revealed that 48 (80%) out of 60 participants were living with their parents and they engaged in various specific activities. It was observed that the children also engaged in outside activities such as running errands. Thirty-six of them (60%) engaged in washing, 20% in cooking, and 80% of them engaged in cleaning and fetching water and 20% of the participants selling things around. None of the participants engaged in activities like fetching firewood, working in the farm and caring for the baby. In addition, data revealed that out of the four participants, 80% were working at the beach; 20% was found helping with fishing on the boat and 40% were mending the nets. The participants, although living with their parents, they also engaged in activities in the home and outside the home.

III. Children's specific activities in production unit of family economy - Children living with relatives

Table IV: Percentage responses of children living with relatives on specific activities engaged in Winneba

Activities	f		%	
Washing	12		20	
Cooking	12		20	
Cleaning	9		15	
Fetching water	12		20	
Fetching firewood	-		-	
Working in the farm	-		-	
Helping with fishing	-	-	-	-
Selling things	10	16.7		
Running errands	12		20	

In Table IV, the data revealed that only 20% of the children were living with relatives. The children engaged in washing, cooking, cleaning and running errands. They also responded that they helped with selling sachet water in addition to the household chores.

IV. Reasons for children engaging in family economic activities

Table V: Percentage responses of children on reasons for participation in economic activities of the family

Reasons	f		%	
Poverty	12		20	
Death of parents	12		20	
Broken home		9		15
Irresponsible parents	12	20		
Single parents	-	-	-	-
Others specify (self interest)	-	-		

The children were asked why they engaged in the family economic activities and what they felt about the working conditions. The responses in Table V revealed that all the respondents (100%) gave reasons for engaging in the activities as poverty. Only 53.3% of them indicated self interest while 40% indicated broken home and 10.0% single parents as their reasons. These findings agree with Conger (2005) who noted that poverty can have a profound influence on the needs and participation of children and families in economy. It could be deduced that because of the needs, children were pushed to fetch income for the family use.

V. Challenges confronting children in production unit outside homes

The respondents were confronted with many challenges in production unit outside homes. In Table 6 above, 80% of the respondents indicated that they did not get enough rest or asleep, while 60% were shouted or starred at by their customers, 40% were sleeping in unhealthy environment and 26.7% were confronted with theft as a challenge in their performance in economic activities.

Table VI: Percentage responses of children on challenges confronting children in

production activities outside homes

Challenges	f		%	
Sexual harassment	-		-	
Starring (shouted on)	34	60.0		
Mockery	-		-	
Deprivation of sleep/rest	48		80.0	
Refusal of wages	-		-	
Un healthy sleeping environment	24	40.0		
Rape	-		-	
Theft	16		26.7	

VI. Probable solution

However, when the respondents were asked on what they thought could be done to assist them; there were divergent views and suggestions. Specifically, *Child A* - mending nets- was indignant and felt he was happy mending nets but would like to continue his education. *Child B* -mending nets- was not happy mending nets and tired of being at the beach and said if he had his ways would like to be in the school. *Child C* -helping with fishing- was happy with fishing and he was doing this to assist her mother but would like to continue education. *Child D* -selling jewelry- was happy with her trading but suggested that she needed assistance in reporting the thieves stealing her wares and as well continue her education. *Child E* -selling pure water- had never been in school and she would like to go to school as she wanted a brighter future. *Other children* -said they wanted to be in schools like any other children in their environment. In essence, the entire respondents had a common goal, they need assistance, and they wanted to be in schools.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the boys interviewed on the boat mending nets said "I would like to study; I want to go to school". These are the dreams of the children working on the beach in Winneba. They are young and because they do not have choices to make on their own, they work along with adults to earn a living. Children working outside their homes are vulnerable, mending nets or fishing activities make them more vulnerable. Based on the findings of this survey, the following recommendations were made:

1. The economic activities in homes and outside homes should be clearly defined as to distinguish child labour outside homes and child labour inside homes.
2. At governmental level and non-governmental levels, information dissemination at the public level of "trading" or "hawking" activities of children who are supposed to be at schools should be done. This is important because hawking or trading are activities often carried out outside the homes and are popularly seen as a harmless and even safe occupation for children.
3. Working in fishing area, along the beach, is not considered hazardous labour by the Ghanaian. In order to protect the interest of children, it is of paramount significance that this form of labour is classified as hazardous and relevant legal protection is extended to such children.
4. Concerted efforts should be made to enact law to offer protection to all children in the country against violence and abuse.
5. A curriculum that teaches children life-skills and helps them participate in their own protection should be included in the basic education curriculum in the country.

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DEALING WITH FINANCIAL STRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINING FAMILY SURVIVAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

Successful family living and happy life seem to be threatened by a variety of stress factors of which financial stress is of significance. This paper therefore examines the various signals and causes of financial stress in the family and how they can be controlled and managed effectively for the good of the family. Among the major causes of financial stress identified include impulsive purchase, high rate of unemployment, gambling and the increase culture of securing bank loan as a means towards solving economic pressures. Strategies such as creating employment opportunities for unemployed graduates and encouragement of entrepreneurship through skill acquisition were suggested as a way forward towards sustaining family life.

Key Words: Economic hardship, family stress, financial stress, financial success, strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Financial stress can be defined as a condition that occurs whenever income is less than desired outflow. Stress is all around us. Stress is experienced at work, in traffic on the way home from work, with our children and partners and even at night when we try to sleep. Individual worries about health, paying bills, disappointing a loved one. All of these can technically be linked to financial stress and worries. According to Clark-Lempers, and Netusil (1990), a key stressor for many people and family today is economic hardship. People with economic hardship often worry about being unable to make ends meet and the shame of being unable to support their family. No doubt, such stress is debilitating. Economic hardship and financial stress may also open a door to outcomes that are negative such as poor concentration, lack of confidence and self esteem, relationship problems at home and work, poor time-keeping, threatening behaviour, anger and rage, letting people down and feeling guilty afterwards (Arewa, 2006). Financial stress is a common malady afflicting every household to some degree particularly in Nigeria. Conger, Rueter and Conger (2001) define financial stress as the unpleasant feeling that one is unable to meet financial demands, afford the necessities of life and have sufficient funds to make ends meet. The feeling normally includes the emotions of dread, anxiety and fear, but may also include anger and frustration. According to the American Bar Association Document (2010), approximately 89 percent of divorces have to do with arguments and accusations dealing with money. Financial stress can therefore be described as a monster in the family.

Recognizing financial stress

Stress generally is an unpleasant feeling that one experiences when one perceives that something one values has been lost or is threatened (Turnar, 2006). Stress can come as a result of many factors such as health, working too hard or loss of properties or loved ones. Stress aggravates the following illness: hypertension, insomnia, diabetes, herpes, multiple sclerosis etc. Besides, stress that continues for a long time can lead to poor concentration, irritability, anger, and poor judgments. Stress leads to marriage breakups, family fights, road rage and violence (<http://www.stress-and-relaxation.com/stress>). However, an individual can recognize financial stress by the pressure it imposes on the family. Fox and Chancy (1999) identify the following as signals for recognizing financial stress in the family.

1. When an individual worry over bills, especially ones that are overdue
2. Worrying over not being able to buy everything needed by the family, especially when children have to do without the things they want or need for their education.
3. When an individual finds it very difficult and pressing to save any money from the income.
4. Worrying about social pressures especially when one can't keep up with neighbor's life style.
5. Persistent family tensions leading to arguments especially between husband and wife, parents and children etc.
6. Continuous and persistent headaches, high blood pressure, lack of life purpose and feeling of emptiness.

Some individuals experiencing financial stress are easily led into negative behaviours such as alcoholism and use of stimulants (cigarettes and coffee).

Causes of financial stress in the family

A number of factors have been linked to various problems arising from financial stress in the family particularly in Nigeria some of these may include.

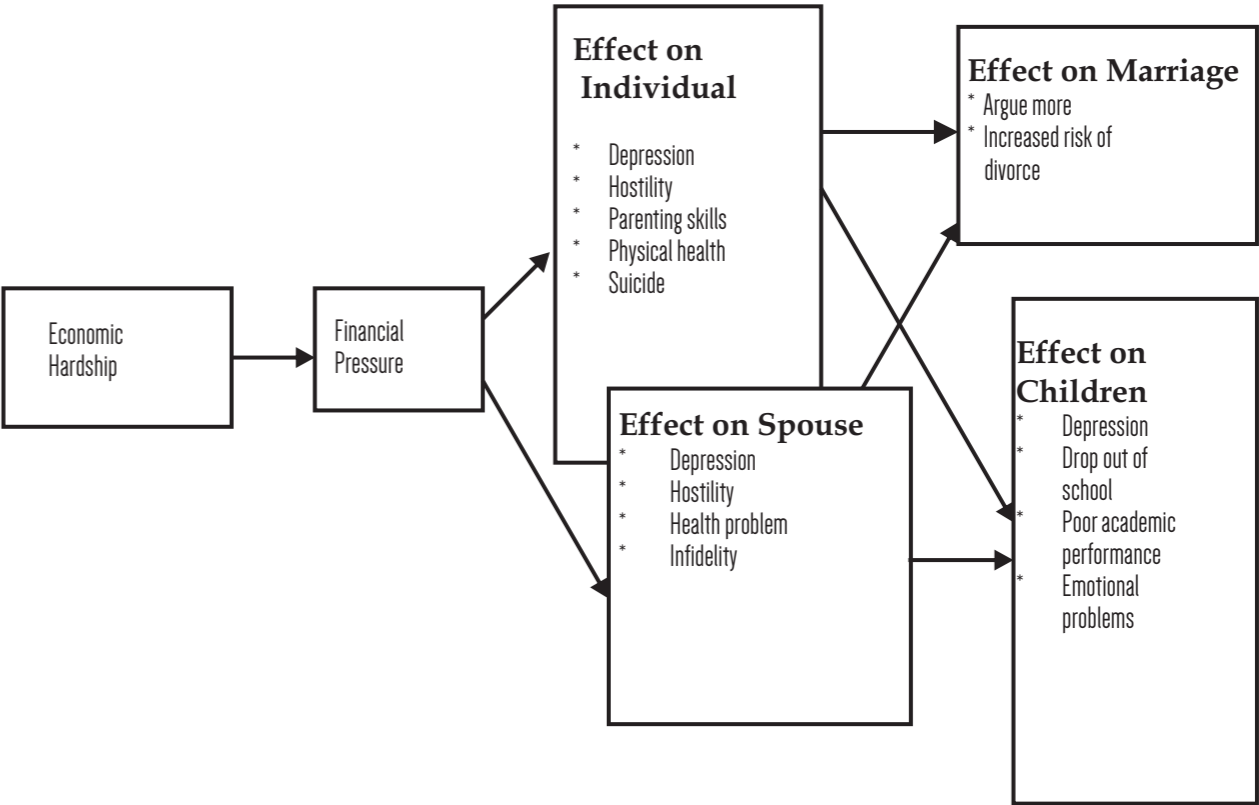
- 1. High rate of unemployment particularly of graduate youths
- 2. The global economic meltdown which the whole world and even Nigeria is working hard to overcome.
- 3. Inconsistent and unpleasant government economic policies that have frustrated the growth of entrepreneurship.
- 4. Persistent and general increase in the prices of goods and services (i.e. inflation)
- 5. Impulsive purchasing i.e. paying for goods and services not planned or budgeted.
- 6. Infidelities between couples especially through having secret love affairs.
- 7. High fertility rate that have resulted in continuous increase in birth rate and consequently population explosion.

Other silent causes of financial depression include, spirit of gambling (Gambling is the act or activity of betting money, for example in card games, horse racing and even in football competition. In Nigeria today, "Premier lotto" (a game of staking numerical numbers with money) is more common among the youths, men and women. Premier Lotto Limited (PLL) also known as "Baba Ijebu" is a gaming company which was incorporated in 2001 and was established to carry out lotto business in Nigeria. (how-to-check-your-baba-ijebu-premier.html). Very common among the public servants is also the issue of taking bank loan (usually with high interest rate) and buying of household items on book-me down principle. (Olaoye S.F., Personal Communication March 19, 2012). This is probably why Turner (2006), asserts that "the buy now, pay later" philosophy is one from which many argument have spring.

Effects of financial stress on families

When financial stress is allowed to persist and build up without aggressive control and management strategies, a number of negative outcomes may result. Below is a simple model used by (Bartley, 1996) to explain the effects of financial stress on families. The outcomes of financial stress shown in the model above can effectively compound the original stress. For example, health problems and marital problems become new stressors that further tax one's ability to cope with financial stress.

Fig. 1 General Model of the Effect of Financial Stress on Families.



Financial stress - How it affects you and what you can do

Money concerns can present several challenges to one's health. Scott (2011) asserts that financial stress is a sadly widespread experience. According to a poll on this site, roughly 7 in 10 respondents are "very stressed" about money, and only 1 in 10 report that they are not stressed about finances – and the proportion of people stressed about money is only going up. This is pretty significant because financial stress is linked to health problems like depression and sleep problems. With the rising cost of gas and food, the mortgage crisis, and the new bank troubles we are seeing, many Americans are feeling the crunch of financial stress. Anxiety over money can negatively affect health in several ways:

- 1. **Unhealthy coping behaviors:** People experiencing financial stress can be more likely to numb their anxiety by drinking, smoking, overeating and practicing other unhealthy coping behaviors. This in turn leads to more stress.
- 2. **Less money for self-care:** With less money in the budget, people who are already under financial stress tend to cut corners in areas like health care to pay for basic necessities like food. Small problems can go unchecked and turn into larger problems. This also leads to more stress.
- 3. **Lost sleep:** When under financial stress, people often experience trouble sleeping, which can add up to a sleep deficit, impairing immune functioning and cognitive abilities, causing additional moodiness, and more.
- 4. **Unhealthy Emotions:** Credit card debt can cause unhealthy emotions that can take a toll on health. People can experience anxiety, frustration and a sense of hopelessness as the debt piles up and increasing amounts of money are needed just to pay the interest.

This causes additional stress, which compounds with the stress from poor coping and self-neglect, to become a menacing amount of stress. (Hall, Buysse, Nofzinger, Reynolds, Thompson and Mazumdar 2008).

It's no wonder financial stress is one of the leading causes of stress in Americans. Here are some resources to help you handle your financial situation and feel more in control of your life, reducing stress and helping you build toward a more secure future:

1. Find out where you stand: Do you have a major money problem, or is your situation relatively under control? Ask yourself these questions and find out how much help you need to get on the right track.
2. Learn about implementing systems that can help: Find out why budgets are important to your financial success, and learn how to create one that will fit well with your lifestyle.
3. Work toward getting out of debt: Getting out from under credit card debt is much easier with a plan. Here's a three-step approach that can help you.
4. Learn how to save money and cut costs: Keeping a budget and working toward reducing what you owe is easier if you have more money. Here are some ways to hold onto more of yours. As you work on improving your financial situation, you can reduce stress by practicing stress-reducing techniques and making other changes to create a low-stress lifestyle.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Learning to manage stress (especially financial stress) and relax is vital. No one needs to tolerate high stress levels. Balanced energy brings good health, happiness and success in the family. The more an individual understand stress, the more successfully one can manage his/her life. The stressful times we live in are begging us to develop habits that make the best use of our time, energy, resources, thus achieving a life of success without stress.

The following suggestions are recommended to the individuals and family members in order to successfully control and manage financial stress especially towards family sustainability. Managing finances in difficult economic times is a major stressor confronting every individual and family in Nigeria. However, no matter how difficult or stressful the situation can be, strategies to effectively remove or manage this stress must be adopted.

Listed below are some suggestions according to Hagquist (1998) that may be helpful in resolving financial strain in the family.

1. Distinguish between wants and needs: It is important to be able to determine whether we need something or want something. Advertiser would have us purchase everything that catches our interest. Marketers also play on our common tendency of instant gratification and reward. Therefore, setting specific financial goals, planning and using self discipline can help remedy unnecessary purchases.
2. Create a budget: Creating a record of expenditure is a means for careful financial family. Family expenditure should not be allowed to be greater than income.
3. Build a reserve: Establishing a financial reserve can provide one with peace of mind. A financial reserve is intended to be used only in times of an emergency. It may be surprising to see what putting away a little savings will amount to overtime.
4. Teach financial responsibility: As financial difficulties affect almost every individual, it may be helpful to share ideas about money management with others. Children or other family members will no doubt benefit from this example of discipline and financial management.
5. Reduce bank loan: Bank loan should only be considered when it becomes absolutely necessary. This involves a lot of self discipline and personal sacrifices.
6. Individuals or families should regularly evaluate how well money has been spent. This is to ensure that expenditure is not greater than income.
7. Waste should be eliminated by spending only on planned goals. This can be achieved by avoiding impulsive buying.
8. An individual or families should apart from having a comprehensive saving embraced insurance policy so as to guarantee future plan and success.
9. Government and non-governmental agencies in Nigeria should mount aggressive campaign against all forms of gambling that is currently diverting the attention of youths from being productive and useful to themselves and the nation at large.
10. Financial management should be introduced into the school curriculum and be made compulsory at all level and across all discipline.
11. Priorities should be given only to basic family needs when budgeting.

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DIMENSIONS IN FAMILY CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT
AND RESOLUTION STRATEGIES

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ABSTRACT

Conflict is inevitable in all human relationships. To forestall disintegration of relationships whether in organisations, between nations, family members or tribes, conflicts must be managed effectively using appropriate and acceptable conflict resolution strategies. It must not be allowed to escalate because of the negative consequences that may result. The family is a unique social system that has its own distinct relationships. This paper identifies types of conflicts as pseudo, factual, policy, value and ego-based. It assesses the relationships that exist in the family (husband/wife, parent/child and sibling/sibling) and the possible causes of conflict in family relationships such as monetary issues, space, chores, homework and inappropriate communication amongst others. It discusses conflict management styles; avoiding, accommodating, competing, compromising and collaboration. it x-rays conflict resolution approaches; African Traditional Dispute Resolution (ATDR) and Western Alternative Dispute resolution (WADR) such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. The paper also addresses other conflict resolution approaches like litigation and adjudication (court-based approaches). Based on the review, the paper recommends that family members should develop tolerance and mutual respect for one another and should place the collective interest of the family above individual interest amongst other recommendations for peaceful family co-existence and sustainability in the 21st Century.

Key words: Family, conflict, management, resolution strategies.

INTRODUCTION

Universally, the family is seen as a central institution in all human societies. However, the family of today is not what it was in the past. Presently, there are new roles, new gender distinctions and new child rearing patterns which have all combined to create new forms of family life (Schafer, 2008). It is interesting to note that in families today, more women are taking the breadwinners' roles irrespective of their marital status. Divorce rates are high and remarriages are also on the increase resulting in blended families. Many people are also establishing intimate relationships outside marriage in cohabiting arrangements as well as same-sex partnership. Irrespective of all these divergences, the family still remains the nucleus of the society and it is found in every culture. A family can be defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage or some other agreed-upon relationship, or adoption (Schafer, 2008).

The family performs distinct functions for its members within the society that no other social institution does. These functions as outlined in Schafer (2008) and Ekong (2003) include reproduction, protection, socialization, regulation of sexual behavior, education, religious training, recreational outlet, affection and companionship and conferring of social status. These functions are provided in the ambience of specific relationships that exist in the family. Family members relate to each other in various ways such as husband-wife; parent-child, sibling-sibling, grand-parents, great grand-parents, uncles, aunties, nephew, cousins, grand-children and great grand-children and so on but family relationship patterns can be grouped into three namely: husband-wife, parent-child and sibling relationships (Anyakoha, 2010; Okeke, 2009). Within all these relationships, individuals are in constant interactions, share thoughts, feelings, limited space and other resources which are limited and scarce. They also have specific roles to perform and therefore they are prone to conflict.

From the foregoing, Olson and De-Frain (2000) assert that conflict is an inevitable part of any intimate human relationship. Conflict therefore is a perceived divergence of interests or belief that parties current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously. It is an intentional mutual exchange of negative sanctions, or punitive behavior

by two or more parties. Conflict can also be seen as an escalated competition between two or more parties, in which each party aims to gain advantage of some kind like, power, resources, interest, values, needs amongst others. At least one of the parties in conflict believes that the conflict is a set of mutually incompatible goals (Schmid, 2000). Conflict can be termed as a struggle, fighting, disagreement, argument, controversy, diverse opinions, oppositions, differences, clash and incompatibility. Ekong (2003) views conflict as a form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtain scarce reward by eliminating or weakening other contenders, this may take the form of a fist fight, threats, legislation or total annihilation. The authors regard conflict as an ever present process in human relations. Whenever conflict arises within the family, the peace, harmony and stability of the family is threatened. Since the family is the nucleus of the society, anything that destabilizes the family invariably impinges on societal well-being.

In view of the inevitability of conflict in family relationships and considering the relevance of peaceful and harmonious coexistence in the family, in order to ensure family stability and sustainability, it is pragmatic that conflicts should not be allowed to escalate but resolved by imploring appropriate conflict resolution strategies. This paper therefore identifies the types of conflicts, causes of conflicts in family relationships, conflict management styles and conflict resolution approaches.

Types of conflicts

There is need to know the various types of conflicts in order to manage them effectively (Weiten, Lloyd, Dunn and Hammer, 2009). Verderber, Verderber, and Berryman-Fink (2007) categorize conflict into five types namely: pseudo, factual, policy, value and ego conflicts.

Pseudo-conflict occurs when two people have a perceived misunderstanding about the compatibility of their goals whereas in actual fact, their goals are quite compatible, it is a false conflict. Factual conflict arises when reliable sources present facts which appear to contradict each other. It is a type of conflict that occurs when people disagree about issues of a factual nature. The appropriate way to deal with fact-based conflict is to check the facts and not dwell on who was right or wrong. Policy conflict on the other hand arises when people disagree on how to handle a particular situation based on an existing/already stated principle. Successfully resolving a policy conflict depends on finding a solution that addresses the problem and the feelings of both parties. Value conflicts occur when individuals or groups of people hold strong personal beliefs that are in disagreement. This may include religious differences and cultural differences in upbringing. Value conflicts are harder to resolve than most disagreements because people have very strong feelings regarding their respective positions (Queen, 2011). In addition to this, Weitein et.al., (2009) observed that different personal values can also lead to conflict, that values are beliefs people use to evaluate the worth of various aspects of life. Some values are more important to people than others and higher ranked values usually have more influence on behavior. Value-based conflicts are particular problems in intimate relationships which can lead to break-up. Finally, ego-based conflicts which is said to be the most difficult conflict to manage arise when one or both parties view the outcome as a measure of self-worth, that is, how competent one is, how much one knows, how much power one has and so forth. In ego-based conflicts, winning is more important than finding a good solution to the problem. Ego-based conflicts normally arise when one or both parties drift into negative personal judgment about a content- or value- based issue under discussion. Often people slip into judgmental statement when they have expertise or a special stake in any discussion. This may result in the tendency of being hooked by their emotions, lose of ability for rational thoughts and find themselves saying things they can't take back. Ego-based conflicts are difficult to manage because individuals perceive so much to be at stake. Therefore, the most appropriate way to handle such conflicts is to recognize them early and to move the conflict back to a content level.

Conflicts in family relationships

There are basically three relationship patterns in the family and each of these relationships have sources of conflict and must be managed or resolved for peaceful co-existence.

I. Husband-wife relationship: This is the foundation of other family relationships. It should be characterized by love and affection, companionship, effective and constant communication, sexual intimacy amongst others. Couples experience naggings, quarrels, throwing up of the past and other forms of conflicts in their relationship especially during the early years of marriage. Researches indicate that sources of marital conflicts are money, communication, household tasks, dishonesty, lack of love amongst others (Usoroh, 2012; Sanni, 2005; Olson and De-Frain, 2000).

ii. Parent-child relationship: Parent- child conflicts are rare and not significant until children become adolescents. Immaturity of both parents and adolescents, biological changes of puberty, cognitive changes involving increased idealism and logical reasoning, social changes focused on independence and identity, violated expectations, and physical, cognitive, and social changes in parents associated with middle adulthood trigger parent-adolescent conflicts (Santrock, 2005). Studies reveal that about 60 percent of families experience prolonged, intense, repeated and unhealthy conflicts between parents and adolescents. Steinberg and Silk (2002) observed that parent-adolescent conflicts escalate during early adolescence over every day events of family life such as monetary issues, keeping bedrooms clean, dressing neatly, chores, choice of activities, homework, getting home by a certain time, talking on the phone for a long time amongst others. Santrock (2005) asserts that prolonged and intense parent-adolescent conflict is associated with a number of adolescent problems such as juvenile delinquency, school dropout, pregnancy and early

marriage, membership of cults and drug abuse amongst others.

iii. Sibling relationship: Sibling relations are multifaceted and diverse, entailing a complex interplay of co-operation and conflict and shaped by a range of factors, including gender, age, birth order, class and social context (Edwards, Hadfield, Lucey and Mauthner, 2006; Mauthner, 2002). Sibling interactions are often characterized by dynamic power struggles that involve a mixture of negotiation, compromise and resistance (McIntosh and Punch, 2009). Siblings share much time together as well as knowledge of each other. This combination means that sibling relationship should be an intimate, close relationship, forming bond between them. On the other hand, because siblings share almost too much time together in a relatively small space and know much about each other's bad habits, the sharing of time, space and knowledge can create conflicts. Hence, sibling relationship tends to be a dynamic relationship which can switch almost simultaneously between being positive and negative experience (Punch, 2008).

Conflicts management styles

Conflicts in family relationships may be managed or resolved. Conflicts management involves attitudes implored by parties in conflict to accommodate the situation. Studies have consistently revealed five distinctive patterns of managing conflicts: Avoiding/Withdrawing, Accommodating, Competing/forcing, Compromising and Collaborating (Weitein *et. al.*, 2009; Lulofs and Cahn, 2000; Olson and De-Frain, 2000).

I. Avoiding/Withdrawing: This style depicts having low concern for self and others. Individuals who adopt this style often find conflict very distasteful therefore, ignoring the problem, wishing that the problem will disappear without being attended to. This tactics is often effective for minor problems as there is no need for one to react to every annoying situation. Whereas, for bigger conflicts, this strategy is not effective as it delays the inevitable clash.

ii. Accommodating: This style reveals low concern for self and high concern for others. The accommodator feels uncomfortable with conflict and decides to give in easily in order to bring a quick end to the conflict. Habitual accommodating is a poor way of dealing with conflict as this does not generate creative thinking and effective solution.

iii. Competing/Forcing: This style reflects high concern for self and low concern for others. Competitors turn every conflict into a win-lose situation. They would do virtually anything to emerge victorious from confrontations to using verbal attacks and physical threats adhering to one position using coercion to force the other party to submit. This style is undesirable as it fails to generate creative solutions to problems and, may likely lead to post-conflict tension, resentment and hostility.

iv. Compromising: This style shows moderate concern for self and others. Compromising is a realistic approach to conflict management that acknowledges the divergent needs of both parties. Compromisers are willing to negotiate and to meet the other party half way, each person therefore gives up something so both can have partial satisfaction. Compromising is a fairly constructive style to conflict management as both parties gain some satisfaction at the end especially when the issue is of less importance.

v. Collaborating: This style entails having high concern for self and others. Collaborating involves making efforts to find a solution that is satisfactory to both parties. In this approach, conflict is viewed as a mutual problem that needs to be solved as effectively as possible. Openness and honesty are prerequisite in collaborating conflict management style because it stresses the importance of criticizing the issue in disagreement rather than the person. This is the most productive approach for dealing with conflict as it tends to result in trust.

