

## Factors Responsible for Marital Infidelity among Ipata Market Women in Ilorin Kwara State

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**Abstract.** Marital infidelity also known as extra marital affairs is one of the commonly pronounced problem in marriage, it also include extra marital relationship, cheating and sexual intercourse. Moderating variables like family type, age, employability status and religion were considered as factors responsible for marital infidelity as perceived by women. This study investigated factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata market women in Ilorin south local government area, Kwara State.

The descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. A total of 230 women were selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. An instrument titled 'Factors Responsible for Marital Infidelity Questionnaire (FRMQ)' was used to obtain data from the respondents. The data generated was analyzed using frequency counts and percentage for the demographic data while Analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to test the three postulated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level.

The finding revealed that there is no significant difference in factor responsible for marital

infidelity as perceived by women in Ilorin south local government area of Kwara State on the basis of family type. Also there is significant difference in factor responsible for marital infidelity as perceived by women in Ilorin south local government area Kwara State on the basis of age, employability status and religion.

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that counsellors should enlightened couples on needs to engage in satisfactory sexual relationship; in addition counsellors in collaboration with health workers should enlightened couples on how to improve their sexual urge towards each other and overcome frigidity. In order to reduce the risk of marital infidelity among women, it is necessary for woman to engage in one occupation or trade and women should be encouraged not to trade their marital integrity on the platform of job security

### 1. Introduction

Infidelity also known as extra marital affairs is one of the commonly pronounced problems in

marriage. Infidelity, according to Blow and Hartnett (2005), comprises of a number of activities including an affair, extra marital relationship, cheating, sexual intercourse and emotional connections that are beyond friendship outside marriage. Marriage is the legalizing of a relationship between a man and a woman to which the society gives approval. Marriage places each partner under legal and social obligation in the society (Ogwukhademhe & Ishola, 2013). According to Nwoye (1991), marriage is a union of a man and a woman who agree to live together as husband and wife.

Infidelity is one of the most important reasons for divorce. Based on research reports, 90% of all divorces involve infidelity. The most consistent data on infidelity according to Barker (2011), drives from the General Social Survey which was sponsored by the National Science Foundation to track the opinions of Americans about social behaviours since 1972. The survey data shows that in any given year, about 10% of married couples (10% men and 7% of women) have engaged in sex outside their marriage, but detailed analysis of the data from 1991 to 2006 shows surprising shifts.

In the same vain, University of Washington researchers have found that the rate of lifetime infidelity for men over 60 increased to 28% in 2006 from 20% in 1991. For women over 60, this rate increased from 5% in 1991 to 15% in 2006. As a consequence, infidelity becomes an important issue in psychology literature which attracts lots of attention of researchers. Also infidelity has been investigated within a variety of perspective in the literature like reasons, types, cues, education level, gender difference, treatment, personality of spouses and so on (Barker, 2011). It will be interesting to know that relationship success is an uphill task in the face of societal and cultural demands. With this fact in mind, adjustment in relationship is necessary as a tool to ensure smoothness in marriage.

As noted by Ogwukhademhe and Ishola (2013), adjustment in relationship can either have positive or negative influence on the psychological wellbeing of the couples. Nwoye (1991) however, emphasized the fundamental ideas of marriage as a union between at East one

man and one woman; relationship which is culturally approved; an endorsement of sexual intercourse and sexual commitment between spouse exclusive of other male and female; an expectation that children will be born; a defined mode of behaviour and a permanent lifelong affair. On this premise, marriage will be hitch free if all the ideals are followed to the later. Hitch free marriage might not be possible but one will expect that at East there will be no extra marital affair between the couples. Extra marital affairs, as described by Ogwukhademhe and Ishola (2013), is the emotional adultery that culminates in physical sex or a long term love affair. It is further described as an unlawful relationship engaged in by a spouse outside marriage. Bassad (1995) described extra marital affair as a marital problem which referred to as breakdown in communication among couples which results in constant form of verbal abuse, physical aggression, psychological, emotional and physical separation all that may lead to divorce.

In the study of Ogwukhademhe and Ishola (2013) on factors responsible for extramarital affairs in Lagos, Nigeria, it was revealed that sex related factors, infertility, socio economic factor, occupational related factor and age related factors are the leading factors responsible for extra marital affair. On the other hand, several literature such as Johnson (2002), Roscoe (1998); Brunk(1999), showed that educational level, attachment style, income level, race, culture, religion and marital satisfaction are some of the factors responsible for marital infidelity.

Race and culture play a role in infidelity, some work indicates that African Americans and Hispanic Americans were more likely than Whites to engage in infidelity (Amato & Rogers, 1997; Treas & Giesen, 2000). The higher rates for African Americans, however, it may be due to the shortage of single men in the African American community, creating increased opportunities for married black men to engage in infidelity with single black women (Wiederman, 1997). Extramarital sex also appears to be more prevalent in some African societies than in Asian countries. For instance, in Guinea Bissau, 38% of men and 19% of women were found to

have had extra-dyadic sex in the past year, compared with only 8% of men and 1% of women in Hong Kong (Craiel, 1995). In contrast, in a large sample of Japanese and American college-age participants, Tsapelas et al (2009) did not find a culture difference in extra-dyadic relationships.

Educational level plays a role in the frequency of infidelity. Infidelity has been associated with either lower levels of education (Treas & Giesen, 2000) or higher levels