Conflict resolution strategies

Conflict resolution is the process of ending a disagreement between two or more people in a constructive manner in order to promote peaceful co-existence for all

parties involved. African families have two broad approaches to conflict resolution namely African Traditional Dispute Resolution and Western Alternative Dispute Resolution.

(1) African Traditional Dispute Resolution (ATDR): Africans have diversity in their traditional settings, culture and religious practices. They also differ in their levels and issues of conflict. The variations in conflicts involved property, land, family, marriage and communities. The approaches to conflict resolution in African families according to Best (2009) differ from the Western Alternative Dispute Resolution. Best (2009) and Otite (2001) identified two categories of social formation for conflict resolution in African Traditional Dispute Resolution (ATDR) as, the centralized authority and state systems and the segmented or egalitarian political system.

a. The Centralized authority and state system: This system is headed by paramount Kings, Chiefs and traditional political leaders. However, in the absence of a centralized authority, conflicts are resolved by family, clan, age grade levels, council of elders (made up of the most elderly or senior members of the community). This conflict resolution system is rigid; there is little negotiation and mediation; the setting, process and outcome are informal.

b. The Segmented or egalitarian system: This system is presided by the elders of the community, it attaches premium to community rather than individual interest; involves spiritual dimensions such as oath taking, ritual, pouring of libation and invoking ancestral spirit. Conflict resolutions may be conducted in shrines or village squares. This system is gender biased as women and children are not party to the decisions taken even though it is binding on them. Decisions favour adult males (Uwazie, 2000). The outcome of conflict resolution in this system is predominantly a community responsibility. The African Traditional Dispute Resolution (ATDR) has some similarities with the Western Alternative Dispute Resolution (WADR) because it combines negotiation, mediation, adjudication, arbitration and other methods together but differ in such elements as confidentiality, right of freedom to disagree with mediators, trained and professional mediators, assurance of neutrality on the part of the mediators, signing of agreement amongst others.

(2) Western Alternative Dispute Resolution (WADR): This is a universally accepted principle for conflict resolution based on shared humanity. WADR is a means for disagreeing parties to settle conflicts and reach an agreement without constituting a civil action, lawsuit or litigation. Alternative Dispute Resolution is a collective way that parties can settle disputes with (or without) the help of a third party. This approach to conflict resolution has gained wide spread acceptance in recent years because it attracts fewer costs than litigation, has preference for confidentiality, grants the parties greater control over the selection of the individual(s) to preside and take decision on the dispute thereby giving the parties in dispute control over the process and the outcome. WADR processes include collaboration, negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

a. Collaboration: This process entails parties in a conflict working together on their own to resolve the problem either through constructive dialogue or other activities like joint projects thereby building trust, confidence and mutual respect. The assumption is that when people collaborate, that is, do things together, they are likely to build more friendship and mutual respect among themselves.

b. Negotiation: This is a structured process of dialogue consisting of written or spoken conversational exchange between conflicting parties about issues in which their opinion differ with an intent to reach an understanding, resolve point of differences, or gain advantage in outcome; to produce an agreement upon courses of action; to bargain for individual or collective advantage; to craft outcomes to satisfy various interest of two people/parties involved in the negotiation process (Gates, 2011; Lewick, Saunder and Minton, 2001). Miller (2003) regards negotiation as communication usually governed by pre-established procedures, between representatives of parties involved in a conflict or dispute. Negotiation is a direct process of discussion taking place between two parties in a dispute. Both parties realize that there is a problem and are aware that by talking to each other, a solution can be obtained for the problem.

Negotiation is difficult when communication between parties in a conflict is not good or nonexistent.

Irrespective of the type of family relationship and the causes of conflicts, the principles of negotiation (dialogue) can serve as a key approach to peaceful conflict resolution because there are no third parties involved.

c. Mediation: This is a voluntary, informal, non-binding process involving the intervention of an independent third party to foster the settlement of dispute or resolve conflicts between parties (Miller, 2003). The mediator facilitates the process whereas the disputants direct both the process and outcome of mediation. Mediation has a structure, time table and dynamics; the process is cost effective; private and confidential and the mediator is expected to possess requisite skills to function effectively in the profession through training. Mediators use various techniques to open or improve dialogue between disputants, aiming to help the parties reach an agreement. Mediators may mediate in disputes in a variety of domain such as commercial, legal, diplomatic, workplace, community and family matters. According to Usoroh (2012) families in conflict can assess a framework of mediators such as Family-based, Judicial/Legal, Traditional/Customary, Faith-based, Government based and Non- Governmental Organisation (NGOs) based for conflict resolution.

d. Conciliation: This process of Alternative Dispute Resolution involves the use of a conciliator (a third party) who meets with the parties separately in an attempt to resolve their differences. They do this by lowering tensions, improving communications, interpreting issues, providing technical assistance, exploring potential solutions and bring about a negotiated settlement. In conciliation, the parties seldom, if ever, actually face each other across the table in the presence of the conciliator (Miller, 2003).

e. Arbitration: This is another form of WADR. It is a technique for the resolution of dispute outside the court in which the parties to a dispute refer it to one or more persons (the "arbitrators", "arbiters," or "arbitral tribunal") who renders a decision usually called an award which is expected to be binding on the parties (Sullivan and Sheffrin, 2003). Arbitration can be either voluntary or mandatory and can be either binding or non-binding. Generally, the arbiter should be an authority figure in the society to whom the disputants owe allegiance to for example family/community/religious leaders.

Other forms of conflict resolution approaches entail disputants seeking legal redress in a court of appropriate jurisdiction. These approaches are litigation and adjudication. Litigation is the process of taking a case through court. The litigation or legal process is most common in civil law suits. In litigation, there is a plaintiff (one who brings the charge) and a defendant (one against whom the charge is brought) (Murray, 2012). Adjudication however, is a legal process by which an arbiter or judge reviews evidence and argumentation including legal reasoning set forth by opposing parties, to come to a decision which determines rights and obligations between the parties involved. Where disputants choose to take the case to a court of law, they need a legal counsel to represent them, at the end of the process; the court gives a judgment which is binding on both parties. The judgment will be further enforced, where necessary, by the law enforcement agencies of the state (Best, 2009).

CONCLUSION

Conflict is inevitable in all relationships including family relationships. When conflict occurs, they can either be managed or resolved to foster peaceful coexistence and continued relations between parties within the family. Issues that trigger conflicts within the family system may be based on the type of relationships while some issues may be conflict causative factors through all relationship types. For example, monetary issues are sources of conflicts in spousal, parent-child and sibling relationships. However, homework and household chores are sources of conflict between parents and children while space and privacy breed conflict between siblings. Some types of conflicts are easy to manage or resolve such as pseudo, factual or policy conflicts while others are difficult to handle and may threaten the fabric of family relationships such as value and ego conflicts. Conflicts can be managed using a variety of styles with the most effective being collaboration. African Traditional and Western Alternative Dispute Resolution approaches can be employed for conflict resolution in family relationships.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the information provided in the paper:

- i) Family members should develop tolerance and mutual respect for one another;
- ii) The collective interest of the family should be placed above individual interest. This will reduce the emergence of destructive conflicts like value and ego conflicts which are difficult to resolve;

- iii) Where conflicts occur, family members should work together to resolve it through constructive dialogue (collaboration) which can build trust, confidence mutual respect and friendship within the family;
- iv) Conflict resolution approaches that result in court actions should be avoided as this tends to destroy trust, love and confidence among family members.

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EMPLOYABLE SKILLS REQUIRED BY GRADUATING STUDENTS FOR
GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN ENUGU STATE

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ABSTRACT

Graduate unemployment in Nigeria has been attributed to the fact that employees' education and skills acquired are inadequate to meet the demands of modern day jobs. As the educational institutions train and certificate, the industry consumes or employs their products hence the need to harmonize the expectations of the consumers of labour with the training requirements of institutions. This paper therefore focuses on identifying the employability skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment. The study adopted survey research design purposeful sample technique was used to select 510 employers of labour (Proprietors, Managers and Entrepreneurs) out the 1905 registered companies in Enugu State Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Four research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire. Mean and Standard deviation were used to analyze the data for answering the research questions while One-way ANOVA was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that employers of labour require graduates who possess ICT skills, entrepreneurial skills, interpersonal skills, management and leadership skills. It was therefore recommended among others that the curriculum of Nigerian tertiary institutions should review their programme of studies to reflect courses in ICT competence needs, entrepreneurship development skills, management and leadership skills, technical and vocational education so as to prepare graduates in readiness for the world of work.

Key words: Skills, employability skills, entrepreneurial skills, communication skills, interpersonal skills, management skills and ICT skills.

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that there is a great relationship between the industry and educational institutions since the educational institutions train and certificate, the industry consumes or employs their products. To be gainfully employed means that graduating students must possess in addition to a good degree, employable skills as required by employers of labour. In the present day Nigeria, graduating from tertiary institutions is one thing and securing a job is another with Nigeria's unemployment rate increasing to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 percent in 2010 and 19.7 percent in 2009, whereas total graduate unemployment rate increased from 25.6 percent in the year 2003 to 40.3 percent as at March, 2009 (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2010). The "Nigerian unemployment report 2011" prepared by the NBS shows that the rate is higher in the rural areas (25.6 percent) than in the urban areas (17.1 percent).

At the moment where jobs are not easily secured, prospective applicants appear to be at the mercy of employers who do not bother much about one's area of specialization, instead what one can do or be used to do in terms of skills possessed. Not until one is gainfully engaged in any meaningful activities, such that he can live up to the expectations of the society namely owning properties, marrying and raising children, contributing to the training of his younger ones and relatives' etc he/she continues to be a huge burden and a major source of worry to the immediate family especially parents. Undoubtedly, with soaring unemployment and the consequent burden placed on the family as a whole, actualization of Millennium Development Goals No.1 which aims at eradication of extreme poverty and hunger will continue to elude us.

According to Overtoom (2000), employable skills are skills that are basic and generic in nature, but very valuable in assisting every person entering the workforce. This is parallel with individuals who have strong characteristics such as a high sense of self-innovative, productive, skillful, and competitive, strong sense of determination and creative in facing the challenges associated with globalization in this 21st century. Overtoom (2000) viewed employability as the acquisition of attributes (knowledge, skills and abilities) that make graduates more likely to be successful in their chosen occupation either for paid or self-employment.

Skill on the other hand is the learned capacity to carry out pre-determined results often with the minimum outlay of time, energy, or both (Hall, 2002). Skills can often be divided into domain-general and domain-specific skills. For example, in the domain of work, some general skills would include time management, teamwork and

leadership, self-motivation and others, whereas domain-specific skills would be useful only for a certain job. Employability skill is therefore a process of building formidable individuals with necessary character and competences required for national and total transformation (Robinson, 2000). A number of researchers such as Dabalen, Oni and Adekola (2000) and National University Commission (2004) have revealed that apart from the qualifications that graduates possess, there are other attributes (skill requirements) which employers of labour emphasize. These skills include among others management skills, entrepreneurial skills, ICT skills, leadership skills, technical and vocational skills, communication skills, interpersonal skills, social skills and financial management skills. Robinson (2000) opined that employable skill is not similar to an occupation or technical skill rather they can be compared to job specifications across all types of industries, business size and phases of occupation. Furthermore, he maintained that employable skill is the basic skill needed for one to secure a job and enable him or her to carry out duties well. This skill is closely related with attitudes and actions. For instance, employees must cooperate with senior employees apart from voicing out their opinions, suggestions in order to come up with the right decision through appropriate communication channel.

On the other hand communication skill is the ability to get your message across to a variety of people so that everyone can understand it. Communication can take place in a variety of ways, for example; face to face (through meetings or presentations), written (using letters, e-mails or posters) and/or by talking on the telephone. Irrespective of the level of skill possessed by an employee he/she needs to work as a team in order to be successful. This obviously involves leadership skill which is the ability to inspire a team of people around you to get them to want to work to their best ability and create a vision that is shared by all so that everyone knows the future goals and how they are going to achieve them (Etonyeaku, 2009).

Interpersonal skill is the ability to relate to your co-workers, inspire others to participate, and mitigate conflict with co-workers is essential given the amount of time spent at work each day (Etonyeaku, 2009). Owing to global competitions, cultural diversity, latest technologies and process of new management require workers to have critical thinking abilities, be able to solve problems besides being good in communication skills. There is need to search for and employ curriculum that has the potential to fulfill the criteria as required in the job market thus making it easier for students to secure a place for themselves on graduation.

The ultimate aim of any graduating student is to be engaged in any meaningful work and this entails that there is need to prepare these students with saleable skills most sought for in the world of work. There is the view that most graduating students do not possess employable skills. It implies therefore that without relevant employable skills, graduating students will no doubt find the labour market not only unrewarding and unfavourable in terms of creating jobs for themselves instead of seeking jobs but continues to increase the unemployment rate of Nigerian graduates.

Statement of the problem

The rapid development of the current world of work needs proficient workers who possess the state-of-art skills. Despite the educational trainings given to graduating students during their period of schooling they are yet to meet the pace of information technology skills required to work effectively in this information age. The Federal Ministry of Education reports show that 85% of Nigerian graduates are unemployable. This is primarily because most graduates lack ICT skills, leadership skills, technical skills, entrepreneurship skills, management skills, effective communication skills, social/relational skills, intellectual/mental skills, which are not taught in most Nigerian institutions thereby making education non-functional. Employers of labour force are not only interested in those having higher education but also practical skills appropriate for job fulfillment (Abiodun, 2010). Obi (2002) stated that 60 percent of business education university graduates remain unemployed due to their deficiencies on modern technological demands.

This teaming but unemployed graduates remain unproductive thus constituting a serious problem both to the family and the society at large. It therefore becomes imperative to examine the employability skills required by graduating students for gainful employment.

Purpose of the study

The major purpose of the study is to identify the employable skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. identify the ICT skills required by graduating students for gainful employment;
2. identify the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students for gainful employment;
3. identify the interpersonal skills required by graduating students for gainful employment;
4. identify the management and leadership skills required by graduating students for gainful employment.

Research questions

1. What are the ICT skills required by graduating students for gainful employment?
2. What are the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students for gainful employment?
3. What are the interpersonal skills required by graduating students for gainful employment?
4. What are the management and leadership skills required by graduating students for gainful employment?

Hypotheses

The following four null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Ho1: There is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the mean ratings among proprietors, managers and entrepreneurs that constitute employers of labour on the ICT skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment.

Ho2: There is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the mean ratings among the proprietors, managers and entrepreneurs that constitute employers of labour on the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a survey research design. The population for the study is made up of 1904 respondents made up of 1343 males and 561 females company executives namely (Managers, Proprietors, Entrepreneurs and Heads of Departments) selected from 24 registered employers of labour who belong to the organized private and public sector in Enugu State Chamber of Commerce and Industry and government establishment. Purposeful sampling technique was used to select 411 respondents (178-Managers, 96-Proprietors and 137-Entrepreneurs) from the dominant sectors of the economy in Enugu State namely:

- * Manufacturing and Industries (Innoson, ANAMCO, FCC);
- * Hotels and Restaurants (UAC e.g. Mr Biggs, ZODIAC, CONCORD.);
- * Transport, Storage and Communication (MTN, GLO, AIRTEL; PEACE, ABC.);
- * Finance institutions (Commercial Banks, Microfinance Banks, Insurance etc);
- * Public Administration, Defense and Community Social Services (LGAs, etc);
- * Education (Tertiary Institutions); and
- * Health care sectors (UNTH, ESUTH, ORTHOPAEDIC, UNN MEDICAL CENTRE etc),

Research instrument

The researcher constructed a 40-item structured questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was designed in line with four specific purpose of study under a 4-point modified Likert type scale of Highly Required (4-points), Required (3-points), Seldom Required (2-points), and Not Required (1-point). Section A is made up of 10-items which address research question 1. Section B is made of 10-items designed to address research question 2 while section C and D is made up of 10-items respectively designed to address research questions 3 and 4.

The instrument for data collection was subjected to content and face validity by three research experts from the Department of Vocational Teacher Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The instrument was assessed properly to ensure clarity of the question items as well as appropriateness of language of expression and instructions to the respondents. A pilot study comprising 25 employers of labour (9-Managers, 6-Proprietors and 10-Entrepreneurs) from Anambra State which is outside the study area helped to establish the internal consistency of the instrument. Data collected was computed using Cronbach Alpha reliability test. The reliability coefficient for the four clusters yielded .74, .63, .78 and .76 while the overall clusters yielded a reliability index of .72.

The researchers administered the copies of the questionnaire to the respondents with the help of 6 trained research assistants, one for each business concentrated area. A total number of 410 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents and all of them were later retrieved and used for the statistical analysis. Data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the four research questions while One-way ANOVA was used in testing the four null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the 4-point rating scale, the mean of the scale is 2.50. Therefore, mean scores of 2.50 and above were regarded as indication of "highly required" while mean scores below 2.50 were regarded as "lowly required". Any item where sig.(2-tailed) value is greater than 0.05, the hypothesis of no significant difference was upheld but where the sig.(2-tailed) value is less than 0.05, the hypothesis of no significant difference was rejected at 0.05 level of significant and at 408 degree of freedom.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I
Mean and standard deviation ratings of respondents on ICT skills required by graduating students for gainful employment

S/NO	Item statements				N	X	std	Remark
1	Ability to boot and shutdown the computer	411	3.17	1.15	HR			
2	Ability to use and surf the net		411	2.76	.88	HR		
3	Ability to create database		411	2.76	1.08	HR		
4	Ability to process letters and communicate with the use of e-mail	411	2.90	1.07	HR			
5	Ability to use multimedia technologies for office operations	411	2.91	.89	HR			
6	Ability to send and receive messages via e-mails		411	2.90	.98	HR		
7	Ability to manage and maintain computer equipment	411	2.75	1.05	HR			
8	Ability to manipulate smart devices, computers, electronic faxing and teleconferencing tools		411	2.84	1.20	HR		
9	Ability to design slides for presentations		411	2.81	.87	HR		
10	Ability to dictate fault on electronic equipment related to your company's success			411	2.72	1.07	HR	

Key: N = Number of respondents; X= Mean, STD = Standard Deviation; HR =Highly Required

As shown in Table I, all the ten items listed on ICT skills had their means above the cut-off point of 2.50 thus indicating that the respondents agreed to all the items as highly required skills by graduateing students for gainful employment. The standard deviation of the ten items ranges from 0.87 - 1.20 showing that respondents' are not too far from one another in their opinions.

Table II
Mean and standard deviation ratings of responses of respondents on the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students for gainful employment

S/no	Item statements				N	X	std	Remark
1	Ability to source for funds with reduced interest rates	411	3.04	.92	HR			
2	Ability to apply problem solving and discovery to	411	3.20	1.05	HR			
3	Ability to exploit investment opportunities	411	2.91	.98	HR			
4	Ability to establish and manage a successful enterprise	411	3.79	.70	HR			
5	Ability to initiate initial expansion and subsequent business expansion			411	2.86	.90	HR	
6	Ability to initiate factor innovation, production innovations and market driven innovations			411	2.85	.84	HR	
7	Possessing technical and vocational abilities	411	2.58	1.33	HR			
8	Possessing financial management abilities	411	2.87	1.07	HR			
9	Possessing of marketing abilities		411	3.27	.84	HR		
10	Possessing of effective communication abilities	411	3.11	.92	HR			

Key: N = Number of Respondents; X= Mean, STD = Standard Deviation; HR = Highly Required

The data presented in Table II reveals that all the items listed had their mean responses above the cut-off point of 2.50. This shows that employers of labour require graduates who possess entrepreneurial skills. Ability to establish and manage a successful enterprise, possessing marketing abilities, ability to source for fund at a reduced interest recorded the highest mean of 3.79, 3.27 and 3.04 respectively indicating that they were the most required entrepreneurial skills by employers of labour in the study area. The standard deviation of items 11-20 ranges from 0.70 - 1.33. This reveals that the respondents' responses were close to one another in their opinion

Table III
Mean and standard deviation ratings of respondents on the interpersonal skills required by graduateing students for gainful employment

S/N	ITEM STATEMENTS				N	X	STD	REMARK
1	Ability to establish good rapport with subordinates.	411	3.08	.80	HR			
2	Empathizing with others		411	2.99	.95	HR		
3	Ability to understanding the needs of others	411	3.41	.60	HR			
4	Ability to relating well with supervisors	411	3.21	.79	HR			
5	Working well with fellow employees	411	3.31	.81	HR			
6	Ability to praise and compliment deserving workers	411	3.27	.77	HR			
7	Ability to treat others with respect		411	3.10	.95	HR		
8	Ability to be sensitive to the needs of others	411	2.91	.80	HR			
9	Ability to wear a cheerful look	411	3.22	.79	HR			
10	Ability to get cooperation from workers through mutual understanding		411	2.66	1.17	HR		

Key: N =Number of respondents; X= Mean, STD= Standard Deviation; HR =Highly Required

The data presented in Table III reveal that all the ten items listed had their mean responses above the cut-off point of 2.50. This shows that employers of labour require student graduates who possess interpersonal skills. Items 23, 25, 26 and 29 recorded the highest mean values of 3.41, 3.21, 3.27 and 3.22 respectively thus indicating that these are the most sought interpersonal skills required of graduating students for entering and holding a job. The standard deviation of items 21-30 ranges from 0.77-1.17 thus indicating that the respondents' responses were close to one another in their opinion.

Table IV
Mean and standard deviation ratings of respondents on the management and leadership skills required by graduating students for gainful employment

S/no	Item statements			N	X	std	Remark
1	Ability to design work plan for each department			411	2.93	1.18	HR
2	Ability to supervise the work of others			411	2.90	1.10	HR
3	Gaining new knowledge in areas outside the immediate job			411	2.99	1.02	HR
4	Ability to give direction and guidance to others			411	3.11	.80	HR
5	Ability to accept and delegate responsibilities			411	3.15	.94	HR
6	Ability to discipline erring staff and recruit new ones			411	2.86	1.02	HR
7	Ability to coordinate the work of subordinates			411	2.99	.82	HR
8	Ability to providing novel solutions to problems			411	3.09	.89	HR
9	Ability to adapting to situational of changes			411	3.08	.85	HR
10	Ability to initiate changes to enhance productivity.			411	2.80	.97	HR

Key: N=Number of respondents; \bar{X} = Mean, STD= Standard Deviation; HR =Highly Required

As shown in Table IV, all the ten items on management and leadership skill recorded mean responses above the cut-off point of 2.50. This clearly indicated that management and leadership skill is highly required of student graduates upon leaving school. Ability to give direction and guidance, ability to accept and delegate responsibilities, and ability to provide novel solutions to a given problem recorded the highest mean of 3.11, 3.15 and 3.09 respectively. The standard deviation of all the ten items ranges from 0.80-1.02 showing that respondents' are not too far from one another in their opinions.

Hypothesis 1
Ho1: There is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the mean ratings among proprietors, managers and entrepreneurs that constitute employers of labour on the ICT skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment.

Table V
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean ratings of respondents on the ICT Skills required for gainful employment.

Source	Sum of squares	df	Mean Square	F- ratio	Sig.(2- tailed)	Remark
Between Groups	4.752	2	2.376	3.459	.052	NS
Within Groups	279.554	409	.687			
Total	284.306	409				

The one-way ANOVA presented the result of F-ratio not to be significant at 0.05 level of significant: $F(2, 409) = 3.459$; $p > 0.05$. The F-ratio of 3.459 with a p-value as .052 calculated at 0.05 level of significance and at 409 degree of freedom to be greater than 0.05. The null hypothesis was therefore accepted as postulated not to have any significant difference in the mean ratings of employers of labour on the ICT skills required by graduating students for gainful employment in Enugu State.

Hypothesis 2
Ho2: There is no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the mean ratings among the proprietors, managers and entrepreneurs that constitute employers of labour on the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students in Enugu State for gainful employment.

Table VI
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the mean ratings of respondents on the Entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students for gainful employment

Source	Sum of squares	Df	Mean Square	F-ratio	Sig.(2-tailed)	Remark
Between Groups	2.953	2	1.476	2.393	.093	NS
Within Groups	251.111	407	.617			
Total	254.064	409				

The one-way ANOVA presented the result of F-ratio not to be significant at 0.05 level of significant: $F(2, 409) = 2.393$; $p > 0.05$. The F-ratio of 2.393 with a p-value as .093 calculated at 0.05 level of significance and at 409 degree of freedom to be greater than 0.05. The null hypothesis was therefore accepted as postulated not to have any significant difference in the mean ratings among employers of labour (Proprietors, Managers and Entrepreneurs) on the entrepreneurial skills required by graduating students for gainful employment.

Discussion

The findings of study revealed that basic ICT skills such as ability to boot and shutdown the computer, process, save and retrieve documents, surf the net, ability to create database, communicating with the use of e-mails, design PowerPoint slides, and ability to use multimedia technologies etc for office operations are some of ICT skills required by graduating students for gainful employment. Also the development of skills such as developing ability to dictate and develop means of solving problems among co-workers, ability to influence others to act appropriately, ability to stick to organizational rules and regulations, and being able to make decisions on the basis of thorough analysis of the situation etc constitute essential management and leadership skills highly required by graduating students in order to enter and secure a job in the world of work. The study further revealed that the ability to generate organizational reports, ability to address the public, applying proper grammar, spelling and punctuation, ability to listen attentively, responding to others' comments during a conversation, writing internal business memos, face-to-face conversations are the basic communication skills required by graduating students for gainful employment.

The study also identified conceptualizing the future of organizations through supervising the work of others, giving direction and guidance to others, ability to accept responsibilities, delegating work to subordinates, ability to coordinate the work of subordinates, providing novel solutions to problems, adapting to situations of change, initiating change to enhance productivity as the leadership skills highly required by graduating students for success in any chosen career. This finding is in line with the assertion that a leader is meant to be creative, innovative and should be able to perceive genuine business opportunities and takes advantages of the limited resources within his/her control to transform the opportunities into profitable ventures. It can also be inferred from the hypotheses that ICT skills, good communication skills, good personal and social skills, technical and managerial skills, entrepreneurial skills are, among others, the factors determining graduates they can employ in the present modern workplace irrespective of their course of study and qualifications possessed.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the desired employability skills are evident to employers which include among others possessing of ICT skills, entrepreneurial skills, management and leadership skills, interpersonal skill. Employers of labour expect new hires or employees to be competent in performing these basic skills. Employable skills are important for securing, retaining and progressing on a job, as well as having success in the world of work. Until a graduating student has developed good employable skills, his or her chances of securing meaningful job remains bleak as well as career and occupational development remaining incomplete and of no effect.

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

1. The Nigerian tertiary institutions should review their programme of studies to reflect courses in ICT competence needs, entrepreneurship development skills, management and leadership skills, Technical and Vocational Education among others so as to prepare graduates in readiness for the world of work.
2. Effort should be made by all stakeholders of Nigerian education to ensure that our tertiary institutions are properly funded towards providing required state-of-the-art facilities needed by our graduating students to match theory with practice.
3. Our tertiary institutions should ensure that all her undergraduates embark on

industrial work experience irrespective of their area of specialization to enable them acquire relevant work skills needed for self-reliance.

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**CHALLENGES OF ORPHANAGES:
A CONCERN FOR ADOPTION IN NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Parents provide the physical, social and emotional bonding needed for the optimum development of children. The family is a critical agent that provides the child with the physical, social and emotional support. There are bound to be crisis and challenges if in the absence of the family, there are no alternative care settings. Orphaned children are those children who are not with one or both parents as a result of death of parents. Orphans are generally associated social and behavioral problems and need for rehabilitation into the society for which they hold the potential to make positive contribution if given the opportunity. Institutions such as the orphanages, children homes, remand institutions and other rehabilitation centers. These are established to care for the needs of homeless children such as street children and abandoned children and /or children whose parents cannot care for their everyday basic needs. There are about 143 million orphans and abandoned children in the world. 34,209 are in Africa, 35% of these street children are either in children homes or orphanages in Nigeria. Children whose biological parents cannot provide adequate care can further benefit from adoption. This paper looks at the challenges that orphanages face which includes among others, finance, accommodation, feeding and clothing, staff, discrimination and stigmatization. The paper addresses the need for adoption in Nigeria and concludes by recognizing that every child needs a home and adoption should be an alternative for the orphans. Recommendations were made based on these discussions such as the need for the creation of a unified adoption law across the country, change of societal perception and attitude concerning orphans; government and philanthropic intervention.

Key words: Orphans, adoption, institutionalization, home background, challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of orphanages in Nigeria and in other parts of the world is an indication that children receive care outside of the home and family and care is given by people, who may not necessarily be consanguine parents, relations but guardians and care givers, Mwebaza (2007). Children grow rapidly with psychosocial care in general for all aspects of child development. That is why; the family is an indispensable part of child's growth and development. Home background and parental support contributes to the self esteem of children. Parents provide the physical, social, and emotional bonding needed for the optimum development of children especially at the formative years between 1-10 years (Musisi, Kinyanda, Nakasujji and Nakigudde, 2007). According to Haralambos and Holborn, (2008), the family is regarded as the most basic unit of socialization which performs vital tasks such as parenting children. In the absence of the family, there are other institutions that attempts to bridge the gap of family care through alternative child care services found outside the home such as the orphanages, remand homes and juvenile homes, (Mwebaza, 2007). An orphan is a child permanently bereaved of or abandoned by parents (Uzodike, 1991 and USAID, 2008). In common usage, only a child who has lost both parents is called an orphan. In the traditional African setting, when a child becomes an orphan, it is the responsibility of the extended family to take care of the child in providing fostering and guardianship. This is no longer what happens, thus, necessitating alternative care for the child in the orphanage. From the legal point of view, Chukwu (2003) refers to an orphan as a minor bereft through death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss of both parents.

Engel, Lhostka and Armstrong (1997) and USAID (2008) describes an orphan as any child who has lost one parent and further shows that when a child loses the mother, the child is referred to as a maternal orphan. There is also paternal orphan as the case may be, if the child loses the father and a double orphan being the person who has lost both parents. Orphan children are on the increase due to certain unforeseen circumstances such as political and social factors including death of parents (Seifer, 2013), Diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Kimani, Cheboswony, Kadero and Misigo, 2009), Civil unrest, domestic violence (Mudiara, 2005), hunger and poverty, (Sakari,

2005). Children whose biological parents cannot provide adequate care benefit from adoption. There is consistent evidence that adopted children fare much better than children who reside in long term foster care or in institutionalized environments, (Santrock 2005; Brodinsky and Pinderhughes 2002).

Myers (1992) revealed the plight of orphanages in Romania where, each care giver was responsible for 20 children under the age of 3 years for 24 hours at a time. Findings show that the care givers were overwhelmed with the work and the children's needs. Both the care giver and administrators felt that orphans and abandoned children were different emotionally and were believed to come from poor heritage. Adoptive parents were asked to estimate the children's developmental levels before and after adoption, all of the children were rated as delayed in language, social development, fine and gross motor development. Both groups improved significantly in the subsequent years while in adoption. Presently, there are 143 million orphans and abandoned children in the world. In Africa, there are thirty four thousand, two hundred and nine, (34,294), that is 11.9 % of the global figures (USAID, 2008). In China, 85% of the disable children are in the orphanage (BICCO, 2013). In Romania, 48% of the children populations are in the orphanage and there is an increasing number, (UNICEF, 1990). There are no clear data on the number of orphans; however, Adhmaessus and Hailu (2006) revealed that 35% of street children were found to be orphans. It is possible that this may lead to increase cases of adoption. There is a percentage increase of adoption cases within Nigeria and to other foreign countries, especially to the United States.

According to the Benue State Gazette (2009), where a child is in an orphanage, the person responsible for the child shall provide the following:

- * Safe guard and promote the welfare of the child
- * Advice, assist, and socialize the child with a view to promoting the welfare of the child when he ceases to be in the orphanage
- * Orphanages should plan to return the child to its family or a substitute family care, therefore supporting the need for adoption.

Adoption is a process that allows for the transfer of the legal rights, responsibilities and privileges of parenthood to a new legal parent (Adoption Foundation, 2011). According to Chukwu (2003), adoption is the official transfer through the court of all the parental rights of the biological parents and assumed in their entirety by the adoptive parents who are now responsible for the care and supervision of the child, its nurturing and training, its physical and emotional health and its financial support. It is expected that adoption will offer a stable environment for children who might not receive satisfactory care from their parents. Indeed, adoption is an alternative for unwed single mothers who have low socio- economic status to cater for their children, (Schaefer, 2008). Adoption is recognized as one of the forms of alternative care for children who have been temporarily or permanently deprived of their family and also for children who are unable to remain in their family environment.

Adoption Foundation (2011) revealed that adopted children have ranged from 10% in 1998, 45% in 2002, 62% in 2006 and 48% in 2008. Yet, the adoptions provisions in the Child Rights Act prohibit inter country adoption as well as the giving or receiving of any payment or reward as consideration for or to facilitate adoption. (Chukwu, 2003). This paper will forge a discourse around the challenges facing orphanages in Nigeria; implication for adoption with practical recommendation.

Challenges of orphanages in Nigeria

The orphanage as an institution is still relatively new to the African society. Indeed, its root originated from philanthropic gestures and church responses to the social welfare of the people. The orphanage was therefore seen as a 'church activity' or a good will from social organizations. Both the government and individuals see the orphanages as a social welfare services that should be done at one's convenience. This makes the institution to have challenges that are sometimes very costly, sometimes leading to the death of the inmates, child trafficking, ritual killing and the outbreak of some communicable and non-communicable diseases. These challenges are discussed under the following:

Finance

According to Ohai (2010), the need to provide for a strong financial base for the education of the children is a pressing need in the orphanages. Education is critical to the well being of children and is a Right as stated in the Child Rights Act, (2003). Alemika, Chukwuma, Lafratta, Messerli and Souckova (2004) revealed that there is a severe lack of financial resources allocated to the protection and promotion of children's rights, especially vulnerable children like street children and orphans. Indeed, the implementation of the child rights law in some states of the federation is difficult and this contributes to the rights of the child to good health, education, conducive environment, sanitation, leisure and rest; and to a family.

The importance of care practices and resources, particularly the linkages among health, nutrition, psycho-social care and psycho-social development seems to justify the necessity for a strong financial base for orphanages. According to Myers (1992), the key element in psychosocial care is the sensitivity of the caregiver to the child's emerging needs. In order to meet these needs, resources for care must be available and under the control of the care givers. Lack of a strong support base affects the overall development of orphans. Adhmaessu and Hailu (2006), examined the academic performance of orphans and revealed that critical support from care givers and supportive factors such as not getting sufficient scholastic and material support affects orphans' competition with non- orphans. According to Mwebaza (2007), children are a deprived group especially orphans and these deprivation affects learning outcomes and other psycho social index, for example, deprivation affects the self- esteem of children, making them shy and exhibit some adjustment problems.

Santrock (2005) believes that physical neglect as a result of the inability to provide for the needs of the child is another form of child abuse. Physical neglect could be in the dimension of refusal or delay in seeking for medical health, inadequate supervision, school delay or refusal to send the child to school among other factors. In a finding (Adhmaessus and Hailu, 2006) care givers complain of difficulty in taking care of these orphans without government financial support and did not know what to

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do to make the children happy.

Accommodation

The most essential need for man after food is shelter. Housing is a general problem in most urban centers and typical problem in most orphanages. From personal observation, there is inadequate accommodation which is seen in the number of children in one bedroom. In fact, studies (PM News, 2010 and Ohai, 2010) report of proprietors of most orphanages requesting for a better accommodation with facilities to make the home habitable. Facilities such as electricity, water, good road network and nearness to convenient places like market, hospital and schools are some of the basic consideration that makes the house habitable. If the population working in the urban centers complains of such facilities then the plight of the orphanages can be imagined.

Mwebaza (2007) reports on the inadequacy of appropriate living conditions, inadequacy of government involvement, poor infrastructural development and over population in terms of staff/ child and children/ Room space ratio. Congregate living conditions foster the spread of multiple infections agents. Intestinal parasites, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, measles, chicken pox, middle ear infection are all found more common in institutional care settings, (Johnson, 2009). The placement of children in institutions such as orphanages especially during the critical periods of life and for a long period of time is often associated with developmental delays resulting from poor staff/ child ratio and lack of early childhood stimulation. Both physical and social stimulations are critical to the well being of the child.

Feeding and clothing

Child care is a set of complex set of behavior that range from feeding practices to responses that promote a safe and healthy environment.

Institutional children are reported to have eating problems attributable to the orphanage life, due to lack of environmental opportunity. Engel, Lhostska and Armstrong (1997) revealed that children in the orphanages show a series of behaviors and had difficulty with food, often eating far more than needed. They had weak attachments, poor control over attention seeking behaviors and frequent episodes of anger and irritability. At this critical age for growth and development, children need all the nutrients necessary for optimum growth. According to UNICEF (1990), care refers to the behavior and practices to provide food, health care, stimulation and emotional support necessary for children's healthy growth.

Some reports on the care giving and feeding practices of care givers in institutional homes show that the inadequate number of workers, mostly old people needing care themselves, do not express care during feeding time. Most children are propped up and feed on their own, that explains the reported cases of ear infection as a result of the continuous seepage of food into the ear during feeding. Engel, Lhotska and Armstrong (1997) revealed that the living conditions of children especially in Romania orphanages show images of children deprived of contact and nutrition. The effects of food and health are contingent to care. This basic food needs have been realized by private organizations and individuals who have been reported to contribute to the attainment of these basic needs especially during festive periods such as Christmas, New Year, Sallah and on other social celebrations; however, it is not on sustainable basis, (PM, NEWS, 2010).

The pictorial description of orphans show children in unkempt, malnourished and with poor clothing. This picture also describes children who are abandoned and on the street. Clothing is necessary for protection against the harsh weather conditions, and basically for warmth. There are also some psycho- social benefits of clothing, which includes for identification such as uniforms, social status, promotes self esteem and for beauty. If children in the orphanages must grow up optimally and be treated just like any other children, then all the basic need for food, clothing, shelter, health and education must be met.

Staff

Adhmaessus and Hailu (2006) reveal that the management of orphanages must be based on scientific assessment of the situation the child finds itself and the real needs of the child. This requires that staff be trained professionally in related field of human ecology to be able to relate with children in special need. Personal observations show that caregivers at some orphanages are old women who themselves need care and help. The result of inadequate care givers and lack of knowledge may lead to the development of poor feeding habits.

A typical picture of most orphanages is depicted as being chaotic because of lack of staff. Most orphans are allowed to lie on the bed even while feeding with their heads propped up. This practice continues to place children at risk of developing ear infection resulting from constant seepage of the liquid food materials to the ear. Most importantly, these children miss out in the maternal and child experiences that are critical during feeding.

According to Musisi et al (2007), orphans show a significant psychological distress due to the disruption of their attachment resulting from parental loss or parental separation. Qualitatively, orphans compared to non- orphans were described as needy, sensitive, isolates with low self esteem, lacked love, protection, identity and security. Staffing is a critical challenge in the orphanage. Presently, establishment of orphanages is seen as a private sector business especially among churches and philanthropic organizations. Therefore, it is an open field that proprietors manage as they will, this explains the widespread press report of orphanages being seen as a channel for child trafficking, racketeering and various forms of child abuse, (PM, NEWS 2010).

Discrimination and Stigmatization

One of the biggest challenges facing orphans is the lack of empathy from the public. Ohai (2010) reported that children at the orphanages are always at the receiving end especially those that attend public schools. Indeed, verbal attacks from mischievous school mates and insensitive remarks from adults are some of the challenges that create low self esteem. The general conception of orphans is that these children are hungry, with poor hygiene, lacking scholastic materials and tend to be isolate. Musisi et al (2007) report that orphans had more common emotional problems, for example, more orphans reported finding life unfair and difficult and having suicidal wishes. In Nigeria, no matter how long and under what circumstances a child may reside with and be nurtured by any person other than the biological parents, when a child grows up, he is entitled to and will most likely go back to his roots. The traditional social stigmatization of a person who is known not to be the biological offspring of the

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acclaimed parents is a major factor in contributing to the unpopularity of adoption in Nigeria, (Chukwu, 2003).

When an orphan does what other children living with their parents do, some people will regard it as a taboo. To them, an orphan has no right to express self or get angry. This unhealthy attitude makes people to treat orphans like outcasts. There was a case of an orphan who got into an argument with a motor cyclist, the latter insulted him by calling him "a motherless good for nothing boy", "government pigin" and all such nonsense. Therefore, discrimination and stigmatization are issues that must be addressed for adoption to be successful. According to Mwebaza (2007), part of deprivation suffered by orphans is the change in the family circumstances mostly as a result of change in the family circumstances. Indeed, orphans, street children and/or abandoned children are listed as those groups of children who are disadvantaged and have been discriminated against, (Adhmaessus and Hailu, 2006).

Santrock (2005) reports that lack of goodness of fit can produce adjustment problems for the child. Goodness of fit refers to the match between a child's temperament and environmental demands the child must cope with. Lack of goodness of fit can be developed when a child loses a parent as a result of death, separation/divorce, abandonment and adoption. It is a standard scientific knowledge that institutionalization is linked to developmental problems among children. Professionals agree that institutionalization is only to be used as a last resort because of the negative effects it has on children which includes social and behavioral abnormalities, poor growth, deficit IQ and emotional reactivity. Kigbu (2002) believes that adoption is important in a society because it influences the status and affects the rights and obligation of the child and the adopted parent. Brodzinsky and Pinderhuges (2002) reported that adoption has better options for the child, indeed it was reported that early adoption helps the child to adjust better. The later the adoption occurred, the more problems the adoptee parents will have. Ukemena (2012) reports that it is viewed in Nigeria that any couple that adopts a child is infertile, not the kind of stigma anyone would want to be associated with. The culture and religion are strong points that do not support adoption. This paper therefore, highlights the implication of these challenges for adoption in Nigeria: it is the position of the paper that adoption is important for children and should be supported.

Implication for adoption in Nigeria

Adoption is the social and legal process by which a parent- child relationship is established between persons unrelated at birth. Adoption is the process whereby a person assumes the parenting for another and in so doing, permanently transfers all the rights and responsibilities to the adoptee parent. Santrock (2005) revealed that approximately, 18 % of children in Europe are adopted, Africa has 21%, Asia, 47%, South America, 3%, and North America 10%, (National Statistics, 2012). Adoption is recognized as one form of alternative care for children who have been temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment (Satadru, 2007) and also for children who are unable to remain in their family environment (Musisi *et al*, 2007). Adoption is generally a new phenomenon in Nigeria and is unacceptable, so it is difficult to take a child for adoption. The rights of the child who has been adopted are most times contestable in family circles.

According to Chukwu (2003), adoption should be regarded as principally a child care service rather than as a means of providing succor to childless persons or relief to couples who are incapable of child birth. In the Child Rights Act, no Nigeria statutes has ever provided for the setting up of approved adoption agencies. The absence of such approved statutes has created a yawning gap for which private individuals and organizations have indulged in the illicit acts of child trafficking and unauthorized adoption. Nigerian adoption laws are complex and vary from state to state, (Alemika, *et al*, 2004). The earliest statute in Nigeria was the adoption law in 1965 of the defunct Eastern Region of Nigeria. All the southern states have some form of statutes for adoption but none in the Northern states, which has the majority of street children and children living on the street. For example, some forms of adoption statutes are available in Lagos, Akwa Ibom and Abuja. Besides these variations, adoption in Nigeria is difficult and the system is not transparent (Adoption Foundation, 2011). It is also reported that there are no legally recognized agencies for adoption in Nigeria or any licensed adoption agencies. An important reason for harmonized adoption policy in Nigeria is the fact that people have posed in several guise to adopt a child, while in actual fact, these children are whisked for child trafficking. It is reported (PM NEWS, 2010) that orphanages are used as camps for the sale of children. Recently, 'mummy's' orphanage was closed down at Ibadan for suspicious reason of child trafficking.

The adoption provision in the Child Rights Act as reported by Alemika *et al* (2004) stipulate for state and Federal Government to establish and maintain within each state a service designed to meet and facilitate adoption as stipulated in the Child Rights Act. The conditions for adoption should involve the child who has been or may be adopted, parents and guardians of such a child, persons who have adopted or may adopt a child, facilities such as a temporary board arrangements for assessing a child and prospective adoptee parent should all be counseled on the problems relating to adoption. (Chukwu, 2003). That is why, the statutes in states that have adoption laws stipulates that adoptive parents must foster their children for at least three 3 months in Lagos state, one year in Akwa Ibom and Abuja allows for adoption only if one parent is Nigerian. The duration of adoption period range from 3- one year, after which the child can now be a member of the family. It also establishes goodness of fit, in which case he child will adapt to the new environment and family. All the adoption measures are put in place to guarantee the security of the child and the protection of the adoptee parents in the future. The magistrate court or the family court must be involved in all cases of adoption, (Uzodike, 1991). In Nigeria, the adoption process begins when an application is made in accordance with the local requirement and submitted to the registrar of the court. Prospective adoptee parents must inform the social welfare department of their intention to adopt at least three (3) months before the court order is made. The social welfare office visits the home of the adoptee parents until the office is satisfy that the prospective parents are capable of taking care of the child.

Uzodike (1991) and Chukwu (2003) reports that, the process can take as long as between 3 months to one year. There are eligibility requirements for adoption regarding age, residency and marriage requirement. Prospective adoptive parents must be at least 25 years and 21 years older than the child. Also, only married couples will be allowed to adopt, unlike the United States and other Western countries where gay couples are allowed to adopt. In Nigeria, married couples must adopt jointly. On the aspect of residency, different states have variations as to the length of time the adoptee parent can reside in the state to determine the parent- child relationship. These requirements are in place to forestall negative perception as to whether the child is wanted or accepted into the family. It seems to be the best practice if children are adopted than allowed for longer period in institutions or children's homes.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The challenges of orphanages are critical to the smooth running of the institution for the survival and wellbeing of children. The orphanage and other children homes are meant for children who have been abandoned, street children or children whose parents are incapable of providing the basic care necessary for child survival. As long as there are street children and child abandonment, the orphanage will continue to serve as an alternative way for parenting the child. In as much as this alternative may be suitable, the child is best suited in a home environment where love, individual attention, maximum care and other social support in the family will help such a child adapt and pursue a fulfilling future. Adoption is for the purposes of helping a child develop a positive fit between self and the environment. There are challenges of stigmatization and other cultural biases which serve as a hindrance to adoption in Nigeria, but this can be overcome with a change in the perception and attitude of people about orphans and the circumstances surrounding adoption.

Based on the discussions, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Societal change of perception and attitude toward adoption in Nigeria:** There is a need for change of attitude by individuals and family members concerning adoption. All socio-cultural biases affecting the adoption of children should be removed and enlightenment created on the advantages of adoption, especially as an alternative for childless couples.
- ii. Government intervention:** The implementation of the Child Rights Act in all the states of the federation will address all the issues surrounding child welfare. Government should have a regulatory agency that will oversee the management of orphanages to ensure that these comply with best practices in the care of children, including the living conditions, feeding, clothing, education, health, recreation and leisure. This will protect the child against all forms of abuse. Furthermore, there should be an affirmative action on adoption. Therefore, government should have a unified system of adoption across the country, create and register agencies for adoption to facilitate the adoption process.
- iii. Involvement of Non-governmental organizations:** Involvement of churches, companies, industries and non-governmental organizations should serve as a social corporate responsibility and not just a mere service of charity. It should be the corporate concern of all citizenry to ensure that the Nigerian is given an opportunity to survive and develop its maximum potential.

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CHALLENGES OF CLOTHING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AMONG
STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN BENUE STATE

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ABSTRACT

This paper explored the importance of clothing design and construction in the larger discipline of Home Science and Management alongside the challenges students of the field face in tertiary institutions in Benue State. Importance of clothing design and construction includes: it helps to bring out functional aesthetic qualities of clothing, it helps to achieve perfect fit, it gives the expressive content of clothing. Careers opened to specialists here are: employment with garment companies, NGOs like UN High commission for refugees, research fellows, lecturing/teaching. Some of the challenges include: Lack of appropriate tools and equipment, lack of aptitude and interest on the part of students, inadequate curriculum matter for adequate knowledge. The paper recommends that stake holders in the study of clothing design and construction should provide the necessary facilities while students are counseled to stimulate their interest. It is further recommended that those in charge of curriculum development should review it appropriately.

Key words: Challenges, clothing, clothing design, clothing construction, tertiary institutions.

INTRODUCTION

Home Science and Management as a course have several areas of specialization in Tertiary institutions of learning. One of such area is clothing design and construction. Clothing refers to any covering for the human body that is worn. The wearing of clothing is exclusively a human characteristic and is a feature of nearly all human societies (Wikipedia, 2010). Esiowu and Igbo (2008) informs that clothing is a major aspect of personal appearance that often bears cultural shared meaning. It includes features as dresses, accessories, hair do, make ups, handbags, shoes etc.

Arubayi and Obandike (2011) informs that the essence of clothing curriculum right from senior secondary school is to teach students how to strategically plan, use available resources within the environment to improve the home, family and societal clothing needs. At the tertiary level, Arubayi (2009) said it is characterized by numerous activities and is skills oriented. Osiefo (2004) averred that clothing design and construction curriculum provides students with apprenticeship in clothing, textiles and fashion which if properly learnt, will equip the student with strategies for earning income in the future.

From the foregoing, it is clear that clothing design and construction education in tertiary institutions aims to prepare the students not just for the home or the class but also to enable them get jobs in the industrial sector or to stand on their own in entrepreneurship. It has however been observed that graduates of Home Science and Management rarely display adequate professionalism or specialization especially in clothing entrepreneurship (Olugbamigbe, 2009). This is an indication that clothing design and construction as an area of specialty has challenges against it. In line with the above, Lemchi (2001) noted that some students have no interest in the subject. Kembe (2008) observed that clothing design and construction is generally viewed by students as the mathematics of Home Science and Management. Arubayi (2003) has identified some issues challenging the successful learning of clothing design and construction. Some of these include: students attitudes, teachers quality/quantity, instructional materials and curriculum

Objective of the paper

The major objective of this study is to bring out the challenges of clothing design and construction among students of tertiary institutions in Benue state with a view to evolving strategies to meet the challenges. The specific objectives are to

- i. highlight the importance of clothing design and construction as an important area in Home Science.
- ii. highlight fundamental challenges of clothing design and construction among students in tertiary institutions in Benue State.
- iii. document career opportunities for clothing graduates.

Clothing design

Clothing design is the art of the application of design and aesthetics or natural beauty to clothing and accessories. It aims at producing clothing which is functional as well as aesthetically pleasing. Kelvin (2009) revealed that clothing design involves conceptualizing, drawing/sketching, Pattern drafting/marking. Design ideas may come from different sources such as natural objects, photographs and concepts of other designers. Clothing design makes use of lines (horizontal, vertical and curve) and space to produce clothing forms on papers that could fit different shapes of people (Kawamara, 2005). The silhouette of a cloth is made up of structural lines that specify the boundaries accessories like flowers, ruffles and trims. Structural and decorative lines combine in perfect harmony to give a particular cloth its particular look. The silhouette of a cloth many consist of only one piece like a dress or two pieces like shirt and trouser and blouse and skirt (Steele, 2005). The design of clothing involves different components which differentiate one from another. These include: the bodice, the sleeve, type of neckline, the pattern, colour and overall silhouette.

Design of clothing is influenced by some factors. These include; purpose for which the clothing is made, colour and texture of the fabric, the silhouette desired, centre of interest and the application of principles of design. Kalvin (2009) averred that the expressive content of clothing design is a function of how the principles of design which include: rhythm, emphasis, proportions, balance and unity are applied. Design in clothing can take one of the following ways: design ideas are sketch on paper or fabric is drape on a dress form. The computer could also be used with appropriate software but the translation of the design to the fabric is the ultimate phase in clothing construction.

The importance of clothing design and construction are summarized thus: clothing design and construction gives the expressive content of clothing, Design helps the clothing constructor to achieve perfect fit in construction, Clothing design and construction helps to bring out functional and aesthetic qualities of clothing (Pepin, 2010).

Career opportunities for clothing design and construction graduates

Graduates in clothing have very wide career opportunities. They can be employed in garment construction companies (industries), they can also be employed with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like the United Nations High Commission for refugees. They can further work as lecturers, in the universities and other tertiary institutions as well as teaching in secondary schools, clothing graduates can become research fellows/officers in research institutes; they can work in extension and consultancy capacity. Graduates can also be self employed

Clothing as a discipline of entrepreneurship also holds so much promise for clothing graduates. Scott (2003) defines entrepreneurship 'as the act or art of undertaking innovations, finance and acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods. This may result into a new organization or revitalization of a matured organization'. Hisrich and Peter (2002) sees entrepreneurship as accepting the risk of starting and running businesses. From the preceding definitions, entrepreneurship can be deduced to mean turning identified business opportunities to actual goods and services that fulfills a need through organizing, management and risk taking of a business or enterprise.

Clothing graduates can go into design of clothing and fashion range. They can specialize in one particular area, for example, sportswear, uniforms, children wear among others. They may also be involved in the marketing of clothing and clothing accessories. Another avenue for the expression of entrepreneurship for clothing graduates exists in the pattern world. The clothing specialist can establish a commercial pattern out fit to produce pattern and can also do fashion journalism.

Challenges of clothing design and construction course

Lack of appropriate tools and equipment: Clothing design and construction as an area of study requires the availability of certain tools and equipment. Some of the tools include sewing machines, good and appropriate tables, pressing irons among other equipment. One of the greatest challenges of the study of clothing design and construction in tertiary institutions in Benue State is lack of appropriate tool and equipment.

Ityoban (2004) and Orkpe (2004) identified lack of tables and chairs for clothing, inadequate sewing machines and pressing irons for clothing laboratories in the state tertiary institutions. The absence of such tools and equipment therefore hampers effective practical learning of students. There is no gain saying that an effective practical class is necessary for effective teaching and learning in clothing design and construction.

Lack of aptitude and interest: Another challenge of clothing design and construction is the absence of aptitude and interest of the students. Kembe (2008) noted that clothing design and construction is generally viewed by students as the mathematics of Home Science and Management. It is generally dreaded. Pattern drafting an aspect of clothing design requires great skills and patients to get them right. The same applies to sketching of design ideas. Igbo and Iloje (2003) explained that a number of students of clothing and textile end up not deriving the fullest benefit from exposure to pattern making exercise because they lack the basic skills and by extension aptitude.

Transferring the pattern on to the fabric at the construction phase also requires patience and accuracy to obtain good fit. Most students who lack the aptitude for this are also not interested in learning the skills. They therefore perform poorly in the area.

Insufficient time in the school curriculum for clothing practical: Clothing design and construction as a field is practical intensive. However, in all the tertiary institutions, the time allotted to the practical component of clothing construction is insufficient and therefore only little can be achieved in terms of practical design and construction of clothing (Kembe, 2008)

Lack of lecturers and laboratory staff: Most tertiary institutions in the state do not have adequate manpower in terms of lecturers and laboratory staff. Ityoban (2004), Agogo (2004) and Orkpe (2004) in their report on challenges of tertiary institutions in Benue State documented that clothing and textiles lack lecturers and laboratory staff. The few that are available are therefore over loaded.

Lack of skilled knowledge by teachers and laboratory staff: Related to inadequate staff is the skilled knowledge of those teaching the courses. Some lecturers who are

teaching courses in clothing design and construction lack the skilled knowledge. This is more so as some lecturers who are not professionals in clothing are required to teach such courses because of the shortage of manpower in most of the institutions (Ityoban, 2004; Agogo, 2004; Orkpe, 2004). Moreover, some laboratory staff who are required to prepare the laboratories for practical and to guide the students in their practical sessions also lack the competence. Since you cannot give what you do not have, they are unable to deliver what is expected of them. Mallum (2003) also listed lack of skilled researchers as a problem in clothing.

Space and work tables: Clothing laboratories in most of the institutions are not large enough to accommodate the number of students for clothing practical. This leads to overcrowding thereby affecting the space and worktables adversely. Inadequate curriculum matter for adequate knowledge in clothing: Clothing is a dynamic field which is affected by technological development and other environmental factors. The curriculum of tertiary institutions has however remained largely same over time, despite advances in clothing and textile technology. Bye (2010) revealed that issues of functional garments for military, protective gowns for various professionals (medical, security, army and others), well fitted garments and other performance based apparels are attaining front banners. However, in all the institutions, the curriculum does not provide for the teaching of functional clothing. Furthermore, the curriculum does not cover technical textiles. A clothing designer is nevertheless expected to be a team player with vast skills (Roth, 1999).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper took a look at the challenges of clothing design and construction among students of tertiary institutions in Benue state. The paper enumerated career opportunities for clothing design and construction graduates to include: employment in clothing construction companies, non government organizations, teaching, lecturing and self employment. The challenges are: lack of appropriate tools and equipment, lack of aptitude and interest on the part of students, insufficient time in the school curriculum for clothing practical and lack of staff.

It is necessary for the students to be well informed of the importance of clothing design and construction in Home Science and Management as well as to tackle the challenges facing the students in their task of studying clothing design and construction to enable them graduate and take up the career opportunities in clothing. This paper has recommended way of solving these problems.

Based on the conclusion therefore, the paper recommends that:

For the students to know the importance of clothing design and construction,

1. Each department of Home Science and management should counsel students of clothing on the importance of clothing design and construction.
2. Heads of department of Home Science and Management should in partnership with departmental associations use students week to get successful clothing specialists to educate the students on the importance of clothing design and construction. As regards the challenges of clothing design and construction,
3. Students of clothing should partner with their department to acquire the appropriate tools and equipment for use in clothing design and construction.
4. Time allotted to clothing practical should be reviewed upwards to enable students do more practical.
5. Proprietors of institutions should employ more staff in clothing. Further a comprehensive training programme should be mounted to enable staff acquire skills.
6. The management of the various institutions and other stakeholders to provide standard clothing laboratories.
7. The curriculum of clothing should be reviewed to accommodate recent developments in the field.
8. On documentation of career opportunities for clothing graduates, the department in each institution should incorporate career opportunities opened to graduates of clothing in their hand books for students.

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COUNTERFEITING OF CARE LABEL IN MADE IN NIGERIA GARMENTS:
IMPLICATION FOR CLOTHING CONSUMERS
AND HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the counterfeiting of care label in made in Nigeria garments and the implication for clothing consumers and Home Economics Education. Two research questions were answered. Area of study was University of Benin, in Edo State. The population of the study was made up of all 9281 students in three faculties – Education, Social Sciences, and Pure Sciences. The study employed a descriptive research design method. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Mean, standard deviation and t-test were used in data analysis. Results showed that garments sold in Nigerian markets are sewn in Nigeria but have foreign care labels affixed unto them by local garment manufacturers, who had no knowledge of fibers, fabrics, their characteristics and care. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the ill of counterfeiters should be taught in Home economics classes, laws should be enacted to curb care label counterfeiting, and counterfeit care labels should be sized and burnt.

Key words: Counterfeit, care label, clothing consumers, Home Economics, garment.

INTRODUCTION

A care label is a tag affixed on garments giving instructions on how to clean safely and save consumers time and money. If the instructions on the care label are followed, good results such as durability of the garments are expected, but if ignored, the garments get ruined. Paula and Ashrat (2013) stated that care label symbols are guides provided for ease care of clothing. The care label symbols consist of washing, dry cleaning, bleaching, drying and ironing instructions. Clothing consumers usually look out for care labels on garments when shopping, because, it helps them to care for their garments. Brody and Marsh (2010) agreed that the care label often are deciding factor when consumers shop for clothing. While some are looking for the convenience of dry-cleaning, others prefer the economy of buying garments they can wash. Some manufacturers therefore, try to reach both markets with garments that can be cleaned by either method. The rule allows manufacturers to provide more than one set of care instructions, if they have reasonable basis for each instruction. The worry and question however, is that many Nigerian garment manufacturers do not seem to understand fabrics, their identifications, characteristics, or the interpretation of care label symbols. How then do they know what care label to affix on what garment? Reports and complaints from clothing consumers in Nigeria, abounds. The complaints are that of running colours into garments when dipped into water, quick wear-off of garments and shrinkage of garment when washed or dry cleaned, despite the care labels of reputable such- Marks and Spenser, Giant, Blacker, Jake among others affixed to the garments. These complaints confirm the worry and shows that the foreign care label affixed on made in Nigeria garments may be counterfeit.

The care label usually contains the name of fabrics, and washing symbols instructions suitable for each fabric. In the care label, the percentage content of the fabric used for a particular garment is stated. For example the care label states if the fabric is 100% cotton, wool, silk, linen or mixed fabric - 40% cotton and 60% polyester. The care label becomes useful if the user is conversant with fabrics, their origins and characteristics. Each fabric has its characteristics and reactions to heat, moist, damp and wet conditions, and should be cared for following its characteristics. For example, cottons are stronger when wet than dry, so can be boiled and bleached, silks are weaker when wet, so should not be scrubbed and should be drip dried, bleach destroys wools, bleach should not be applied therefore when washing. International fabricare Institute (2005), agreed that the care label rule includes a glossary of terms which states that – dry cleaning process may include moist added to the fluid, hot tumble drying (to 160°F), and pressing by steam finishing. The Federal Commission (2010) adopted its care labeling rule concerning textile clothing and certain piece of goods, under the provision of care label, prohibiting manufacturers or importers from being unfair, omitting or incorrectly furnishing care label instructions that are deceptive. Despite the warning on descriptive use of care labels by the Federal Trade Commission (2010), the use of counterfeit care label appears soars in Nigeria.

The Counterfeiting of care label has had a significant impact in global economy in recent years. Fake labels on shoes, watches, purses and apparels are everywhere and more consumers are purchasing them more than ever before (International Trademark Association, 2013). Many products are vulnerable to counterfeiting, including softwares, music CDs, DVDs, sport equipment, auto and mechanical parts, apparels and accessories (Casabona and Chabbott, 2007). The affixation of counterfeit care label in made in Nigeria garments to give a foreign feel and look is deceptive. This has arisen because many of the consumers do not know the difference between counterfeit and genuine care labels. According to The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2009) in deceptive counterfeiting cases, consumers are unaware the product is fake and believe that they are purchasing an authentic item. Thus, these consumers are defrauded through misrepresentation. The Organization for Economic and Development (2009) continued that this type of counterfeiting is more relevant in electronic products areas such as electronics parts, auto parts, in which product attributes can be hidden, than in the fashion industry. If this be the case, it then means that many Nigerian apparel consumers do not have good knowledge about fibers, fabrics, their characteristics, and how to care for them, hence they ignorantly purchase garments with counterfeit care label affixed on them.

The International Anti-counterfeiting Coalition (2005) stated that selling counterfeit products has become a major problem in the world at large and many consumers do not know the difference between the original and the counterfeit. The IACC (2005) added that counterfeiting is a problem that has grown over hundred thousand percent in the past two decades. IACC concluded that counterfeiters are hardened criminals, exploiting consumers. Cheek and Easterling (2008) noted that counterfeiting is big business. It can be very lucrative for producers and sellers with generous profit margin and low risks of prosecution. It has been observed that some individuals in Nigeria major markets sell bales of foreign carelabel. Local manufactures of garment / textiles adapt the “knock off” method of pattern drafting to produce garments in mass, selections from the bales of foreign care labels are then done and affixed randomly on the garments to give a foreign look.

The “knock off” pattern drafting method, is the method whereby a garment is bought and the original seams are ripped off, the garment parts are thoroughly ironed, laid out, and reproduced in their thousands and millions, and seams transferred and recoupled. Care label are then fixed to make the garment appear like imported garments. The major problem however is that since the care label do not often match with the fabrics characteristics and how to care for them, the garments quickly fade, tear and wear out, leaving the consumers on the losing end. Selmer (2008) and Sciacca (2006) stated that using “knock off” pattern method to imitate original is like taking a design from the original company without their permission, which means stealing artistic property and infringing on copyrights. International Trademark Association (2013) stated that counterfeit consumer products have a reputation for being low quality. The International report on the Havocscope Counterfeit and Piracy Market by Products (2010) shows that in a detailed breakdown of the counterfeit goods industry, the total loss faced by countries around the world is \$600 billion, with the united States facing the most economic impact. Nigeria is not left out in the economic impacts. According to Magnitude of Counterfeiting and Piracy of Tangible Products (2010), when calculating counterfeit products, current estimates place the global loses at \$400 billion. At present, this type of coping is not illegal in Nigeria. Both terms – knock-offs and style or design piracy is mentioned in this study for clarification purposes, they are not the focus of this article. However consumers must understand that counterfeiting of any sort is illegal and so must take responsibility not to fall a victim. Casabona and Chabbott (2007) stated that consumers should be aware that sales of counterfeit products are illegal. Furthermore, IACC (2005) stressed that counterfeiting of apparel goods is illegal and has been linked to organized crime, unfair competition to legitimate businesses, and defrauding of consumers.

Counterfeiting is a means to imitate something. Counterfeiting is to imitate fraudulently. Counterfeit products are fake replicas of the real product. According to Anti-Counterfeiting Hologram Manufacturers Association (2012), counterfeit products are often produced with intent to take advantage of the superior value of the imitated product. In agreement, Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau (1997) stated that the word counterfeit frequently describe both the forgeries of currency and documents, as well as the imitations of works of arts, toys, clothing, software, watches, electronics, handbags and shoes. Counterfeit products have fake company logos, brands and care label (International Authentication Association, 2012). Also, Ha and Lennon (2007) and Fianu and Aryee-atta (2008) defines counterfeit goods as reproductions that appear identical to legitimate products in appearance, including packaging, trademarks, and labeling. The worry is that many Nigerian clothing consumers seem not to have good knowledge of fabrics and care labels, so counterfeiters take advantage of them, by fixing counterfeit care labels. Consumers are persons who buy goods or use goods (Government National Consumer Protection, 2007). Clothing consumers are persons who buy and wear clothing items such as garments. Garments are textiles sown into different styles to cover body. The College of Agricultural Science Cooperation Extension (2012) states that under the rule, garments are articles of clothing made from textile products that is customarily used to cover or protect any part of the body. In some culture, clothing/garments may be used to indicate rank and status, social group pressure, ethnicity, nationality, occupation, or certain roles (Travis, 2003). Clothes /garments are made from natural fibers ranging from wool, cotton, silk, linen and man-made (synthetic) fibers such as viscose, modal, nylon, polyester, elastane (Aldrich, 2007). Fibers are in the raw state, which are turned to fabrics by textile manufacture, textile designer/ tailors, buys the fabrics and produce different garments. Fibers, fabrics, textiles, garment production and the use of care labels and care of garments are taught in Home Economics education. Home Economics Education is about students learning how to become independent, how to connect with others, and how to take action towards futures that support individual and family wellbeing. Students bring together practical and cognitive capabilities and address increasingly complex challenges related to everyday living- for example counterfeiting of care labels in made in Nigeria garments, implication for clothing consumers and Home economics Education becomes relevant to the family and the community at large hence the study.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the counterfeiting of care label in made in Nigeria garments, implication for clothing consumers and Home Economics Education. Specifically, the study determined:

- i. the consumers' preference of made in Nigeria garments.
- ii. the effects of counterfeiting of care label on made garments.

Research questions:

- 1. To what extent do Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments?
- 2. What are the effects of counterfeit care label on made in Nigeria garments?

Research hypothesis

H0: There is no significance difference between the opinions of clothing consumers and Home Economics Education students on the care label affixed on imported garments and those affixed on made in Nigeria garments.

METHODOLOGY

Area of the study: The study was carried out in University of Benin, Benin city, situated in Egor Local Government Area in Edo State.

Design: This study adopted a descriptive survey design. The descriptive design gives clear picture of a situation or a population Osuala (2005), explains that this type of research design specifies the nature of the phenomena. Ali (1996) agreed that descriptive surveys are mainly concerned with describing events is being observed.

Population of the study: The population of the study consisted of all the 30159 students in University of Benin, Benin City. Physical and academic planning (2013)

Sample of the study: In order to achieve the sample for the study, three different faculties from University of Benin – Education, Social Sciences, and pure Sciences were purposively selected and used as sampling units for the study. From Faculty of Education, all the 100 students in home Economics Education were purposively selected and used for the study, because of they are usually few. From the faculties of Social sciences and pure sciences, the ballot system technique was used to select 100 students each from each of the two faculties. A total of 300 students were used as the sample for the study.

Instrument for data collection and analysis: The instrument for data collection was a researcher designed questionnaire. It was a 4 – point Likert instrument with Strongly Agree 4, Agree 3, disagree 2 and Strongly Disagree 1 respectively. The instrument was divided into sections A and B. Section A, sought for the extent to which Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments, while section B elicited information on variables of effects of counterfeit care labels on garments to consumers in Nigeria. The instrument was subjected to face validity among three experts, in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, in University of Benin, Benin City. This instrument was trial – tested with 20 Home Economics students in college of Education, Ekiadolor Benin City. The result of the test was used for the reliability through Cronbach alpha, and it yielded an index of 0.79. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for research questions while t-test statistic was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The cut-off point was 3.50. This means that any response with a mean 3.50 or above was regarded as agree upon and thus was accepted while all items with mean below 3.49 was regarded as negative response and thus was rejected. Mean above the t was accepted as significant while any below the t rejected as not significant.

RESULTS

Table I: Mean responses of respondents on guidelines on factors that determine the extent to which Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments (N=300)

S/N	Items on factors that determine the made in Nigeria garments	Mean	SD	decision preference of
	Personal choice 1 I would feel guilty if didn't buy made in Nigeria clothing 2.50 1.40 rejected 2 As much as possible I avoid buying made in Nigeria clothing 2.95 1.57 rejected 3 I do not like the idea of owing made in Nigeria clothing 2.05 1.23 rejected 4 Whenever possible I would prefer to buy made in Nigeria clothing 3.20 1.15 rejected			
	Culture 5 To uphold my culture I feel obliged to always buy made in Nigeria clothing 3.00 1.17 rejected 6 I always tend to buy Nigeria clothing because I love my country 3.55 1.00 accepted 7 I promote the image of my country when I buy made in Nigeria clothing 3.80 1.24 accepted			
	Status 8 I am ready to pay more money for a made in Nigeria clothing 3.05 1.47 rejected			
	9 I feel people respect me more when I wear a made Nigeria clothing 2.10 1.07 rejected 10 I always tend to buy Nigeria clothing to support and show the National identity 3.51 1.12 accepted			

The findings in Table I, revealed that respondents in items 1(2.50), 2(2.95), 3(2.05), 4(3.20), 5(3.00), 8(3.05), and 9(2.10), with mean response that all fell below 3.50, did not agree with the stated guidelines for factors that determine the extent to which Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments . The respondents agreed with the stated guidelines for the extent of preference of made in Nigeria garments in rest items -7(3.80), and 10(3.51) mean responses, which are all above 3.50

Table II: Analysis of the mean responses of respondents on the guidelines on the effects of counterfeit care labels on made in Nigeria garments. (N=300)

S/N	Item statement	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Counterfeit goods do not last	4.29	1.06	accepted
2	I get put off by counterfeit goods	3.50	1.41	accepted
3	Counterfeit goods do not give the value of money used in buying it	4.05	1.39	accepted
4	Counterfeit goods give Nigeria a bad image	3.74	1.45	accepted
5	The garments sold in Nigeria markets are sewn in Nigeria but have labels with foreign names and care instructions	3.39	1.30	accepted
6	The names of fabrics on care labels in garment in Nigeria market do not tally with the actual fabric	3.51	1.18	accepted
7	Use of counterfeit care labels in laundry can affect the appearance of the clothes	3.52	1.30	accepted
8	Some care labels found on clothes which are thought to be care labels are actually not, because they contain just the manufacturers name and office	4.22	0.97	accepted

The findings in Table II showed that all the respondents in items 1-8, with the mean responses 3.50 accepted that counterfeit care labels had negative effect on made in Nigeria garments.

Table III: T-test for comparing difference between care labels affixed on clothing made in Nigeria and imported garments

Care labels affixed on clothes	N	Mean	SD	t	P	Remark
Imported garments						
Clothing Consumers	200	4.33	.54	-1.269	.789	accept
Home Economics Students	100	4.47	.55			
Made in Nigeria garments						
Clothing consumers	200	4.27	.82	-.049	.961	accept
Home Economics Students	100	4.28	.85			

Table III showed that there was no significant difference in the mean responses of clothing consumers and Home economics students opinions on the care labels affixed on clothing made in Nigeria and imported garments .They had significance levels above 05. Therefore the null hypothesis was upheld for responses of clothing consumers and Home Economics Education students.

Discussion of the findings

The findings of the study in Table I revealed that 7 factors for determining the extent to which Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments were rejected by the respondents. The findings showed that many of the factors for determining the preference extent of made in Nigeria garments recorded low mean repose below (3.50). This is clear

indication points to the fact that the determinant factors outlined in this study were not considered very important factors to determine preference of made in Nigeria garments by Nigerians. This findings agrees with International trademark Association (2013), who stated that counterfeit consumer products have a reputation of being low quality. In agreement, Anti-Counterfeit Hologram Association (2012) stated that counterfeit products are often produced with intent to take advantage of the superior value of the imitation products. The findings in Table I, also showed that only two of all the factors for determine extent to which Nigerians prefer made in Nigeria garments, was accepted. This shows generally that respondents do not like buying made in Nigeria garment but do occasionally just to promote, support the image of Nigeria, and show national identity. This is in line with (Travis, 2003), who stated that in some culture, clothing/garments may be used to indicate rank and status, social group pressure, ethnicity, nationality, organization or certain role.

The findings of the study in Table II revealed that 8 effects of counterfeit care labels on Made in Nigeria garments were accepted by the respondents. The findings showed that, many of the effects of counterfeit care labels on made in Nigeria garments, recorded high mean responses above (3.50) and (4.00). This clear indication, points to the facts that the effects of counterfeit care labels has on made in Nigeria garments are considered clear and important. This findings agrees with The International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition (2005), who stated that selling counterfeit products has become a major problem in the world at large and many consumers do not know the difference between the original and the counterfeit. Fianu and Aryee-Atta, (2008) also agreed that many consumers have little or no idea about what care label is all about, so counterfeiters take advantage of them, by fixing counterfeit care labels. Table 3, showed that the there was no significant difference in the mean response of clothing consumers and Home Economics Education students on the care label affixed on garments made in Nigeria and the imported garment. The mean responses had values above the alpha level of 0.05; therefore the null hypothesis which there is no significant difference in the mean responses of clothing consumers and Home Economics students on care labels affixed on garments made in Nigeria and imported garments was accepted.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that care labels are fixed on garments. Care label carry instructions and symbols on how to care for garments. The study revealed however that counterfeit care label is used by ignorant manufacturers who not have good knowledge about fibers, fabrics, their characteristics, nor how to care for them. The use of counterfeit care labels ruin garments. Many clothing consumers complain of how quickly their garments wear out and this has a negative impact on consumers who do not also know the difference between fake and authentic items. The use of counterfeit care labels is descriptive. Laws should be enacted to curb counterfeiting of care label in Nigeria.

Implication for Home Economics Education and clothing consumers

The findings of this study have a far reaching implication of creating awareness of the effects of countering of Care label in made in Nigeria garments on clothing consumers and Home Economics Education students in University of Benin. The findings will help Home Economics students and teachers in Nigeria to teach their students about fabrics, their characteristics, and how to care for them, following the instructions of the appropriate care label. Further, the findings have implications for clothing consumers who do not understand that different fabrics react to heat, wet, moist conditions when washing. The right care labels must be affixed on the correct garment to care for them. Finally, the findings will prompt clothing consumers to seek education on fabrics and care labels.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study, it was recommended that:

- 1. Home Economics teachers should teach their students and consumers more about fibers, fabrics, their characteristics and their care.
- 2. The use of Care label should be taught to consumers
- 3. The ills of counterfeiting should be taught in home economics classes.
- 4. Laws should be enacted to curb counterfeiting of care label in Nigeria.
- 5. All counterfeit care labels in Nigeria market should be confiscated and burnt.

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NUTRITIONAL COMPONENTS OF MALE AND FEMALE BLUE CRAB
(CALLINECTES LATIMANUS) FROM MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

The study determined the proximate composition, iron, zinc and vitamin A contents of parts (cheliped, meat and leg) of blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) from marine environment. Six samples of crab (3 males and 3 females) were collected from Ibeno, marine environment. They were oven dried for content weight and the parts (cheliped, meat and leg) were separated, thereafter they were ground to powder according to type for determination of proximate composition, iron, zinc and vitamin A using standard methods. All assays were performed in triplicate. Data collected were statistically analysed using independent T-test to test for significance differences between means ($P < 0.05$) of the two types. From the result the leg parts, cheliped and meat of male had significance differences when compared to its female counterparts ($P > 0.05$) in protein, iron, zinc and vitamin A, while there was no significance in the values of fat and zinc of the leg part of male and female blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) ($P > 0.05$). However, the study shows that the parts (Cheliped, meat and leg) of male and female blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) are rich sources of protein, iron, zinc and Vitamin A. These findings therefore, suggest the substitution of local scarce expensive fish with edible available and affordable blue crab (male and female) for preparation of dishes in homes, restaurants and hotels.

Key words: Blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) proximate composition, vitamin A, iron and zinc.

INTRODUCTION

The food habits and dietary patterns of a community are often closely related to its ecological zone. Although most dietary energy comes from staple, most developing countries are still struggling with how to add meat, fishes and meat products, to their diets because of the cost and scarcity. This affirmed a report that only 3% of dietary consumption in most developing countries is meat and products (FAO, 2007).

Families that rely on fishing for their sustenance and livelihood are facing poverty and food insecurity including fish, as bounties from the oceans are depleted the world over. The overexploitation of natural fish stocks and severe degradation of marine and coastal environments has suddenly changed fish resources once thought to be unlimited gifts of nature to be limited and now just for consumption of the rich (Wilson, 2011). Furthermore, as fish (has) become increasingly scarce, countries have established 200-mile fishing limits off their access to fish on the continental shelf in most of the world. Even some countries have further created licensing and quota restrictions (IFPRI, 2011).

The present recurrent food insecurity of fish due to its very expensive cost has prompted the need to look for other aquatic resources to provide protein and maintain good health in most developing countries like Nigeria with special reference to Akwa Ibom State, where fish constitute the major source of protein for the people because of its riverine nature. This therefore, suggests why the choice of blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) (male and female) may be an alternative protein sources for consumers in Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria

Blue crab, sometimes artificially cultured in large scale in some Asian countries for its unique edible value, has large and powerful claws used for gathering food, defense, digging and sexual displays (Plotruck, 1985). Male blue crabs can be distinguished from females by the shape of the abdomen. The male has a T-shaped abdomen which is held tightly against the body until maturity while the female blue crab has a triangle-shaped abdomen which is tightly sealed against the body, however, on maturity, the female's abdomen becomes rounded and can easily pull away from the body after the final molt. Large males usually have brilliant blue claws and legs. The mature female can be distinguished by the bright orange tips on their claws. Male typically grow larger than females sometimes reaching seven or ten inches in length (Archsmbault *et al.*, 1990). Despite its fearsome appearance and aggressive nature, blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) is greatly cherished for consumption by some people in some developing countries. Blue crab otherwise referred to as portunid crab (*Callinectes* spp) is found in marine and brackish waters. They are classified into the Phylum, Anthropoda, Class Crustacean, subclass Malacostraca, order Decapoda, Suborder, Pleoxyemata and the family, Portunidae. It is also found in estuarine waters and relatively protected inshore marine waters, occurring from shallow intertidal depth to least 50 meters (Udoh, Holzlohner and Ekanem, 2002).

The blue crab (*Callinectes* spp) belongs to a large group of decapods, crustaceans, having a crust shell, ten-legged and two sharp teeth on the forehead. On maturity, the cheliped is developed and its meat is shuttle –shape. The fourth pair of pereopods is like oars and its carpopodit is wide and short. The dactylopodit is sub-shaed and each joint edge has short hairs for swimming. The male body is deep purple because of its unique edible valve. The swimming crab has been artificially cultured on a large scale and it is processed in some developed countries like China (Millikin and Williams, 2004).

However and notwithstanding the edibleness of blue crab to some poor communities in developing countries, its nutrient potentials can be affected by the waters as its habitat and its level of maturity (Aiyin, 2008). Thus, there is need to determine the nutrient composition of blue crab found in marine environment since such may possibly spur the consumption of this low cost food stuff. The nutrient potential of this crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) will also provide information that will encourage homes and industries to explore avenues to introduce this low cost food stuff to dishes, convenience foods and complementary foods. Objective of the study: to determine the nutrient potentials of parts (cheliped, meat and leg) of male and female blue crab (*Callinectstes latimanus*) from marine environment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of samples

Six samples of blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) were collected from marine water off the central Atlantic Ocean landing, Ibeno. The samples were three males and three females. The samples were oven dried for content weight samples (males and females blue crabs parts (cheliped, meat and legs) were separated, ground to powder according to sex for the determination of proximate composition and estimation of vitamin A, iron and zinc.

Chemical analysis of samples

The proximate composition was determined using the standard assay methods of AOAC (2005). Residual moisture was done by hot air oven method (Polacchi, 1985) and protein was determined by the Microkjeldahl methods using 6.25 as a Nitrogen conversion factor (Method No. 960.39). Fat and ash content were determined by Soxhlet extraction method No.960 and dry ashing methods respectively. Carbohydrate was determined by differences. Iron and zinc were determined by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (Model 30 Perkin – Exmer, Norwelk, USA (Method 9824.21 and 986.24). Vitamin A was determined using the method adopted from IVAGG (1982). All assays were performed in triplicate.

Statistical analysis

Data collected were statistically analyzed using T – test to separate the means (P< 0.05)(Obi, 1991).

RESULT

Table I: Differences in the nutrient composition of the cheliped of male and female blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*)(mg/100g)

Moisture		N		Mean		SD		Df		t-value	Sig (2-tailed)
Male		3		2.80	0.10	4	-3.46			0.02*	
Female	3		3.0		0.00						
Protein											
Male		3		34.55		0.01	4			1.44	0.0*
Female	3		22.74		0.01						
Fat											
Male		3		0.560	0.01	4	8.57			0.0*	
Female	3		0.490		0.01						
Ash											
Male		3		39.10		0.10	4	41.44			0.0*
Female	3		36.70		0.005						
Fibre											
Male		3		21.12		0.01	4	202.08			0.00*
Female	3		19.47		0.01						
Carbohydrate											
Male		3		18.70		0.23	4	-118.172			0.00*
Female	3		17.59		0.02						
Vitamin A											
Male		3		12.11		0.01	4	-3.55			0.00*
Female	3		15.00		0.01						
Iron											
Male		3		98.64		0.01	4	4.06			0.00*
Female	3		65.47		0.01						
Zinc											
Male		3		22.67		0.010	4	1.06			0.00*
Female	3		14.01		0.010						

Source: Computed from Experimental Survey, 2012

* Significant at P<0.05.

The result in Table I shows Independent T-test of the nutrient differences of the blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) cheliped part by sex. From the result, male blue crab cheliped part had significance difference when compared to its counterpart (female blue crab cheliped) in moisture, protein, fat, ash fibre, carbohydrate, vitamin A, iron and zinc values ($P<0.05$). From the result male cheliped blue crab was richer in protein (34.550 Vs 22.740%), ash (39.100 Vs 36.703%), fibre (21.120 Vs 19.470%), iron (98.64 Vs 65.47mg/100g) and zinc (22.67 Vs 14.07mg/g) than its female counterpart. However, the female cheliped blue crab was richer in vitamin A and carbohydrate (15.009 Vs 12.111) and (17.596 Vs 1.870%) respectively. The observation showed that chelipeds of both male and female are rich in nutrients e.g. protein, iron, zinc and vitamin A.

Table II: Independent T-test of the nutrient differences of the blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) meat part by type

		N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value	Sig (2-tailed)	
Moisture								
Male	3	3	14.50		0.10	4	12.92	0.000*
Female	3		7.0	1.0				
Protein								
Male	3	3	60.35		0.15	4	1.16	0.000*
Female	3		48.11	0.01				
Fat								
Male	3	3	10.40		0.10	4	-20.82	0.000*
Female	3		0.49	0.10				
Ash								
Male	3	3	10.80		0.005	4	105.50	0.000*
Female	3		11.51	0.01				
Fibre								
Male	3	3	2.10		0.10	4	-9.99	0.001*
Female	3		19.47	0.01				
Carbohydrate								
Male	3	3	1.84		0.31	4	-30.80	0.000*
Female	3		18.60	0.89				
Vitamin A								
Male	3	3	26.20		0.001	4	-7.15	0.000*
Female	3		32.05	0.01				
Iron								
Male	3	3	53.43		1.15	4	-62.59	0.000*
Female	3		95.17	0.001				
Zinc								
Male	3	3	21.23	0.001	4	8.58		0.000*
Female	3		14.22	0.001				

Source: Computed from Experimental Survey, 2012
*Significant at $p<0.05$ level of significance

Table II shows Independent T-test of the nutrient differences of the blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) meat by sex. From the result there was significance difference in the values of male and female meat of blue crab in moisture, protein, fibre, carbohydrate, vitamin A, iron and zinc ($P<0.05$). This observations the result showed that the male and female meat of the blue crab were rich in protein, fat, ash, carbohydrate, vitamin A, iron and zinc.

Table III: Independent T-test of the nutrient differences of the blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) leg part by sex.

		N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value	sig (2-tailed)	
Moisture								
Male	3	3	4.43	1.00	2.93	4	-3.62	0.02*
female		13.0						
Protein								
Male	3	3	38.78	0.01	13.88	4	-0.72	0.50
Female		44.61						
Fat								
Male	3	3	0.44	0.05 0.01	4	2.57		0.062
Female		0.49						
Ash								
Male	3	3	30.26	0.02	5.57	4	1.91	0.13
Female		24.10						
Fibre								
Male	3	3	15.22	0.01	3.66	4	1.94	0.12
Female		11.12						
Carbohydrate								
Male	3	3	8.84	0.97	7.56	4	0.46	0.66
Female		6.81						
Vitamin A								
Male	3	3	9.01	0.001	5.19	4	0.76	0.48
Female		6.71						
Iron								
Male	3	3	67.78	2.0 0.005	4		-2.49	.67
Female		70.66						
Zinc								
Male	3	3	9.58	0.0	3.84	4	0.12	0.90
Female		9.30						

Source: Computed from Experimental Survey, 2012;
*Significant at $P>0.05$ level of significance

Table III presents Independent T-test of the nutrient differences of the blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) leg part by sex. From the result there was no significance differences between means of the male and female blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) leg part in fat and zinc ($P>0.05$). Significance differences was shown in the mean values of male and female blue crab leg part of moisture, protein, ash, fibre, carbohydrate and vitamin A (30.266%, 15.233%, 8.843% and 9.010mg/g respectively). However, the female blue crab leg part sample was richer than the male blue crab leg part sample in moisture (13.0 Vs 6.433%), protein (44.610 Vs 38.7832) and iron (70.66 Vs 67.785mg/g)..

Discussion

From the result, the parts (Chelliped, meat and leg) of male and female blue crab (*Callinectes latimanus*) in marine environment are very rich in protein, iron, zinc and vitamin A. It therefore shows that blue crab can be used to alleviate protein and micronutrient malnutrition which is causing a great deal of human suffering in developing countries (Nnam and Udofia, 2010). This further shows that blue crab will promote physical and intellectual productive children, who may not suffer from chronic illness and disability (Udofia, 2009). Which means consumption of blue crab in developing countries with special references to Nigeria and in particular Akwa Ibom State because of its ecology, will invariably eradicate malnutrition. This suggests that consumption of low cost available blue crab will promote good public health and alleviate high cost of fish. Also, comparatively it was observed that although fish is an excellent source of high quality protein (65.55mg protein for Mackerel fish, 81.22mg protein for Cod atlantic, meat protein value of blue crab for male and female are 60.35 and 48.11mg, respectively, thus suggesting blue crab may sometimes be used to substitute fish protein. Furthermore, it was observed that blue crab meat had higher value of iron than that of the two species of fish already mentioned (98.64 and 65.47mg iron for male and female meat of blue crab, respectively, Vs 1.63 and 0.38mg iron for Mackerel and Cod atlantic) (Pigott, 2013).

CONCLUSION

From observation, traditional acceptable available affordable blue crab commonly measured in special cups in our local markets (*Callinectes latimanus*) (male and female) is rich in protein, fat, iron, zinc and vitamin A. This observation can further enhance the uses of edible blue crab in the preparation of dishes to substitute the scarce and expensive fish in homes, restaurants and hotels.

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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF FARM FAMILIES ON
FARM RESOURCE RECYCLING AND USAGE

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ABSTRACT

Many by-products and so called weeds in farms that have positive economic potential are under utilized by most farmers. This study therefore, assessed the knowledge and practice of farmers on farm resource recycling and usage (FRRU), and determined their attitude towards FRRU. Data were collected from 154 randomly selected farmers across Ejigbo Local Government Area of Osun State using structured interview schedule. Data were analysed with descriptive tool and hypotheses tested with correlation analysis. Results show that almost all the respondents were aware of all recyclable farm resources and 70 percent and above recycled and utilised most of the farm resources except few like the use of poultry faeces to feed fish (17.5%), use of dead animals to feed fish (16.2%) and use of cocoa and kola pods for soap making (49.4%). Respondents possessed high level of knowledge (above 93%) and neutral attitude (69.8%) towards FRRU. Farmers' socio-economic characteristics as farm income ($r = 0.34, p = 0.05$), years of farming ($r = 0.28, p = 0.05$), knowledge ($r = 0.33, p = 0.05$) and practice ($r = 0.56, p = 0.05$) of FRRU had significant relationships with their attitude towards FRRU. The study concluded that, the provision of a more conducive and encouraging environment especially by the government and other relevant organizations will have a positive multiplier effect on the practicability of FRRU. This will motivate the farmers and avail them of the real and potential benefits of FRRU towards better living, leading to poverty reduction and rural development.

Key words: attitude, recycling, resources, by-products, resource usage

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian agricultural sector at present is critically unattractive to many Nigerian youths. This is evident in their low involvement in the sector. Several field reports and personal field observations have revealed that most of the present Nigerian farmers are people well above age 40. There had also been a mass movement of Nigerian youths to urban centers where quest for instant money seem achievable. This is largely as a result of the relatively poor economic returns from productive agricultural activities in the light of our national economy over the past few years.

Viewing the sustainability of the Nigerian Agriculture as a function of how well her present farmers feel satisfied with their returns from farming activities, one may be pushed to say "Agriculture has a blinking future in Nigeria". Thus, lasting solution to issues of food security, sustainable healthy living; standard, level and cost of living problems may also not be easily achievable since about 70 per cent of Nigerians dwell in rural zones with about 90 per cent of these people reported as being directly involved in Agriculture as their core means of livelihood (National Bureau of Statistics, 2006). Would Nigerian agriculture be again able to meet the Nigerian farmers' needs? Would Nigerian farmers be capable of ensuring food security?

In the face of these low economic return complaints among farmers, the researcher observed that many economic farm resources are being underutilized among Nigerian farmers which if well managed could boost farmers' returns towards better livelihood. Many organic bye products that are unused and poorly managed are also observed to often times contribute to the environmental pollution in rural Nigeria. FAO (1999) described organic agriculture as embracing full utilization of all household and on farm organic wastes which are recycled into useful farm resources like organic manure or compost. FAO (1999) further regarded farm resource recycling as a means to organic farming and sustainable agriculture that prohibits the use of synthetic inputs and encourages efficient utilization of organic wastes. Biala (2001) reported the potential benefits of effective and efficient farm resources recycling to include waste management benefits, environmental benefits, social/community benefits and the benefits for the farmer. To the farmer, Biala (2001) described farm resource recycling as giving opportunity to generating supplementary income, making use of available machinery and infrastructure, using of "free" compost that aids savings through reduced need for external inputs as fertilizer. Bearing these potential farmer's benefits in mind, the following research questions were asked; what are the recyclable farm resources available to the farmers? What knowledge of

recycling do these farmers have? What is their attitude to recycling these farm resources?

Objective of the study

The main objective is to assess the knowledge and practice of farmers on farm resource recycling and usage. Specifically, the study identified some of the useful and recyclable farm resources; determined the farmers' knowledge and practice of recycling; and ascertained farmers' attitude to recycling these resources towards better livelihood.

Hypotheses

It was hypothesized that:

- (1) there is no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics of the farmers and their attitude towards recycling;
- (2) there is no significant relationship between knowledge, practice of farm resource recycling and their attitude to farm resource recycling and usage.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ejigbo Local Government Area of Osun state. A preliminary field survey was earlier conducted before data collection. This was helpful in fine-tuning the data collection instrument (interview schedule). A total of 11 villages were randomly selected from the lists of farming communities within the LGA. In all, 154 farmers were randomly chosen across the selected villages within the LGA. Structured interview schedule was used to obtain quantitative data among the farmers while some qualitative data were obtained using focus group discussion. The collected data were collated and described using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages. The mean and standard deviation of the attitudinal scores of the farmers were calculated and used to group the farmers into negative, neutral and positive attitudinal groups. Correlation and regression analyses were used for hypotheses testing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics

As depicted in Table I, the average age of the respondents was 55.8 years with about 78.6% of the respondents being above 40 years of age. This reveals that most youths are no longer in farming. Almost 93% of the respondents were married with the average of 27.9 years of marriage. Majority (53.9%) were Christians. Unlike the usual practice among olden day farmers, about half (48%) of the farmers were monogamous. This is probably influenced by the prevalence of Christianity in the research zone and the little touch of civilization or modernization in our rural places. With respect to number of children/dependants, the farmers have an average number of 8 people feeding under them aside themselves and their wives. Almost 67% of the respondents had less or equal to 6 years of formal education most of whom had no formal education. Only 14.3% had beyond 12 years of formal education. About 62% of the respondents said their farthest journeys were to other states within the country while about 34% reported to have travelled outside the country. Ejigbo people are found to have strong ties with Abidjan the capital city of Cote d'ivoir and this was responsible for the relatively high number of farmers who had travelled outside the country. Visit to family members (96.8%) and attending social outings (92.2%) were the major reasons that took the respondents outside their farming communities. Only 15.6% of the respondents reported that they had travelled outside their farming communities for agricultural purposes. This carefully describes the fact that most farmers depend on informal information transfer from parents and neighbours and within their immediate communities.

Socio-economic variables	F/%
Average Age	55.8years
Married respondents	92.9%
Average years of marriage	27.9years
Monogamous farmers	48%
Christian Respondents	53.9%
Average number of children	8children
Year of schooling: above 12years of schooling	14.3%
Level of schooling: below or equal to primary 6 education	66.9%
Cosmopoliteness:	
travelled to other states;	61.7%
travelled abroad	37.7%
Purpose for travelling:	
Visits to other family members	96.8%
To attend social outing	92.2%

Useful and recyclable farm resources

Data in Table II reveal that almost all respondents (96% and above) were aware of all the identified recyclables. However, it was obvious from various group discussions with the farmers that majority of the farmers only had feed and nutrient cycling awareness of the recyclables with very shallow information on energy generation option from recycling. The herbs were reported as useful for medicine and preservatives.

Table II: Distribution of respondents by awareness of some on-farm recyclable resources.

Recyclable resources on farm	Frequency	Percentage
Animal faeces	154	100
Dead animals	154	100
Plant stalks and leaves	154	100
Oil palm parts	154	100
Tuber peels	154	100
Maize Cobs	149	96.8
Wood Ashes	153	99.4
Smoke	154	100
Cocoa pods	154	100
Medicinal herbs	154	100

Knowledge and practice of farm resource recycling

Data in Table III indicate that most respondents (93.5%) possessed good knowledge of the various recycling activities. Also, respondents were actually involved in 'planting legumes to improve soil fertility' (96.8%), 'planting cover crops to prevent soil erosion' (98.1%), 'planting cover crops for soil nutrient retention' (98.1%), 'grains from farm could be stored locally' (96.1%) and 'treating body ailments locally with herbs' (99.4%). Furthermore, they were involved in using 'animal dung as manure' (65.5%), 'use every part of oil palm trees' (72.7%), 'feeding tuber peels, plantain peels and maize cobs to animals' (74.7%), and 'engaged in profitable production without the use of agrochemicals' (83.1%).

Table III: Distribution of respondents by knowledge and practice of some farm resource recycling activities.

Farm resource recycling functions	Knowledge(%)	Practice(%)
Planting legumes to improve soil fertility	99.4	96.8
Planting cover crops to prevent soil erosion	100	98.1
Planting cover crops for soil nutrient retention	99.4	98.1
Farming is possible without inorganic fertilizers	100	90.9
Animal dung is used as manure	100	65.5
Poultry feaces are useful in fish farming	98.1	17.5
Dead animals are prepared for fishes in ponds	100	16.2
Profitable production can be practiced without the use of agrochemicals	93.5	83.1
Grains from farm could be stored locally	100	96.1
Body ailments could be treated locally with herbs	100	99.4
Tuber peels, plantain peels, maize cobs could be fed to animals		100
Cocoa and kola pods are useful for making local soap	100	49.4
Every part of oil palm trees is useful	100	72.7
Source: Field survey		

However, very few of the respondents were involved in using 'poultry faeces' (17.5%) and 'dead animals (16.2%) for fishes in ponds, and in the use of cocoa and kola pods for making local soap' (49.4%). This might be because few of the respondents engaged in fish and cocoa production.

Awareness and use of medicinal herbs

Table IV describes ten medicinal herbs that are not necessarily farm wastes but are usually underutilized farm resources. It is evident in the table that virtually all the selected medicinal herbs were well recognized and the respondents aware of their medicinal values (72% and above). In addition, the respondents had high level of usage for herbs like *Cymbopogon citratus* (92.9%), *Mormodica charantia* (84.4%), *Phyllanthus niruri* (83.8%), *Morinda lucida* (81.8%), *Occimum spp* (74.7%) and *Azadirachta indica* (64.3%). Most of these often used plants were said to grow readily around rural houses and in farms and are all effectively useful for the treatment of malaria and related ailments. Farmers in the various discussion groups all described malaria as the most common ailment among farmers. The situation must have necessitated them to often use the malaria herbs. *Ajeratum conyzoides* was actually credited for skin infections and sometimes used for stopping bleeding from cuts (heamostatic herb). This high usage of herbs as medicine was also shown in their attitude towards self health management with herbs. I can adequately treat myself and my family with indigenous herbs (93.5%), indigenous medicine is always effective (90.3%).

Attitude of respondents towards farm resource recycling and usage

It could be observed in Table V that most respondents agreed to such attitudinal statement as: I can do without inorganic fertilizers (96.8%), I can store farm products without agro-chemicals (94.1%), I can adequately treat myself and my family with indigenous herbs (93.5%), indigenous medicine is always effective (90.3%), recycled nutrients are better retained in the soil and more root friendly than inorganic fertilizers (96.8%), I believe everything on farm is useful (95.4%), and recycling is cost saving (99.4%). Other attitudinal statements respondents agreed to include: integrated farming is best towards farm resource recycling (99.4%), indigenous preservatives are more user friendly (99.4%), proper recycling and effective usage of bye-products will increase my savings and level of living (96.8%), and products processing gives more room for farm resource recycling and usage (98.1%). Conversely, nearly 57 percent of the respondents disagreed that recycling stress is much greater compared with the output. These positive attitudinal responses are in line with the factual declaration of Gupta *et al.*, (1998), Biala (2001) and Rota (2010) with regards to recycling possibilities in integrated farming and income saving benefits. On the other hand respondents agreed that: effectiveness of indigenous insecticides is less compared with the agrochemical (89.9%), recycling involves more labour (98.1%), organic

Table IV: Distribution of respondents showing recognition, medicinal awareness and the level of usage of some medicinal herbs.

Botanical name	Local name	Plant family	Plant recognition	Medicinal awareness	Level of usage			
					Often(%)	Seldom(%)	Never(%)	Mean usage level
<i>Cymbopogon citrates</i>	**Koko Oba(Tea leaf)	Poaceae	100	98.7	92.9	7.1	0	1.93
<i>Morinda lucida</i>	*Oruwo	Rubiaceae	100	100	81.8	18.2	0	1.82
<i>Mormodica charantia</i>	*Ejinrin (Bitter gourd)	Cucurbitaceae	99.4	98.1	84.4	13.3	3.9	1.82
<i>Phyllantus niruri</i>	*Eyinolobe	Euphorbiaceae	98.1	96.8	83.8	12.3	3.9	1.80
<i>Occimum spp</i>	**Efinrin (Scent leaf)	Labiaceae	100	99.4	74.7	24.0	1.3	1.73
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	**Dongoyaro(Neem)	Meliaceae	100	100	64.3	35.1	0.6	1.64
<i>Ajeratum conyzoides</i>	*Ajiewu (Goat weed)	Asteraceae	97.4	94.2	33.8	48.7	11.0	1.16
<i>Anacardium occidentaleis</i>	**Cashew	Anacardiaceae	100	98.1	22.7	69.5	7.8	1.15
<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>	*Akoko(Chieftaincy leaf)	Bignoniaceae	99.4	72.7	13.3	36.4	51.3	0.61
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	**Igiepa (Indian almond)	Combretaceae	99.4	70.8	2.0	48.7	49.4	0.53

* Not consciously planted
** Consciously planted

Table V: Distribution of respondents by the responses to some attitudinal variables

Attitudinal statements	Agree(%)	Undecided(%)	Disagree (%)
I can do without inorganic fertilizers	96.8	3.3	0
I can store farm products without agro chemicals	94.1	5.8	0
I can adequately treat myself and my family with indigenous herbs	93.5	5.8	0.6
Indigenous medicine is always effective	90.3	9.7	0
Recycled nutrients are better retained and root friendly than inorganic fertilizers	78.6	17.5	3.9
I believe everything on farm is useful	95.4	2.9	0.6
Recycling is cost saving	99.4	0	0.6
Integrated farming is best towards farm resource recycling	99.4	0	0.6
Indigenous preservatives are more user friendly	99.4	0	0.6
Proper recycling and effective usage of bye-products will increase my savings and level of living	96.8	3.3	0
Products processing gives more room for farm resource recycling and usage	98.1	1.3	0.6
Recycling stress is much more greater compared with the output	11.7	31.8	56.5
Effectiveness of indigenous insecticides is less compared with the agrochemical	89.9	6.5	3.3
Recycling involves more labour	98.1	1.3	0.6
Organic farming is a slow process	73.3	19.5	6.5
Dung's usage is mainly embraced by poor farmers	32.5	23.4	44.1
Organic farming is less cost effective	37.7	37.0	25.3

Test of hypotheses

Results of correlation analysis confirmed positive and significant relationship at 0.05 level of significance between age (r = 0.27), years of marriage (r = 0.22), number of wives (r = 0.21), number of children (r = 0.26), years of farming (r = 0.28), income (r = 0.34) and attitude of respondents. This finding implies that the older the respondents, the longer the years of farming and marriage, the larger the household and the higher the income, the more favourable their attitude towards recycling of farm resources. This is logical because as farmer ages, farming experience increases, more cheap labour is available through enlarged household and consequently increased production and income hence, favourable attitude towards farm resource recycling and usage. On the other hand, hours used on non agricultural works per day (r = -0.22) had negative but significant relationship with attitude. This means that as the number of hours used on non-agricultural works decreases the more favourable the respondents' attitude. This confirms that respondents will be willing to devote more of their time to farming activities especially resource recycling that will lead to better yield and increased income. Therefore, there was significant relationship between some socio-economic characteristics of respondents and their attitude. Furthermore, knowledge (r = 0.33) and practice (r = 0.56) of farm resource recycling had positive and significant relationships with farmers' attitude towards recycling. The result thus showed that the practice of farm resource recycling had the highest correlation and percentage contribution to farmers' attitude towards recycling. Possession of sound knowledge about an innovation enhances practice and consequently improved attitude towards the use of such innovation. Therefore, there was a significant relationship between knowledge, practice and attitude of farmers towards farm resource recycling.

Table VI: Results of correlation and regression analyses showing relationship between socio-economic characteristics, knowledge, practice and attitude towards recycling.

Variable	Correlation Coefficient(r)	Coefficient of determination (r2)	Percentage Contribution	Regression Coefficient (b)	T-value For HO
Age (X1)	0.27**	0.0729	7.29	0.129**	1.035
Year of marriage (X2)	0.22**	0.0484	4.48	-0.065	-0.548
Number of wives (X3)	0.21**	0.0441	4.41	0.689	**0.680
Numbers of children (X4)	0.26**	0.0676	6.76	-0.038	-0.162
Years of schooling (X5)	-0.15	0.0225	2.25	0.193	1.569
Level of cosmopolitaness (X6)	0.14	0.0196	1.96	0.553	0.788
Years of farming (X7)	0.28**	0.0784	7.84	0.040	0.095
Hours used on non Agricultural works per day, (X8)	-0.22**	0.0484	4.48	-0.273	-1.338
Farm size (X9)	0.04	0.0016	0.16	-0.402	-2.224
Income from sales of Agricultural products (X10)	0.34**	0.1156	11.56	0.016**	3.247
Knowledge (X11)	0.33**	0.1089	10.89	-0.131**	-0.741
Practice (X12)	0.56*	0.3136	31.36	0.466**	5.142
Recycling problem (X13)	-0.18	0.0324	3.24	-0.510	-0.870

R square = 0.46
* Significant at 0.01 (99%)
**Significant at 0.05 (95%)
Dependent variable: Attitude

However, results of regression analysis indicate that age (b = 0.129, T = 1.035), number of wives (b = 0.689, T = 0.680) and income from sales of farm products (b = 0.016, T = 3.247) made significant contributions to attitude of respondents. Also, knowledge (b = -0.131, T = - 0.741) and practice (b = 0.466, T = 5.142) had significant contribution to attitude of respondents. Therefore, a unit increase in the value of age, number of wives, income and practice of respondents lead to a unit increase in their attitude towards recycling. Whereas, a unit increase in the knowledge of farmers would result to a unit decrease in their attitude towards recycling. This might be, because increase in the level of knowledge may expose farmers to negative aspect of an innovation hence, change in attitude.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Attitude of farmers towards farm resource recycling and usage is dependent on many factors some of which this study has investigated to include the socio – economic characteristics of the farmers, their knowledge and practice of recycling. Farmers have much indigenous knowledge on soil nutrients recycling, self administration of herbal medication for common rural ailments and conversion of various farm wastes into economic products such as soap, animal feed and the likes. Despite this knowledge, majority had neutral attitude to recycling. The practice of recycling is shown to be most connected to attitude towards recycling, suggesting that the provision of a more enabling environment will like boost farmers attitude towards recycling. It is thus recommended that more enabling environment for farm resource recycling and usage be provided by the government vis-à-vis enticing youths into agriculture, encouraging localization of agro-allied firms in local communities and promotion of integrated farming.

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PARENT PERCEPTION OF CONFLICTS AMONG EDUCATED COUPLES IN IKWUANO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ABIA STATE.

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ABSTRACT

The study examined parental perception of the causes and effects of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State. Descriptive survey design was employed for the study. The study was guided by five research questions. A sample of 150 educated couples was randomly drawn from the three higher institutions in the Local Government. Questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts and its reliability ascertained. Mean standard deviation, and rank order was used for data analysis. The findings showed that disagreement on the use of salaries, co-habitation with in-laws, jobs taking more time of the couple, childlessness in the family, among others cause conflicts among educated couples. Also the rank order of the 6 items effects of conflict revealed that disunity ranked highest among the effects. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that marriage seminars and marital counseling which are designed to minimize conflicts in families should be organized for couples at various stages of marriage; that a clear and non-tridden techniques of spending money on parents without the prior knowledge of couple should be avoided; and that appropriate method of saving and spending money by, couples should be devised by couples.

Key Words: Parental Perception, causes of conflicts, Effects of Conflicts, Educated Couples

INTRODUCTION

Conflicts in marriage and family can be seen as disagreement between marital partners over values, beliefs, goals, norms and behaviours which make up the structure of the nuclear unit. According to Nwoye (1989), conflict may centre on any or all conceivable areas of marked interactions such as economic activities, leisure pursuits, childrearing, decision making, sex relations, in-laws, religious activities and among others. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (Hornby, 2010) defined conflict as a situation in which people; groups are involved in a serious disagreement or argument. Strong, healthy marriages do not just happen by chance. Rather, the spouses in such marriages have chosen to make the effort to make them strong, healthy and satisfying through trust, commitment, tolerance, and caring. Even the healthiest of relationships occasionally descend to unpleasant conflicts. Though causes of conflicts in marriages are numerous, a handful of them stand out above others. Many researchers on marriage conflicts (Nwoye, 1989, Brown and Brown, 2001, Cherlin, 2002) enumerated the following factors as factors that stand out in family conflicts. They include; communication gap, finances, children, sex, in-laws, friend, job, time apart, irritating habits among others.

Family economics is a crucial area of marriage and family life. Money is one of the essential ingredients of family growth and development which is usually not sufficient for any family anywhere in the world. In the past, when husbands used to be the sole bread-winner for the family, money usually do not generate conflicts among couples. These days where married couples engage in salaried employment, money related expenses have become a breeding ground for marital conflicts and dissensions. Studies have shown that couples argue over money more than anything else (Brown and Brown, 2001). This is because money is closely linked with power. Inlaws may be a source of conflict in marriage. When couples are first married, there is always conflict on how to treat the in-laws. Some in-laws can just be outright mean and be out to frustrate the family (Cherlin, 2002).

Raising children can also be a source of stress and conflict among couples. Whether you have them or not, children can cause marriatal conflict. Marriages have fallen apart because of child issues. Equally, the amount of time couples spent together can cause conflict in their relationship. One partner might feel that the other does not spend enough time with him or her. This might be related to the type of job or friends he or she keeps. Family conflict has brought disability in many homes in Nigeria. This has led to family discord, separation and divorce in many homes. The impact of family discord and divorce has enormous effects on the family members and the nation as a whole. Ikenyiri (2003) stated that family conflict and discord is apparently the key contributor of maladaptive behaviours for the members of the family. Nwachukwu in Njumogu (2003) also noted in his study that marital conflicts and parental separation affect adversely the stability of the home.

Studies have shown that divorce and separation occur more among educated couples. This could be as a result of family conflicts. It is on this note that the researchers

decided to investigate the parental perception of the causes and effects of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State. The study is considered significant in the sense that it would create awareness for educated couples and the general public on the causes and effects of conflicts among educated couples. It is expected that the findings of this study will enable both the educated and uneducated couples to make necessary adjustments in handling family conflicts in order to bring stability and peace in their homes.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this research work was to investigate parent perception of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L. G. A. of Abia State.

Specifically, the study seeks to

1. identify the monetary-related factors that cause conflicts among educated couples.
2. determine in-law related causes of conflicts among educated couples.
3. examine the occupation-related causes of conflicts among educated couples.
4. determine family size-related causes of conflicts among educated couples.
5. identify the effects of conflicts on the family.

Research questions

Five research questions were posed to guide the study and they are:

1. What are the monetary-related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?
2. What are the in-laws related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?
3. What are the occupational related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?
4. What are the family size-related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?
5. What are the effects of conflicts on the family?

METHODOLOGY

The design employed in this study is the descriptive survey. The study was carried out in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State. Ikwuano L.G.A has three established institutions where the population was drawn from. They include: Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Abia State University Ikwuano Campus, and Root Crop Research Institute. The population of the study is all married couples in the three institutions. A total of 150 couples were randomly selected for the study, 50 couples were randomly selected from each institution using simple random technique.

Instrument

The instrument used for data collection was parent perception of conflict among educated couples questionnaire (PPCAECQ) generated and developed by the researchers. The researchers designed the instrument based on the research questions using a four point rating scale on level of conflicts: Very High (4), High (3), Low (2), Very Low (1). The questionnaire items were designed with the assistance of Measurement and Evaluation experts who ascertained the face and constructs validity of the instrument. Test-retest reliability method was used to establish the reliability of the study. Reliability co-efficient of 0.80 was obtained using Pearson's correlation analysis. The instrument/questionnaire was divided into two major sections. Section one dealt with the personal data of the respondents while the second section had five sub sections consisting of causes and effects of family conflicts among educated couples. It was structured to elicit the degree to which respondents agree or disagree with the statements. One hundred and fifty copies of the questionnaire (PPCECECQ) were distributed to the respondents by the researchers and all were retrieved after completion.

Data analysis

Mean and Standard Deviation were used in answering research questions 1-4 while rank order method was used to determine the effects of conflicts on families as posed on research questions 5.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: What are the monetary-related causes of conflicts among the educated couples in Ikwunao L.G.A?

Table I shows the mean response of the respondents on the monetary causes of conflict among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A.

Table I: Mean score of monetary-related causes of conflict among educated couples

S/N	Item	Very high conflict (VHC) (4)	High conflict (HC) (3)	Low conflict (LC) (2)	Very low conflict (VLC) (1)		
						Mean X	Remark
1	Disagreement on the use of salaries	55	50	35	10	3.00	Agreed
2	Inadequate fund for family maintenance	40	75	20	15	2.90	Agreed
3	Extravagant use of money by either of the couples	40	85	15	10	3.00	Agreed
4	Over demand of money from either of the couples	40	50	50	10	2.80	Agreed
5	Paying of bills	10	55	50	35	2.30	Disagreed
	Grand mean					2.80	agreed

The result in Table I shows that the respondents agreed on 4 out of 5 items. This is indicated by the mean value above 2.50 on the items. Also the ground mean showed that respondents agreed that family conflict is caused by monetary factors.

Research Question 2: What are the in-laws related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?

Table 2 presents the mean response of the respondents on the in-law related causes of conflict among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A.

Table II: Mean score of in-law related causes of conflicts among educated couples

S/N	Item	(VHC) (4)	(HC) (3)	(LC) (2)	(VLC) (1)	X	Remark
1	Over demanding from in-laws	45	55	30	20	2.80	Agreed
2	Co-habitation with inlaws	60	40	30	20	2.90	Agreed
3	Sponsoring inlaws education	20	65	40	25	2.50	Agreed
4	Inadequate attention to inlaws	15	50	70	15	2.40	Disagreed
5	Lack of respect for inlaws	25	45	55	25	2.50	Agreed
	Grand mean					2.60	Agreed

The results in Table II show that the respondents agreed on all the items related to in-law related causes of conflict among educated couples. This is shown by the mean values on all the items being greater than 2.50. The respondents only disagreed on item 9 (2.40). Also the grand mean (\bar{X} mean = 2.60) indicated that the respondents agreed that conflicts among educated couples are inlaw related.

Research Question 3: What are the occupation-related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?

Table III: Mean scores of occupation related causes of conflict among educated couples

S/N	Item	(VHC) (4)	(HC) (3)	(LC) (2)	(VLC) (1)	\bar{X}_{mean}	Remark
1	Nature of job do not allow for companionship	35	65	30	20	2.80	Agreed
2	Job takes more time than for family matters	20	100	25	5	2.90	Agreed
3	Poor work image	5	35	85	25	2.10	Disagreed
4	Lack of job satisfaction	15	35	65	35	2.20	Disagreed
5	Distance work places	20	40	55	35	2.30	Disagreed
	Grand mean					2.50	Agreed

In Table III, items 11 and 12 are acceptable while its 13-15 are not acceptable. However, the grand mean of 2.50 showed that the respondents agreed that conflict among educated couples is occupation related.

Research Question 4: What are the family size-related causes of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A?

Table IV: Mean scores of the family size-related causes of conflicts among educated couples

S/N	Item	(VHC) (4)	(HC) (3)	(LC) (2)	(VLC) (1)	\bar{X}_{mean}	Remark
1	The size of the family is too large	45	30	55	20	2.70	Agreed
2	Only male children in the family	5	25	85	35	2.00	Disagreed
3	Only female children in the family	45	25	50	30	2.60	Agreed
4	Possession of one child	20	45	50	35	2.30	Disagreed
5	Childlessness in the family	100	25	5	20	3.40	Agreed
	Grand mean					2.60	Agreed

Results in Table IV indicate that the respondents agreed on family size as a cause of conflict among educated couples. This is shown by the grand mean of 2.60. However, the possession of one male child or only one child were disagreed on by the respondents as the cause of conflict among educated couples.

Research Question 5: What are the effects of conflicts on the family?

Table V: Showing rank order of the effects of conflicts on the family.

S/N	Item	Yes	No	Rank
1	Divorce	130	20	4th
2	Discord	135	15	2nd
3	Disunity	140	10	1st
4	Separation	125	25	5th
5	Instability	135	15	2nd
6	Delinquency among children	120	30	6th

From the items in Table V, disunity ranked 1st with the score of 140 while delinquency among children had the lowest score (120) and was ranked 6th.

Discussion of findings

The study showed that conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A were related to monetary causes. Among the monetary related causes of conflicts included disagreement on the use of salaries between couples, inadequate fund for family maintenance, and extravagant use of money by either of the couple. These findings agree with the remark of Brown and Brown(2001) that couples argue much over money issues than anything else. Most couples argue over bills, debt, spending and related financial issues to the extent that conflicts arise. This finding is not unexpected because; many marriages have tended to collapse due to money related causes.

Another finding of the study was that conflicts among educated couples are related to inlaws. The respondents agreed that over demanding from inlaws, co-habitation with inlaws, sponsoring of inlaws education/business, and lack of respect for inlaws will lead to conflicts among educated couples. In the similar finding, Brown and Brown(2001) found that cases of mother inlaws ranked greatest among inlaws related problems in families. Also, the author noted that daughter inlaws pose problem to couple co-existence and has generated conflicts among couples including educated couples. In a similar study, Cherlin (2002) reported that inlaw relationships were the most difficult areas for adjustment among new couples. This according to Cherlin (2002) has resulted to conflicts among couples.

On the issue of occupation as a source of conflict among couples, the finding of this study shows that occupational factors are sources of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A. The finding show that some occupation do not allow for close companionship, others include more attention given to jobs; work place distance from home and poor work image. All these cause conflict in one way or the other among educated couples. The finding is in consonance with the observation by Cherlin (2002) that when couples feels that adequate attention was not given by either of the couple, conflict may set in, in other words, when priority shifts from the family matters to work places, conflicts are bound to arise among couples.

The results of the study further show that family size and make ups generate conflicts among educated couples. The respondents agreed that among the family size issues that cause conflicts include; too many persons in a family; when only female children are born in a family, and a childless family. The respondents however disagreed that families where males are present may cause conflicts, and that possession of only one male child cause conflicts among educated couples. The finding is not surprising because in the traditional society, of which the educated couples are among, the male child is regarded as a true fulfillment of family set up. The eager to get male child has resulted to couples getting more children than required. In educated families, the case is not different. Finally, the findings of the study showed that conflicts among educated couples have some negative effects on the family, the members of the family, and the society. Among the identified effects included discord and instability, divorce and separation and adolescent delinquency among other effect. In an earlier study, Davison and Heale, (1982) in Dibia (2009) observed that marital conflicts have adverse effects on the family including the children who are maladjusted because of conflicts experienced in the homes. This implies that if the family is to produce worthwhile and well adjusted children, such family should be conflict free.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has examined the causes and effects of conflicts among educated couples in Ikwuano L.G.A. The major findings showed that conflicts among educated couples are caused by monetary factors, inlaw related factors, occupation type, and family size and make ups.

The effects on the families and society were identified among which is the raising of delinquent children.

In the light of the findings made in this study, the researchers make the following recommendations:

1. Couples should find better ways of handling money issues in the home. It is hereby suggested that money should not be considered as a major binding force among \ educated couples. Rather than allow money-related issues to break down a marriage, appropriate steps and methods should be devised in saving and spending money in the homes.
2. To avoid or reduce the incidence of in-law-related causes of conflicts among educated \ couples, first, the strings that tie the individuals to their parents should be untied in the aspect of full money commitments to their parents. Couples should have a clear and non-hidden technique of spending money on ones' parents without prior knowledge of the spouse.
3. The paper recommends further that occupation-related causes of conflicts among couples can be addressed by counseling the couples on job and family relations. The separation of couples and family members due to different location can be handled through proper planning and arrangements of job schedules and family matters.
4. It is further recommended that family size related causes of conflicts among educated couples can be addressed through seminars and workshops to be provided to the couples. Family size counseling should be provided to couples so as to emphasize the effect of size of family on peace and coexistence of members of the family.

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ELDER ABUSE IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY CARE GIVING
IN AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at establishing the extent of elder abuse in the context of family care giving in Akwa Ibom State. The population comprised all elderly people aged 70 and above. Multi-stage sampling method was used to select a sample size of 5,600 elderly for the study. Structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts and simple percentages. Findings revealed the dimensions of all abuse types suffered by the elderly in Akwa Ibom State, with emotional/psychological abuse sub-types being the most common followed by financial/material abuse, neglect/abandonment and physical, while sexual abuse types were the least experienced. It was also revealed that perpetrators of abuse differed by abuse types but, overall perpetrators of all forms of abuse in the study were sons, closely followed by grand children, extended family members, house helps /paid caregivers, nephews and nieces, spouses, daughters' in-law, all children, daughters, neighbours/acquaintances, and sons' in-law being the least. Based on the findings, recommendations were made to reduce the rate of abuse in the context of family care giving in Akwa Ibom State, such as the need for public awareness and education campaigns on care of the elderly; and the ills inherent in elder abuse, establishment of Old people's home, and formulation of policies and programmes to improve the welfare of the elderly.

Keywords: Elderly, abuse, caregivers, family, perpetrators, neglect

INTRODUCTION

Elder abuse is increasingly being acknowledged as a social problem globally. Elder abuse is any voluntary – i.e. non-accidental acts that harm or may harm an elderly person or any omission that deprives an elderly person of the care needed for their well-being, as well as any violation of their right (Iborra, 2009). It encompasses any act of commission or omission that may result in harm or threatened harm to the health and welfare of an older adult (Sellas and Krouse, 2009). Demographic reports around the world indicate that the global population is ageing. Population ageing implies an increase in the proportion of older people aged sixty-five and above. This is due to improved nutrition, declining infections, better standard of living, prospects in education, health care and biomedical technology (Nwabueze, 2001). Shaefer (2005) reveals that around the world, there are more than 442 million people aged 65 and above, representing about 7% of the world's population. With increased longevity and with the health deterioration that comes with ageing there may be greater demand for long-term care and greater burden on the part of the caregiver. Walsh, Ploeg, Lohfeld, Horne, Macmillan and Lai (2007) confirmed that the present ageing trend implies that care giving for older adults will become an increasing demanding responsibility for adult children and other family members. Hurme (2002) also opines that the changed and changing demographics around the world also point to an increased potential for abuse.

Care giving consists of informal and unpaid care provided to a dependent person by family members, other relatives, or friends (Maiconis, 2003). Family members hold the responsibility of fulfilling filial obligations to the elderly by providing food, shelter, clothing, drugs, love and other necessities. Frail elderly in particular need assistance in carrying out activities of daily living. In many ways, the elderly becomes as dependent as a child does on their caregivers, financially, emotionally or physically. This leaves a broad window for possible abuse (Jones, Kramar and Peterson, 2010).

In Nigeria, majority of the elderly are solely cared for within the family since it is the traditional role of children to support their parents in old age. A good percentage of the elderly in Nigeria live with their children, grand children and other family members, while others reside in their own homes with paid caregivers or house helps, grand children, etc. Sijuwade (2008) maintains that both in developing and developed countries, the elderly as well as their caregivers prefer that they be taken care within the family. Walker (2002) also confirms that in most industrial and pre-industrial societies, the family has been the main providers of care to their elderly relatives. Since the elderly in Nigeria are not institutionalized but typically live with their families, it is often assumed that they are well taken care of and therefore not subjected to any form of abuse by family members. Elder abuse is most often viewed as a family problem as such perpetrators may not even be aware of what constitute abuse, while the abused elderly may equally be ignorant that the issue boards on the violation of Fundamental Human Rights, and may be unwilling to report (Ajomale, 2007; Ekot, 2012). Cripps (2001) maintains that although the vast majority of families provide their aging parents or relatives with a safe haven, it is also true that family members perpetrate the majority of reported incidents of abuse of elderly individuals. In Nigeria the study on the prevalence of elder abuse in Enugu state by Igbokwe and Asogwa (2010) revealed a moderate rate of psychological and financial abuse, and low rate of physical abuse.

Sijuwade (2008) explains that to abuse, neglect and abandon the elderly are all typologies of poor quality care for the elderly. In the case of abuse, the caregiver actively harms the elderly, in the case of neglect; the caregiver is passive, insensitive, lacks empathy and ignores the care of the elderly; while totally abdicating the responsibilities of taking care of the elderly which constitute abandonment. Thus, elder abuse most often arises and is entrenched in the context of care. Bonnie and Wallace (2003) maintain that failure by a caregiver to satisfy elders' basic needs or to protect the elder from harm constitute mistreatment. This implies that a lack of care of the elderly or any decline in quality care of the elderly may constitute abuse. Elder abuse could take many forms, including physical, financial, psychological, sexual abuse and neglect (WHO, 2010). Other forms of abuse are violation of basic human rights and medication abuse; and in Nigeria abuse may include witchcraft accusations, lack of respect, etc. Physical abuse is the use of physical force to cause discomfort, which may or may not result in body injury, physical pain, or impairment (Peri, Fanslow, Hand, and Parsons, 2008). The American psychological Association (2010) asserts that when a caregiver or other person uses enough force to cause unnecessary pain or injury, even if the reason is to help the older persons, the behaviour can be regarded as abuse. Financial abuse is the misuse of an older person's funds or property through fraud, trickery, theft or force, including frauds, swindles, misuse of money or property, convincing an older person to buy a product or give away money, stealing money or possessions, misusing bank or credit cards, misusing joint banking accounts, forging a signature on pension cheques or legal documents and misusing a power of attorney amongst others (Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network, 2007). In Nigeria, financial/material abuse may include dispossessing elderly persons of their properties, lands, and even driving them away from their houses.

Emotional or Psychological abuse involves verbal assaults (such as name calling like old school, witch, etc; humiliation (being treated as a child), and intimidation (threats of isolation or placement in a nursing home) (Berk, 2001). In all cases, abuse diminishes the identity and self worth of elderly people, and can cause fear, anxiety, distress, depression and self neglect. Sexual abuse include inappropriate touching, photographing the person in suggestive poses, forcing the person to look at pornography, forcing sexual contact with a third party, or any unwanted sexual behaviour, such as rape, sodomy, or coerced nudity (American Psychological Association, 2010). In Nigeria, many widows are usually abused sexually in the guise of widow inheritance.

Neglect is intentional or unintentional failure to fulfill care giving obligations, which results in lack of food, medication, or health services or in the elderly person being left alone or isolated (Berk, 2001). Sijuwade (2008) asserts that when caregiver is neglectful, it means there are lapses in the quality of care and in carrying out the responsibility, while totally abdicating the responsibilities of taking care of the elderly constitute abandonment. Violation of Basic Human Rights is the denial of an older person's fundamental right according to legislation, while medication abuse involves the misuse of an older person's medications and prescriptions such as withholding medication, overmedicating, sedation, and not complying with prescriptions refills (Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network, 2007).

In Nigeria in general and Akwa Ibom State in particular, elder abuse include all shabby treatment of the elderly by young people and family members, such as verbal abuse, name calling, locking up in a room, giving child treatment, and not maintaining or supporting with money to eat. It may also include outright beatings, indecent touching, extortion of money, non visiting, denying access to grand children, declaring the parents witches, etc (Nkan, 2011; Ikpe, 2011). It is possible that some elderly people may suffer more than one type of abuse at the same time. Most of the studies on elder abuse generally are conducted in advanced countries, and some African countries, while studies on elder abuse in Nigeria are generally scanty. The few research studies conducted have considered the prevalence on elder abuse in different parts of the country such as Sijuwade (2008) in a Lagos study, Igbokwe and Asogwa (2010) in a study of the prevalence of abuse of the elderly in domestic setting in Enugu State. Moreover what constitutes abuse in advanced countries may be different from what is considered abuse in Nigeria. Perpetrators of abuse in Nigeria may also differ across cultures. There is therefore a need to provide empirical data on the specific actions that constitute the different forms and perpetrators of elder abuse in Akwa Ibom state.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the extent of elder abuse in the context of family care giving in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Specifically the study sought to:

1. identify forms of abuse common among the elderly in Akwa Ibom State.
2. identify the specific actions that constitute each form of abuse of the elderly in Akwa

- lbom State.
3. identify the perpetrators of elder abuse in Akwa lbom State.

Research questions

1. What are the forms of abuse common among the elderly in Akwa lbom State?
2. What are the specific actions that constitute each form of abuse suffered by the elderly in Akwa lbom State?
3. Who are the perpetrators of elder abuse in Akwa lbom State?

METHODOLOGY

Population for the study

The population for the study consisted of all male and female elderly persons in Akwa lbom State aged 70 and above based on the scope for the study.

Sample and sampling technique

Information for this paper was extracted from a field survey carried out between March and June 2011 in Akwa lbom State which is one of the states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; located geographically in the south-eastern zone of the country as a part of a larger project on the condition of the elderly including abuse. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted to select a sample size of 5,600 elderly. In the first stage, two senatorial zones out of the three in Akwa lbom State were randomly selected, and used for the study. The second stage involved proportionate distribution of the sample size into all the 21 local government areas that make up the selected senatorial zones. Twenty (20) villages including the local government headquarters were thereafter purposively selected from each of the local government areas. The last stage involved accessible and snowball sampling of respondents from each of the selected villages to give the total of 5,600 respondents.

Research instrument

Structured questionnaire was used for the study. The structured questionnaire contained three sections: Section A; was multiple choice questions designed to obtain socio demographic data from the elderly. Section B; which was adapted and reviewed from Acierno, Hernandez-Tejada, Wendy – Muzzy & Kenneth – Steve (2009) elicited information from the elderly with respect to the forms of abuse; while section C; was designed to identify perpetrators of elder abuse. The instrument was validated by two lecturers in the Department of Home Economics/Hotel Management and Tourism, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained *using Cronbach's alpha co-efficient, and a reliability index, α =*

.86 was obtained showing that the instrument was highly reliable.

Data collection

Elderly persons aged 70 years and above were administered the questionnaire with the help of 12 Primary Health Officers who served as research assistants. The respondents were guided to complete and return the instrument on the spot, and questions on the questionnaire were interpreted into local dialect to non – literate respondents, and their responses were marked in the appropriate columns in the instrument. A Focused Discussion Group (FDG) consisting of 36 adult primary, secondary or supposed caregivers of the elderly was also organized; during which semi structured questions were asked, followed by general discussions.

Data analysis

Data collected from the questionnaire for this study were analysed using frequency counts and simple percentages, while issues discussed in the FDG were analysed qualitatively and used for the discussion of findings.

RESULTS

Table I: Frequency and percentage distribution on the forms of abuse common among the elderly and the different actions that constitute each form of abuse suffered by the elderly in Akwa Ibom State

Forms of Abuse	Frequency(N=5600)		Percent (%) **
Emotional/Psychological abuse	3164		56.5
<i>Actions constituting abuse</i>			
Verbal attacks (scolding and yelling at)	3164	56.5	
Humiliation/name calling	3164	56.5	
Being ignored			37.0
Harassment/coercion	1008		18.0
Witchcraft accusation or suspicion	2156	38.5	
Physical Abuse	1055		18.8
<i>Actions constituting abuse</i>			
Physical assault (hitting, slapping, etc).	1055	18.8	
Restraining or locking up in the house	859	15.3	
Injury (cuts, bruises or other marks)	817	14.6	
Sexual Abuse	532		9.5
<i>Actions constituting abuse</i>			
Sexual Molestation (Kissing, fondling, etc)	420	7.5	
Touching in a sexual way	532	9.5	
Financial Abuse	2927		52.3
<i>Actions constituting abuse</i>			
Taking money or possessions	2320		41.4
Not making good decisions about elderly finances	2927	52.3	
Being forced or tricked to bring out money	228	40.8	
Dispossession of land or other properties	714	12.8	
Theft of food and foodstuff	1899	33.9	
Neglect/ Abandonment	2268		40.5
<i>Actions constituting abuse</i>			
Non regular visits	1788		31.9
Non provision of money for upkeep	2268	40.5	
Lack of help with activities of daily living	1696	30.3	
Non provision of medical needs	1788	31.9	
Denial of access to grand children	2012	35.9	
Lack of help in house care/ washing clothes	1704	30.4	
** Multiple responses			

Table I shows the forms of abuse and the specific actions that constitute the different forms of abuse suffered by the elderly in Akwa Ibom State, with emotional abuse and actions constituting emotional abuse coming topmost, closely followed by financial/material abuse, and neglect/abandonment, while physical and sexual abuse are not very common.

Table II: Distribution on overall mean percentage of the perpetrators of all forms of elder Abuse in Akwa Ibom State

S/N		Perpetrators of Abuse	Emotional/Psychological abuse	Physical AbuseSexual Abuse	Financial /Material Abuse	Neglect/ Abandonment	Overall Percentage of perpetrators of all forms of abuse	Overall mean percentage of perpetrators of Abuse
1.	Spouse	8.3	3.1	-	1.5	1.1	14.9	2.98
2.	Son	9.8	8.3	-	9.0	16.1	43.2	8.64
3.	Daughter	5.8	-	-	.3	5.8	11.98	2.38
4.	House help/paid caregiver	5.0	2	-	11.4	2.1	18.7	3.74
5.	Grand Child	.8	-	-	10.7	8.1	19.6	3.92
6.	Neighbour/Acquaintance	1.8	.7	5.8	3.0	-	11.3	2.26
7.	Daughters-in-law	10.8	-	-	1.3	2.2	14.3	2.86
8.	Sons-in-law	.7	-	-	-	.7	0.14	
9.	Nephews/Nieces	3.6	-	-	10.9	3.6	18.1	3.62
10	Extended family members	3.6	6.5	3.7	4.2	1.3	19.3	3.86
11.	All their children	6.3	-	-	-	6.5	12.8	2.56

Table II shows the overall mean percentage of perpetrators of all forms of abuse in the study with the highest perpetrators of all abuse forms being sons, with a mean percentage of (8.64%). This is closely followed in order of importance by grand children (3.92%), extended family members (3.86%), house helps /paid caregivers (3.74%), nephews and nieces (3.62%), spouses (2.98%), daughters' in-law (2.86%), all children (2.56%), daughters (2.38%), neighbours/acquaintances (2.26%), and sons' in-law (0.14%). The table also reveals that perpetrators of abuse differ by abuse types

Discussion

Table I show that emotional/psychological abuse is the top-most form of abuse (56.5%) common among the elderly in Akwa Ibom State. This was closely followed by financial/material abuse (52.3%), neglect/abandonment (40.5) and physical abuse (18.8), while sexual abuse was the least (9.5). The finding is consistent with others which found emotional abuse to be the most commonly reported (Iborra, 2009; Acierno et al., 2009), but inconsistent with others which found financial abuse to be the most common form (Cripps, 2001). The findings are also at variance with the study by Dong, Simon, Gorbien, (2007) which found neglect to be the most common form of abuse. The finding that sexual abuse is the least common is in tandem with other studies which also revealed low rates of sexual abuse (Acierno et al., 2009; Mowlam et al., 2007). The revelation that physical abuse is less common in the study is not surprising as there is a general belief on the lethal curses attached to physical attack on the elderly persons in the area. Many young people fear that the elderly might invoke curses on them, and especially women who they fear would 'beat their breasts' for such a young person who would dare to inflict on them physical assaults, which is believed to result in calamity and untimely deaths. Ajomale (2007) also argues that due to the level of respect accorded the elderly in Nigeria, it is uncommon to have cases of beatings and deliberate infliction of injury on the elderly.

Members of the FDG initially contested the word abuse vehemently as they could not associate themselves with the idea of abuse of their elderly parents. When definitions of elder abuse by The American Psychological Association (2010) as the infliction of physical, emotional, or psychological harm on an older adult and Bonnie and Wallace (2003) as failure by a caregiver to satisfy elders' basic needs or to protect the elder from harm were discussed with them and the various forms of abuse highlighted, they finally agreed that such forms of abuses existed in different degrees, that they hitherto associated abuse with cursing and physical mistreatment such as beating. In addition, the discussants were of the view that apart from sexual abuse which the majority could not imagine, most times children do not willingly and wilfully commit elder abuse as explained but that general lack due to their own poverty sometimes resulted in such conditions which could be termed abusive. They also agreed that at times children abuse, neglect or abandon their elderly parents because of witchcraft suspicion or accusation, lamenting that the trend has recently increased in Akwa Ibom State.

The specific actions that constituted emotional or psychological abuse suffered by respondents in the study were in order of importance verbal attacks (scolding or yelling at the elderly), humiliation or name-calling, witchcraft accusation, being ignored for days, and harassment and coercion. This supports the findings by Mowlam et al. (2007) which revealed higher rate of verbal aggression in their studies. Name-calling, witchcraft accusation and suspicion identified as psychological abuse sub-types confirm World Health Organisation (WHO) (2010) assertion that in some traditional African societies some elderly persons are accused of witchcraft. Actions that constituted financial and material abuse identified in Table I include not making good decisions on the finances of the elderly, taking their monies or possessions without permission, forcing or tricking the elderly to bring out money, removal of cooked or raw food, and dispossessing the elderly of land or other properties in decreasing order. Many older persons are functionally impaired and may need help in finance management such as excursions to bank or in cashing cheques thus leaving a window for possible abuse. The inclusion of removal of cooked or raw food as sub-form of financial/material may also account for the high rate of financial/material abuse recorded in this study, because due to poverty, some children in the neighbourhood may enter the houses of elderly people to remove foodstuff without permission. The major areas of neglect identified in the study involved non - provision of money for upkeep, denial of access to grand children, non-regular visits, neglecting medical needs, lack of help in house care/ clothes washing; and lack of help in activities of daily living. The physical abuse sub - forms identified in order of importance were physical assault (hitting, slapping, shaking, kicking, and shoving), restraining or locking up the elderly in the house, and injury (cuts, bruises, etc). Table I also shows that the few identified cases of sexual abuse involved touching the elderly in a sexual way against their will and sexual molestation (kissing, fondling, etc.).

Results in Table II revealed that perpetrators of abuse differed by abuse types but, overall perpetrators of all forms of abuse in the study were sons, closely followed in order of importance by grand children, extended family members, house helps /paid caregivers, nephews and nieces, spouses, daughters' in-law, all children, daughters, neighbours/acquaintances, and sons' in-law. The findings revealed that the majority of the perpetrators are close family members which is in line with the assertion by Berk (2001) that the perpetrator is usually a person the older adult loves, trusts and depends on for care and assistance. This is also in tandem with Jamuna (2003), Oh et al. (2006) and others which consistently identified adult offspring as the highest perpetrators. Cripps (2001), Cavanagh (2003) all confirm that family members perpetrate the majority of reported incidents of abuse of elderly individuals. The revelation that sons are the highest perpetrators was confirmed by the FDG. The discussants viewed that female children are naturally more empathic and caring which may explain why they show more love and care toward their elderly parents and perpetrate less of the abuse cases. They accused some daughters' in-law of causing their husbands to neglect their own parents. This supports Riley (1981), who also described the abuser as most commonly a male relative. The study has also identified extended family members as the third highest perpetrators of abuse in Akwa Ibom State which has never been identified as such by any other study. The FDG confirmed that extended family members most often abuse elderly widows by dispossessing them of their properties and sometimes sexually abusing them in the guise of widow's inheritance. The finding is however at variance with others who identified partners (spouses) as the highest perpetrators (Iborra, 2009), and Hirst and Miller (1986) who revealed that abuser profile is that of a female family member (daughter). These differing views may reflect the cultural context of abuse.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study aimed at investigating the dimensions of elder abuse in the context of family care giving in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Findings of the study revealed the pervasiveness of elder abuse in the study area with emotional abuse and actions constituting emotional abuse coming topmost, closely followed by financial/material abuse and neglect/abandonment, followed by physical abuse while sexual abuse is the least experienced form of abuse. Perpetrators of abuse in the study differed by abuse types but, overall perpetrators of all forms of abuse in the study were sons, closely followed by grand children, extended family members, house helps /paid caregivers, nephews and nieces, spouses, daughters' in-law, etc. The overall findings appear disturbing in an area where the elderly were hitherto traditionally generally revered; and where traditional relationship between children and parents in old age ideally should be that of respect and filial support not abuse.

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

- * Families overburdened with care of the elderly should explore the integration and support of other volunteer caregivers such as friends and neighbours to help ameliorate the burdens of care giving.
- * Public awareness programmes and public education campaigns that define elder abuse should be organised, to enlighten people on what constitute abuse; and raise awareness on the growing problem of elder abuse in order to reduce the high prevalence of abuse in Akwa Ibom State.
- * Churches, NGOs, and health institutions, should establish homes for the elderly to take care of elderly people during work or business hours in the absence of primary caregivers.
- * The state Government should also establish old people's home in Akwa Ibom State as a matter of urgency to cater for the needs of those who might require such homes for the placement of their aged parents in case of role conflicts or by geographical separation

arising from employment.

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ICT AND MARKETING AMONG SELECTED HOTELS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the effect of ICT on marketing in the hospitality industry. Simple random sampling technique was used to select fifty respondents who were marketing managers of hotels in Lagos, Nigeria. A sixteen item questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. The study identified ICT facilities frequently used to market hospitality products and services to include; telephone (100%), computers (100%), e-mail based booking facility (84.3%), electronic locking system (84.3%), internet in all rooms (84.3%), café (80.5%), wireless internet (80.5%) and point of sale machine (69.6%). Reservations were largely by ICTs; telephone (41.27%), e-mail (29.57%) and on-line real time booking (15.13%). About 74.1% of the marketing managers strongly believed that using ICT fits well with the way employees like to work and that employees appreciate ICT and enjoy using them. Also, 100% of the hoteliers believed using ICT is a fast and efficient way to get information and that ICT provide opportunity for showcasing the premises of the hotel. The findings showed a significant relationship between ICT usage and level of patronage ($r= 0.436$, $P< 0.05$). There was also a significant relationship between ICT utilization and marketing efficiency ($r= 0.626$, $P< 0.05$). Based on the findings, it is recommended that current level of application of ICT in the industry should be sustained while effort should be made to measure up to future development in ICT world.

Key words: ICT, marketing, hospitality industry, ICT facilities, marketing efficiency

INTRODUCTION

Information communication technology (ICT) means the use of computer system and telecommunication equipment in information processing. It is the amalgamation of computer, communication and electronics to acquire, process, store and disseminate vocal, textual, pictorial and numerical information by micro- electronic-based equipment. Effective tourism activity is not achievable without ICT which has both hardware and software components although the former is usually more emphasized. Software has been developed to facilitate and help improve human existence (Spore, 2004). It is worthwhile to note that there have been tremendous improvements in tourism outfits that give priority to ICT. Over the years, there is growing evidence to suggest that ICT does act as a driver for economic development in disadvantaged geographies (Grace, Kenny and Qiang, 2004). The use of technology is increasingly viewed as playing a critical role in management and distribution of hospitality products. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are necessary components of business culture. Agboola, Nassar and Ilori (2007) opined that the business environment is very dynamic and undergoes rapid changes as a result of technological innovation, increased awareness and demands from customers. This development reflects a need for alternative source of information rather than a face-to-face interaction technology-driven, donor-promoted information service.

In today's world, using ICTs is no more a distinctive characteristics by itself; only an efficient and effective usage can help in obtaining a competitive advantage. Information is very important at every stage in the sales cycle of the tourism product (Pollock, 2005). Information must be able to flow quickly and accurately between the client, intermediaries and each of the tourism suppliers involved in servicing the client's need. ICT as information transmission technology built on the potentials of electronic communication equipment for connecting and assessing various ends in the information path way, is crucial in tourism and hospitality business for connectivity, showcasing (exhibition) and communication services (Bakare, 2012). Unlike manufactured goods, tourism products cannot be inspected prior to purchase; therefore it is almost completely dependent on representations and descriptions to help consumers make a purchase decision (Page, 1999). Tourism products are also fixed geographically. Thus customers must travel and in effect consume the product in order to experience what they are buying (Bennett, 2003).

When the right technology is available and it is correctly applied, a manager can obtain visible organizational benefits and is able to stimulate the growth of the company

in line with the market evolution. The hospitality industry is at the forefront of the whole tourism sector and it is especially sensitive to the ever increasing competitive pressure and to the growing need for more effective operational and control tools. The help that can be given by ICTs is therefore much sought-after and is seen as capable of providing new opportunities for business development. According to Connolly and Olson (2000), ICT is the single greatest force affecting change in the hospitality industry. The ICT based products and processes help the hotels to enhance the operating efficiency, improve the service experience as well as provide a means to access markets on a global basis. While ICTs were used in the hotel industry since the late seventies in the form of Computerized Reservation System and Global Distribution System, it was only in the 90s that the ICTs began to make a difference in the hospitality sector (Cooper, Lambert and Pagh, 1998). Hospitality industry is acknowledged for information sensitivity; as a result, ICT has become an almost universal feature of the tourism industry. Its power allows information to be managed more effectively and transported worldwide almost instantly. It has a continuous major effect on the organization of hospitality industry. However, it has not affected all functions and sectors equally. It is having greatest impact on the marketing and distribution function while leaving others which need more human contact relatively untouched. Some of the software which have aided development and are of benefit to the hospitality are: Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS), Electronic Locking System (ELS), Call Accounting System (CAS), World Wide Web, on-line real time booking, Local Area Network (LAN), Global Distribution System (GDS), Automated Teller Machine (ATM), Property Management Software (PMS) among others. According to Cracknel and Kaufmann (2002), from the hospitality business perspective, the most valuable commodity for effectiveness and efficient operation is reliable, up to date information, hence the need for ICTs and the benefits they provide in information storage, its manipulation and communication.

Statement of the problem

In the era of globalization, this millennium era is confronted with the realities of an increasingly networked world, where ICT offers realistic opportunities to redress the vicious circle of stagnation that results from information asymmetry. It is clear that developing countries have adopted a variety of information and communication techniques (ICT) that could be effectively used by hospitality industry. ICT has significant role to play in improving the service delivery that is customer centered. Hotels are increasingly challenged to find ways to attract market (guests), keep them satisfied to win repeated patronage, reduce operating cost without sacrificing the quality standards and consistently meet guest expectations and maximize profit. These are objectives which rest on marketing function and which the application of ICT had been able to address. Literature revealed that ICT is being continuously adopted and utilized by the hospitality industry, although, it has not affected all functions and sectors equally. It is having greatest impact on marketing and distribution function while leaving others which need more human contact relatively untouched. It is therefore the goal of the researcher to investigate the effect of ICT on marketing in the hospitality industry.

Objective

The main objective was to investigate the effect of ICT on marketing in the hospitality industry. Specific objectives include to:

- i. identify various ICT facilities used in the hospitality industry;
- ii. analyze the attitude of hoteliers and employees' towards ICT; and examine the effect of ICT on marketing efficiency among selected hotels in Lagos.

Research questions

The research questions designed for this study are the following:

- i. What are the available ICT facilities in the hospitality industry of the study area?
- ii. What are the attitudes of hoteliers and hotel staff towards ICT?
- iii. What are the effects of ICT on marketing efficiency in hospitality industry?

METHODOLOGY

Study area: The study was carried out in Lagos, Nigeria. Lagos is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa. Lagos being a metropolitan city, formal capital city and Nigeria's most prosperous city where much of the nation's wealth and economic activities are concentrated, and which houses a good number of reputable, standard and five stars hotels was considered suitable for the study

Sampling technique and sample size: Due to the nature of this study which required the researcher to interview the marketing managers or whosoever performs his/her functions in each hotel, the researcher worked with a sample population of fifty marketing managers. Fifty hotels were used for this study and they were selected by simple random sampling technique.

Research instrument: A well-structured questionnaire comprising of open and close ended questions was used to elicit needed information from the respondents who were marketing managers of the sampled hotels in Lagos. The contents of the questionnaire examine the impact of ICT on marketing in hospitality industry. The instrument is made up of section A (features of hotels), section B (ICT facilities), section C (attitude of employees and hoteliers towards ICT) and section D (efficiency of ICT). Attitude was measured on strongly agreed (SA) was scored 4, agreed (A) was scored 3, disagreed (D) was scored 2, and strongly disagreed (SD) was scored 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics: Data in Table I show that above average (56%) of the respondents fell within the age range of 31 – 40 years with a mean age of 37 years. Majority (90%) of the respondents were married, 40% were holders of university degrees, 36% graduated from polytechnics with Higher National Diploma (HND) and 24% had Masters in Business Administration. All the respondents were males and majority (80%) earned between ₦1,000 and ₦100,000 monthly. Sixteen percent of the

respondents read hospitality management, 20% read related disciplines such as catering, tourism management, event management, leisure and recreation while 64% read non – related disciplines. This result agrees with the findings of Yusuf (2011) who reported that the quality of human resources in the hospitality was low and that majority of the employees of the industry read non – related disciplines.

Table I: Distribution of respondents by socio-economic characteristics (n = 50)

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age		
20 - 30	5	10
31 - 40	28	56
41 - 50	17	34
Marital status		
Married	45	90
Single	5	10
Level of education		
HND	18	36
B.Sc	20	40
MBA	12	24
Sex		
Male	50	100
Female	-	0
Discipline		
Hospitality management	8	16
Related disciplines	10	20
Non – Related disciplines	32	64
Income (₦)		
Less than 50,000	4	8
51,000 - 100,000	40	80
101,000 - 150,000	6	12

Source: Field Survey, 2012

ICT facilities and usage: Table II shows the various ICT facilities used by the hospitality industry in the study area and their frequency of usage. The most frequently used ICT facilities include: telephone (100%), computers (100%), e-mail based booking facility (84.3%), electronic locking system (84.3%), internet in all rooms (84.3%), café (80.5%), wireless internet (80.5%) and point of sale machine (69.6%) while the least used are e-check out from rooms (23.9%), Automated Teller Machine (39.2%) and Property Management System (39.2%). This result shows that there are many ICT facilities in use in the hospitality industry; however, facilities such as Global Distribution System (GDS) and Local Area Network (LAN) are yet to be well adopted.

Table III: Distribution of employees by their attitude towards ICT

Table II: Distribution of hotels by ICT facilities and usage (n = 50)

Facilities	Available frequently		Available occasionally	Available rarely	Not available
E mail based booking facility	39(84.3%)	3(6.5%)	–	2(4.4%)	
Electronic locking system	39(84.3%)	–	8(15.2%)		
Telephone	49(100%)	–	–	–	
Computers	49(100%)				
Point of Sale Machine (POS)	32(69.6%)	5(10.8%)	–	9(19.6%)	
Automated Teller Machine (ATM)	18(39.2%)	10(21.7%)	4(8.7%)	14(30.4%)	
On-line real time booking	23(50%)	10(21.7%)	2(4.4%)	7(15.2%)	
Global Distribution System	–	2(4.4%)	–	–	
Internet centre/café	37(80.5%)	2(4.4%)	1(2.17%)	3(6.5%)	
Internet in all rooms	39(84.3%)	2(4.4%)	–	3(6.5%)	
Wireless internet in the hotels	37(80.5%)	2(4.4%)	1(2.17%)	2(4.4%)	
Local area network	–	2(4.4%)	–	–	
Property management system	18(39.2%)	10(21.7%)	3(6.5%)	15(32.6%)	
E-check out from rooms	11(23.9%)	3(6.5%)	10(21.8%)	20(43.5%)	

Source: Field survey, 2012

Attitudinal statement	SA F /%	A F/%	D F/%	SD F/%	Mean Score
Electronic point of sale, electronic locking systems are easy for me to use.	15(32.6)	30(65.2)	1(2.2)	–	3.30
ICT are clear and understandable for me and guest to use.	18(39.1)	27(58.7)	1(2.2)	–	3.37
Using ICT fits well with the way I like to work.	35(74.1)	11(23.9)	–	–	3.76
ICT help save energy and time.	30(65.2)	15(32.6)	–	–	3.59
I appreciate ICTs and enjoy using them	35(74.1)	11(23.9)	–	–	3.11

Source: Field survey, 2012

Grand Mean = 3.43

Comparing the mean scores of the attitudinal statements to the grand mean score (3.43), hotel employees had better attitude to statements such as: using ICT fits well with the way employees like to work (mean =3.76) and employees believe ICT help save energy and time (mean =3.59). The table further revealed that the employees had a lower attitude (below mean score) to statements such as: employees appreciate ICTs and enjoy using them (mean= 3.11), electronic point of sale, electronic locking systems are easy for employees to use (mean= 3.30), and ICT are clear and understandable for employees and guest to use (mean= 3.37). However, in the overall, it can be concluded that that the employees had a good attitude towards ICTs as the statements below the mean mark were not far from it but were just a little below it.

Table IV: Distribution of hoteliers by their attitude towards ICT (n = 50)

Attitudinal statements	SAF/%	AF/%	DF/%	SDF/%	Mean
Top management considers the internet web based technologies, EPOS, ELS, CAS as important.	24 (52.5)	22 (47.8)	–	–	3.52
Top management supports and allocates resources for the implementation of internet, web based technologies for marketing activities.	21 (45.7)	–	–	–	3.46
Top management has effectively communicated for the adoption and implementation of ICT.	25 (54.3)	21 (45.7)	–	–	3.54
Top management believes in web page with enough information about hotel products to satisfy customer.	33 (71.7)	13 (28.3)	–	–	3.72
Top management believes using ICT is a fast and efficient way to get information.	46 (100)	–	–	–	4.00
Hoteliers believe ICT provide opportunity for showcasing the premises of the hotel.	46 (100)	–	–	–	4.00
Source: Field survey, 2012			Grand Mean = 3.71		

The grand mean of the distribution was determined to be 3.71, therefore, top in the list of hoteliers' attitude towards ICTs were; top management believes using ICT is a fast and efficient way to get information (mean = 4.00), hoteliers believe ICT provide opportunity for showcasing the premises of the hotel (mean = 4.00), and top management believes in web page with enough information about hotel products to satisfy customer (mean = 3.71). Just a little bit below the grand mean score were hoteliers' attitudinal statements such as: top management has effectively communicated for the adoption and implementation of ICT (mean = 3.54), top management considers the internet web based technologies, EPOS, ELS, CAS as important (mean = 3.52), and top management supports and allocates resources for the implementation of internet, web based technologies for marketing activities (mean = 3.46). Conclusively, the general attitude of the sampled hoteliers towards ICTs was good as attitudinal statements that fell below the grand mean score were just a little below it.

Table V: Distribution of guests by reservation media used between January and June, 2012 (n = 50)

Reservation media	Number of guest (Freq/percent)
Telephone	13, 800 (41.27%)
E-mail	9, 890 (29.57%)
On-line real time booking	5, 060 (15.13%)
Personal	4, 692 (14.03%)

Source: Field survey, 2012

Table V shows the distribution of guests by the different means of booking reservation used between January and June, 2012. From the table, telephone was the mostly used medium (41.27%), followed by e-mail (29.57%), followed by on-line real time booking (15.13%) and entering the hotel to make reservation personally was the least medium used (14.03%). This result established that the guests have a positive attitude toward ICT.

Table VI: Pearson correlation analysis showing relationship between ICT usage, level of patronage and marketing efficiency (n = 50)

Variables	Correlation (r)	Co – efficient of determination (r2)
Level of patronage	0.436*	0.626*
Marketing efficiency	0.626	0.392

The above table shows the correlation analysis that revealed a relationship between ICT usage and level of patronage to be significant at $P < 0.05$ ($r = 0.436$). Thus, there is a significant relationship between utilization of ICT and level of patronage. This implies that the more the hotels utilize ICT or the better the ICT facilities being used, the better the patronage that will be achieved. Table VI also indicate a significant relationship between ICT utilization and marketing efficiency at $P < 0.05$ ($r = 0.626$). Marketing efficiency was measured by sub - variables such as; operating cost, market share, market reach, relationship with business partners, customer service and profit maximization. Hence, ICT reduces the operating cost, increases the market share, market reach and profit, and improves the relationship with business partners and customer service.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings from the study showed that ICT has been adopted and utilized by hospitality industry in Lagos, Nigeria to carry out various tasks with the objective of achieving organizational goals. Its impact on the industry has been identified to include; reduction in operating costs, increase in sales and market share, extending market reach and attracting more customer, establishing strong relationship with business partner and improving customer service. However, facilities such as Local Area Network and Global Distribution System are yet to be well adopted. Also, not many hotels have Property Management System. ICT has a strong influence on guests' arrival, a large percentage of reservations were either through telephone, e-mail or on-line real time booking. This study also established that the quality of human resources in the hospitality industry is low. This study also established a preference for men as hotel managers in hospitality industry. From the results of the study, it is recommended that appointment of hotel managers should be based on merit and that the female gender should also be given equal opportunity like their male counterpart. Furthermore, hospitality and by extension tourism industry requires ICT more than any other sector for its proper functioning and development. Adoption of ICT for business transaction is expedient to the development of the industry. ICT has significant role to play in improving the service delivery that is customer centered and which operates on the pure principle and concept of decentralization to keep the guests satisfied. Business operation like: monitoring stock levels, efficient marketing of products and services, information sharing between stakeholders, paying suppliers online, ordering online, online customer service, online booking, internal communication and communication with business partners can easily be accomplished via the deployment of ICTs. Integrating and harnessing a successful exploitation of the many advantages of Information Communication and Technology will be of tremendous advantage to the development of the industry. Lastly, the current level of application of ICT in the industry should be sustained while effort should be made to measure up to future developments in the ICT world.

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CLOTHING CONSUMPTION PROBLEMS OF
AGEING WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

This paper identified the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption and ways of solving those problems. It adopted a survey research design. The population comprised all the ageing women in Enugu State. The sample comprised of 300 ageing women, randomly drawn from the population. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using frequency and mean scores. The findings indicated among other things that ageing women face such problems as difficulty in selecting clothing that could conceal body defects, selecting clothing according to tradition, not selecting clothing that enhance appearance, etc. Recommendations were made for improving the clothing consumption of ageing women such as Home Economics extension agents should visit and advice ageing women on appropriate clothing for them. The paper concluded that discovering the clothing problems or challenges faced by the ageing women as a result of the ageing process and finding their possible solutions, would go a long way in helping them improve on their clothing consumption.

Keywords: Clothing, consumption, ageing, problem, family, women.

INTRODUCTION

Clothing is anything placed on the body to adorn, protect or communicate an intent (Johnson and Foster, 1990). According to Anyakoha and Eluwa (2007), clothing includes clothes, accessories, hair-do, make-ups, shoes and others. Clothing constitutes visual communication, which gives varied impressions about the wearer. Therefore clothing includes body decorations such as cosmetics, tattoos, hair colour and hair arrangements, ornaments of jewellery, badges and insignia of office rank, extension of the body in the form of canes, bags, umbrella and handkerchiefs, as well as apparel or garment.

Clothing is generally accepted as one of the fundamental needs of individuals and families all over the world owing to its functional and aesthetic roles which include protection from environmental hazards, enhancement of personality, decoration, and role identification. Through clothing, basic human needs are satisfied, both physical and socio-psychological. Clothing can also be used as a camouflage to physical defects and disabilities (Weber, 1990). Clothing constitutes very crucial need for man and plays important roles for him and as such, every individual both young and old is a consumer of clothing.

Every family member needs clothing. Just as the nutritional needs of the family members vary according age in foods, the clothing consumption needs of individuals in a family vary with age. In order words, physiological growth and development make varying demands on clothing in that at different stages of life, individuals have different needs in clothing. For the clothing consumption of a family to be balanced, the clothing needs of the different age groups must be met. The ageing or elderly is among the vulnerable groups in the family whose clothing consumption problems require attention.

Ageing is a normal physiological process accompanied by a progressive alteration of the body's homeostatic adaptive responses (Okafor and Nwagu, 2007). It produces observable changes in structure and function and increases vulnerability to environmental stress and diseases. According to Mohammed (1993) ageing involves a number of biological changes in the human organism which include wrinkles, poor sight, deafness, growing of grey, trembling hand, failing memory and poor body posture. Thus, at old age, the structure and function of the body are altered. Therefore, as physical changes take place from one younger age group to another, changes in physical characteristics as the individual advances in age. As the body ages, the muscles tend to lose their tone and drop; both men and women find that their legs and arms generally lose their shape and their buttocks flatten (Marshall, Jackson, Stanley, Keffgenpp and Tochie, 2000).

In the opinion of Ezema (2000), as individuals grow older, their faces become lined and wrinkled, their figure changes in size and proportion and there is often an increase in weight and decrease in height. Older persons can lose up to five (5) inches in height (Marshall et al, 2000). In woman, the body fat tends to move slowly downwards, the bust or chest becomes rounded causing a roll of fat at the base of the neck and there is generally body sagging (Ezema, 2000). Ageing women are generally seen with deposit of flabby flesh at the upper arm. These figure defects resulting from the ageing process create serious fitting problems and make clothing consumption a difficult task for the ageing women.

Thus, clothing consumption (selection and wear of clothing) by the ageing women is influenced by the ageing process. In other words, ageing places a special clothing demand on them which they must respond to accordingly if they are to enjoy adequate clothing. For instance, many ageing persons lose some of their ability to move and

do things. Diseases such as arthritis may cripple their hands thereby making dressing a challenge. In this case, garments that open down the front are easier to handle and fasteners such as Velcro, zippers, and medium – large buttons make it easier for them to fasten garments. Moreover, they need light weight clothing, clothing made of natural fibres which are good conductors of heat, clothing that are comfortable, clothing that enhance appearance, and clothing with simple styles that are easy to wear.

Ageing women seem not to understand the clothing need imposed on them by the ageing process and as a result, they do not dress according to their clothing need. For instance, in Enugu State, an ageing woman would prefer to tie two wrappers on the waist and put on a blouse (not minding the discomfort), to as simple and smart attire of skirt and top, simply because the latter is more of western culture. As a result, ageing women do appear in such clothing as heavy "George", "Asoke", or lace materials, heavy beads, headgear, and other fabrics and accessories which are most times uncomfortable. Dressing such as untidy clothing, rioting colours, uninteresting styles, which make them look dull or unattractive, older and sickly, characterize their clothing due to tradition and culture. This becomes a problem because if clothing is to perform its varied functions, it has to be appropriately selected for special purposes or functions irrespective of the age of the individual. There is therefore need for and understanding of the clothing problem of this age group in the family and seek ways of helping them enjoy adequate clothing

Objective of the study

The major purpose of this study was to investigate into the problems ageing women encounter in their clothing consumption (selection and wear) and find ways of helping them select and enjoy clothing. Specifically, the study identified:

1. the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption (selection and wear)
2. solutions to the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption

METHODOLOGY

The area of the study is Enugu State of Nigeria. It is made up of three senatorial zones namely: Enugu-North, Enugu-West and Enugu-East. Each of these zones has six local government areas and 425 communities in all. The study adopted a survey research design to sample the opinion of people on an issue using questionnaire.

The population for the study comprised all the ageing women in all the three zones of Enugu State. According to the Federal Office of Statistics (2006), the total population of ageing women in Enugu State was 66,260. Enugu East had a population of 25,346, Enugu West had 18,772 while Enugu North had a population of 22,142 (Federal Office of Statistics, 2006).

A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select three hundred (300) respondents for the study. In the first stage, one zone out of the three zones was randomly selected and Enugu-North zone was selected. The second stage involved the selection of local government area and three out of the six local government areas where randomly selected. The third stage involved the selection of communities from the local government areas. Four communities were randomly selected from one of the three local government areas while three communities each were randomly selected from the other two local government areas to make a total of 10 communities. From each selected communities, 30 ageing women were purposively selected to give a total of 300 ageing women involved in the study.

A structured questionnaire which was developed based on literature and research objectives was used to collect data for the study. The questionnaire was made up of two sections; A and B. Both sections elicited information on the specific objectives. Cronbach Alpha Reliability Coefficient Index was used to determine the reliability of the instrument and the Reliability Coefficient was 0.89. The instrument was administered by hand to the respondents by the researchers. Non-literate respondents were assisted to fill the questionnaire. Three hundred (300) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the ageing women but only two hundred and sixty two (262) copies were retrieved and used.

Data collected were analyzed using Mean. Each item was accepted as a problem faced by the ageing women in their clothing consumption if the calculated mean was equal to or was greater than 3.0 while mean calculated below 3.0 was rejected or not taken as a problem.

RESULTS

Table I: Mean responses on the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption (selection and wear)

Problems			Mean (x)	Remark
1.	Selecting clothing according to tradition most of which are heavy and inhibit mobility	4.36	Accepted	
2.	Selecting clothing that do not cover body defects such as wrinkles, stretch marks, varicose veins, flabby skins, etc	3.20	Accepted	
3.	Selecting clothing that are of synthetic fibre which do not breed well thereby making one to perspire and smell	3.80	Accepted	
4.	Not selecting clothing that enhance appearance	3.00	Accepted	
5.	Not selecting clothing that have easy-care quality to reduce the task of care	3.21	Accepted	
6.	Receiving from friends and relatives clothing that are inappropriate in terms of colour, texture, style, etc, thereby making cluttering homes with clothes that are not needed	4.65	Accepted	
7.	Selecting clothing styles in response to tradition – styles that are fussy with flounces and gathers which add weight to the body and give rise to funny appearance	3.30	Accepted	
8.	Wearing clothing repeatedly without cleaning	3.60	Accepted	
9.	Problem of dressing and undressing due to opening and fastenings being at the back position where hands cannot easily reach	4.26	Accepted	
10.	Selecting clothing that do not give adequate ease in bending, stretching, raising up hands and walking	3.01	Accepted	

Table I revealed that all the items recorded means within and above the criterion level of acceptance. This shows that the respondents agreed with the problems facing ageing women in their clothing consumption.

Table II: Mean responses on the solutions to the problems faced by ageing women in

their clothing consumption

Items		Mean (x)	Remark
1. Select clothing that cover body defects (wrinkles, stretch marks, flabby skins, etc)	4.00	Accepted	
2. Clothing should be light and loose to allow easy movement	3.68	Accepted	
3. Select clothing of natural fibre such as cotton, linen, etc, which are good conductors of heat	3.82	Accepted	
4. Select clothing that will enhance appearance	3.74	Accepted	
5. Select easy-to-care clothing such as cotton mixed with polyester so as to reduce the trouble/stress of ironing	3.66	Accepted	
6. Avoid receiving unneeded clothing from friends and relatives	4.03	Accepted	
7. Select simple styles such as flared gowns and skirts, caftans, etc	3.26	Accepted	
8. Select and wear clothing that are soft and comfortable to the body	3.20	Accepted	
9. Openings and fastenings on clothing should be in front to ease dressing and undressing	4.89	Accepted	
10. Fastenings should be big enough and easy to manipulate	3.82	Accepted	

Table II revealed that the mean scores for all the items were above the criterion level of acceptance which is an indication that all the items were accepted by the respondents as solutions to the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption.

DISCUSSION

The study identified many problems faced by the ageing women in their clothing consumption (selection and wear). These problems hinder clothing from performing its varied functions to them thereby making them not to enjoy clothing. This is in agreement with Ezema (2000), who in her discussion on the clothing need of the ageing women explained that owing to the advancement in age, certain physiological changes occur which impose some clothing problems on them. Some of these problems among others include; difficulty in selecting clothing that could cover various body defects resulting from ageing, selecting clothing according to tradition which in most cases are heavy, untidy and restrict movement. Others include the problem of dressing and undressing resulting from old age related sicknesses such as arthritis. This is in agreement with Ogunwa (2000) who stated that because the structure and function of the body are altered in old age, the elderly or ageing have more severe problems than other age groups in the family.

The study also identified several solutions to the problems faced by ageing women in their clothing consumption. These include; that ageing women should select clothing that cover body defects, select clothing of natural fibres, select clothing that are easy to care for since they have less strength. It also indicated that ageing

women should select bright coloured clothing to enhance their appearance. This is an agreement with Mba, Orherewe and Osifeso (2001) who pointed out that in selecting clothing, colours that will envelope ones bad features and bring out the good ones are best. This information is very important to ageing women who have many figure defects which they may wish to camouflage or de-emphasize.

CONCLUSION

The physiological changes resulting from the ageing process place special clothing need on the ageing women. As a result, the ageing women face problems in their clothing consumption. However, proper selection and wear of clothing will help ageing women overcome these problems and improve on their clothing consumption.

Recommendations

1. Home Economics extension agents should visit and advise the ageing women on the appropriate clothing for them.
2. Home Economics extension agents should organize radio and television programs to create public awareness on the clothing needs of the ageing.

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FERTILITY AND COST OF MAINTENANCE OF
CHILDREN IN ABIA STATE.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the response on fertility and the changing cost of maintenance of children in Abia State. The study was based on a longitudinal panel survey of parents in Abia State. One thousand two hundred (1,200) household respondents were sampled. Interview schedule was used, which generated data used for analysis. The multistage sampling technique was adopted and used for sampling. Sample was determined by adopting sampling with constant sampling fraction, which was considered within ± 10 percent estimate of 95% confidence level. The data generated was analyzed using simple descriptive statistic, percentages, relative frequencies, mean standard deviation and chi square statistic. The result of the study revealed that the rate of fertility in Abia State was significantly high (49.9%). The result also revealed that the sex of the children do not have significant effect on cost of education and health care of the children ($\chi^2=986.16 > p, .05$). The result also indicated that there exist significant effect of parents economic condition on fertility decision as ($\chi^2=316.3 > p, 0.05$) more than 85% of the parents perceived the cost of child maintenance as being burdensome, and 84.2% affirmed it to be on the high side. Recommendations were made regarding policies to be undertaken by families and government.

Keywords: Fertility, cost, maintenance, children, parents.

INTRODUCTION

Raising children requires the investment of substantial resources from both parents and the state, and the input of parental caring and home production time. The price of a child is the commitment of resources required to raise a child of given quality (Bradbury, 2004). It is the relevant concept when thinking about the factors that might influence fertility decisions. The cost of a child is a measure of the actual amount of resources committed to child-raising, which can be expenditure of time and money on children. The cost to the parents can be defined as the additional income needed by a household in order to maintain parental living standards when they have an additional child. Bradbury and Saunders (2003) of the view that children's consumption in general includes education, and household public goods they observed that children can consume more than they cost their parents.

Cost in the context of this paper refers to the cost of bearing and rearing children, expenditure in education and health care, as exemplified Abia State. The cost of bearing and rearing children involve estimating the cost of production on each child and the cost of living, that is the total cost of goods ordinarily required in order to live up to one's usual standard. Unfortunately parents do not take into consideration the prime cost of children before they indulge in large family size which may eventually lead to low standard of living.

Fertility is the natural capability to be fruitful in the production of offspring. Fertility response is an answer made by parents to fruitfulness and the need for prolific reproduction. The national population policy (1988) states that at the current level of reproduction in Nigeria, the average number of children born to each woman at the end of her reproductive life is between five and six with an implied crude death rate of 45 to 48 per 1000. If children are considered to be veritable human capital, invaluable as sources of farm labour and old age, socio economic support in a fast changing, trade-urban economy, fertility is likely to have a high profile. Nag, White and Peet (1978) reports that children are economically useful, in the sense that they help in farm work and generating income for the upkeep of the family. The economic cost of rearing children outweighs the benefits of children up to age 16. (Omeje, Onyukwu and Ugwuonah, 1998).

In Abia State where Polygamy is part of the culture, where there are no limits to the number of wives and concubines that a man can have the cost or responsibilities associated with child's rearing could be structurally transferred from parents to others (e.g. extended family members) without altering the judicial or social statue of the biological parents, with basic utilitarian roles and obligations appertaining thereto. The attraction of high fertility may seem strong to many in a rapidly changing post colonial society where the traditional premium is on large family size. Unmediated reproduction and communal child rearing are increasingly contracted by the realities of a grossly depleted income per capita, massive stagflation, population explosion and an unbearably high cost of child rearing and education. Craig and Bittman (2004) is of the view that the cost of children varies with household characteristics such as parental wage rates, the age of the children, the pattern of child care used in the household, and magnitude of the state support for families. These aphorisms portray the contemporary dilemma regarding fertility and the changing cost of maintenance of children in Abia State, which is the subject matter of this study.

Problem of the study

Despite the prevailing harsh economic realities in the country, efforts at creating awareness on the need for families to reduce the number of children they choose to have and introduction of programmes to facilitate birth control and prevent unwanted pregnancies, Nigerians’ traditional attitude towards family size and structure does not appear to have evidently changed. The countries population remains on a steady increase through procreation. In Abia State the survival strategy of the poor, leads them to strive for relatively large families because traditionally the flow of wealth is from children to parents. Thus the fertility rate of 6 children per woman and per capita income of ₦16,000 minimum wage of the average conjugal family of 7 person can barely afford ₦0.00 per meal.. Thus the breakdown of extended family system (common among the Igbo) which has exposed the family to the full brunt of rearing all their children with little or no assistance from their extended family members, high level of unemployment and retrenchment and changes in the economic value systems, given these situations, it is necessary to determine the cost of maintenance of children, through health care and education by placing it in a proper place against fertility choices in Abia State.

Objectives of the study

The study examined fertility and cost of maintenance of children in Abia State. The specific objectives were to

- 1. determine the effects of households’ economic condition on fertility decisions and behavior; and
- 2. ascertain how cost of maintenance of children affects parents’ fertility behavior.

Research questions

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- 1. do parents consider their family size and composition motives against costs of maintenance of children?
- 2. what relevance does parents perception of the cost of maintenance of children bear on demand for fertility controls?

Hypothesis

- 1. The cost of the maintenance of children has no significant effect on fertility responses.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The research employed a longitudinal survey of parents; that is any of the accessible spouses in Abia state. The longitudinal survey was meant to elicit information on parents' perception of fertility and the cost of maintenance of children in Abia State.

Population

The population of the study comprised all the parents from urban areas that were resident in Abia State. Respondents were the household head (Male and female) or his/her accessible spouse between the ages of 15 to 60 years and above. According to 1991 census figures, Abia state had a population of 1.88 million projected to be 2,633,170 by 2002 National population commission in Abia State.

Sample and sampling technique

The multi-stage sampling technique was used in determining the sample selection and size. This technique made use of a sampling frame of existing records and data in the ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy affairs, Abia State and the National population commission, Abia state. The sampling frame consists of the names and numbers of autonomous communities in Abia state. From Ministry of Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs Umuahia Abia State.

Six (6) L.G.A's, 2 from each of the three senatorial zones of Abia were systematically

selected. 2 autonomous communities were randomly selected from the selected L.G.A's. 4 villages from each autonomous community were selected at random, giving a total of twenty four (24) villages which were involved in the study. At the last stage, 25 households within each village were systemically selected making a total of 600 households. Finally from each household, the household head (male/female) or his/her accessible spouse was purposively selected and interviewed giving a total of 1,200 respondents which made up the sample. To determine the sample size, sampling with constant sampling fraction was adopted. The estimate was precise, within ±10 percent within 95% confidence level, which is expressed as a value of the z-statistics (Poate and Dalpyn, 1993). The probability of selecting an individual household is equal to the number of villages in the sample then multiplied by the number of households in the sample, divided by the number of household in each village. This gave a total sample size of 1,200 respondents.

Instruments for data collection

Data for this study was sourced mainly from primary sources, interview schedule, and key informant interview. The interview schedule is made up of structured questions (multiple choice and open ended) containing 12 items questions.

Validation and reliability of instrument: The interview guide was content and face validated through expert judgment of 3 experts, from human & family development specialist, measurement & evaluation and curriculum experts. The reliability was obtained in a test-retest procedure of 10 households in Umuahia metropolis, and 20 respondents were obtained and a reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained.

Data collection procedure

The study made use of three (3) specially trained research assistants and note takers who were the facilitators. Each was responsible for administering the interview guide they recorded the interview responses as the respondents supplied the answers, each research assistant covered 4 villages selected from each senatorial zone, all were under the supervision of the researcher. This method is considered more suitable than traditional questionnaire self report technique because a considerable number of the research audience lack effective formal education and therefore would not be able to handle the survey instruments on their own.

Data analysis procedures

The interview schedule responses produced a data which was analyzed using Descriptive statistics such as simple percentages, relative frequencies and mean, and standard deviation where used for the research questions, while chi-square statistics was used to test the hypothesis. The key informant interview generated a data which was used to reinforce the data and also as supplements to major findings.

RESULTS

The results obtained from the analysis of data in the course of the research were presented in Tables I - VII using the research question and Ho as guidelines.

Research Question I: Do parents consider their family size and composition motives against the cost of maintenance of children in Abia State?

Table II: The cost of education per term of children by sex and summary of X2 test of independence.

Cost (?)	Remarks	Female		Male		Df	Cal X2	X2Tab($\alpha=0.5$)
		Freq	%	Freq	%			
Less than 5,000	Low	73	12	85	14			
5,001 – 10,000	Moderate	156		26	160			
10,001 – 15,000	High	355		59	300	27.02	7.8	
Above 15,000	Very High	16		3	55			
Total		600		600				
Source: Field Survey, 2011								

Table II shows that majority of the responding households spent between 10,001-15,000 on each of their child per term for the education of both their female (59%) and male (50%). Few parents spent more than 15,000 for the education of their children, which was revealed in the data female (3%) and male (9%). The chi-square test of independence also revealed that χ^2 cal (27.02) is greater than critical χ^2 (7.8) for $df=3$ at $\alpha=0.5$ level, signifying that family size and composition motives had significant effect on cost of maintenance of children.

Table III: The cost of health care of children by sex

Cost (?)	Remarks	Female		Male		Df	Cal X2	X2Tab ($\alpha=0.5$)
		Freq	%	Freq	%			
Less than 5,000	Low	425	71	475	79			
5,001 – 10,000	Moderate	100	17	75	13			
10,001 – 15,000	High	60	10	48	8		7.8	
Above 15,000	Very High	15	2	2	0			
Total		600		600				
Source: Field Survey, 2011								

Table III shows that majority of the respondent household spent less than 5,000 for the health care of their children either male or female at the percentage of (71%) for females and 79% for male children. Generally it was observed that parents hardly spend more than 15,000 for each of their children's health care as observed from the data female 2% and 0% for male. The chi-square test of independence revealed that χ^2 (97.8) for $df=3$ at $\alpha=0.5$ level, signifying that cost of health maintenance of children has significant effect on fertility.

Research Question 2: What relevance does parents perception of the cost of maintenance of children bear on demand for fertility controls?

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to number of living children.

No. of living children	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1-4	552	46.0
5-8	575	47.9
Above 8	73	6.1
Total	1200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table I showed that (47.9%) of the household have 5-8 living children and (46%) had 1-4 living children while (6.1%) had 8 and more living children.

Table IV: Cost of child maintenance as measured by education and health care of children.

Cost (₦)		Education		Health care		df	Cal X2	X2 Tab (α =0.5)
		Freq	%	Freq	%			
Less than 5,000	158	13	9.00	75				
5001 - 10,000		316	26.5	175	15			
10,001 - 15,000	655	54.5	108	9	3	986.16	7.8	
Above 15,000		71	6	17	1			
Total		1,200		1,200				

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table IV shows that more than half of the sample population (54.5%) spent up to ₦0,001-15,000, on the education of their children each term, followed by (26.5%) spending ₦5,001- ₦10,000. It was noticed that only (6%) can spend more than 15,000 for the education of the children likewise on the aspect of health care as part of maintenance of children (75%) spends less than ₦5,000 on their children's health bills, and (15%) spends ₦5,001 - ₦10,000, only (1%) which is insignificant spends more than ₦15,000 in health care. The chi-square test of independence revealed that χ^2 cal (986.16) is greater than χ^2 (7.8) for $df=3$ at $\alpha =0.5$ level, thus signifying that the cost of maintenance of children in terms of education and health care has significant relevance on the demand for fertility control.

Table V: Extent of burdensomeness of the cost of maintenance of children

		Responses	Freq.	%
Response	Yes	No	180	15
		Total	1,200	100
Extent		Very High	701	58.4
		High	310	25.8
		Moderate	160	13.3
		Low	29	2.42
		Total	1,200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The data in Table V show an overwhelming proportion of the respondents (85%) agreed that maintenance of children through financing the education is burdensome. On the extent of the burden posed, 84.2% affirmed that the burden is on the high side
Hypothesis I: The cost of the maintenance of children has no significant effect on fertility responses

Table VI: Preferred total number of children under favourable and present economic condition.

No. of Children	Favourable		Present	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
1	-	-	4	0.3
2	4	0.3	52	4.3
3	36	3	152	13
4	250	20.8	44	3.7
5	260	21.7	233	19.4
6	274	22.8	187	15.3
7	93	7.8	39	3.3
8	115	9.6	49	4.1
9	168	14	40	3.3
Total	1200	100	1200	100
Mean(F)	5.95	4.71		
Mode	6.00	4.00		
Median	5.70	4.41		
S2	1.76	1.56		

Source: Field Survey, 2011
Table VI reveals that under favourable economic condition 3.3% would want 1 - 3 children, 65.3% would want 4-6 children and 31.4% would want 7-9 children. While under present economic condition 17.6% would want 1-3 children 71.7% want 4 – 6 children and 10.7% prefer 7 – 9 children. The mean (x) of total number of children under favourable to unfavourable economic condition is 5.95:4.71. The S2 obtained is 1.76 favourable to 1.56 unfavourable economic conditions.

Table VII: Summary table of chi-square test of independence analysis based on total number of children preferred.

Cells	Fo	Fe	df	X2cal	X2Tab
$(\alpha = 0.5)$					
I	0	2	8	316.3	15.5
Ii	4	28			
Iii	36	94			
Iv	250	347			
V	260	246.5			
Vi	274	230.5			
Vii	93	66			
Viii	115	82			
Ix	168	104			
X	4	2			
Xi	52	28			
Xii	152	94			
Xiii	444	347			
Xv	233	246.5			
Xv	187	230.5			
Xvi	39	66			
Xvii	49	82			
Xviii	40	104			

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi-square in Table VII also shows that the calculated X2 (316.3) is greater than the critical $x2(15.5)$ for $df=8$ at $\alpha = 0.5$ level.

The Ho: is therefore rejected and the HA accepted, which states that the cost of maintenance of children has significant effect on fertility responses.

Summary of findings

1. The rate of fertility in Abia State is significantly high and family size is average of 6 children per household.
2. Fertility as weighted in terms of family size and sex composition has significant influence on the cost of maintenance in education and health of children.
3. The cost of maintenance of children have significant relevance on the demand for fertility control
4. Parents perceive the cost of maintenance of children as burdensome and very high on the family.
5. Generally the cost of maintenance of children has significant influence on fertility responses in Abia State.

Discussion of findings

Table I shows that the average family size of 6 children (47.9%) was prevalent in Abia State, this reflects a fairly large number if juxtaposed to the national population policy which suggest that households should limit the number of children per woman to four. This may be attributed to the age groups predominantly captured by the survey, almost all the polygamous households have a family size of six children and above. It is commonly known that south eastern households, place high premium on children because of tangible and emotional benefits derived from them. Children, especially sons, are perceived to be agents of continuity for the family name, (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1994) This study tried to measure the direct cost of maintenance of children using such indices as investments in the education and health care (Bradbury, 2004). Data displayed in (Table II and III) tried to find out the average health and education cost per child, stratified by sex of children on whom expenses were recorded, these were done by categorizing the amount spent under a four(4) point scale; low (less than ₦5000) moderate (₦5,001-10,000), High (₦10,001-15,000) and very high (above ₦5,000). Generally the x2 test of independence revealed that the sex of the children do not have significant effect on the cost of education and health care of the children as regards fertility behavior of parents. Thus the results do not show that

parents demonstrate any significant discriminatory practices in the amount they spend on the cost of maintenance of health and education of their children on the basis of sex as corroborated by Bradbury and Saunders (2003). The reason deduced from the respondents and key informant being that "both male and female children were capable of taking good care of their parents if they were given adequate education and training (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1994).

Most of the respondents felt that the health care and education of their children entails enormous cost (Tables iv and v) showed an overwhelming proportion of the respondents (85%) agreed that financing the education of their children is burdensome and the frequency they regard as high 84.2% affirmed (very high and high). The parents observed that the cost of their children's education increasingly encroaches on such more important household needs as cost of feeding, clothing, house rent/public utilities etc. as corroborated by Bradbury and Saunders (2003) findings.

Table VI and VII elicited responses on preferred family size of respondents both under favourable and the present economic conditions. Under favourable economic condition the preferred mean number of male to female is in the ration 3.53:2.45 and preferred family size was x 5.95. The findings reveal that there is a triangular logic behind the predilection of most couples to have as many as six (6) children if all things were equal which was summarized according to the perceived hierarchy of importance;

1. To increase the probability of having more male issues.
2. To reduce the probability of not having any female issue at all
3. To create chances of coping with the uncertainties of untimely death

This is in agreement with the findings of Omeje et al. (1998). This is probably why the participants preferred to dwell on the opportunity cost and challenges of the cost of maintenance of the child as opposed to the opportunity cost of not having a child at all which from all indications is a detestable reproach. Thus, concluding that the cost of maintenance of children has significant effect on fertility responses of parents in Abia State.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper examined the fertility response of parents and the changing cost of maintenance of children in Abia State. The study provided a conceptual framework of family building process at different phases of the transition within which the possible biological and behavioural linkages between fertility, and cost of maintenance of children in the aspect of education and health care were viewed. The major findings of this study lead to the major conclusion, that the rate of fertility in Abia State is very high, and the cost of maintenance of children had significant effect on fertility responses.

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made.

1. Appropriate policy measures have to be identified by the government and relevant population Agencies to cope with the problem of high fertility of individual families.
2. A pragmatic re-orientation on the part of the government is needed in curbing the problem of high fertility.
3. There is need to incorporate the principle of sustainability in birth control and population planning in Abia State. This involves creating the necessary institutional framework, backed with adequate personnel and resources, especially at the grassroots level for population education.

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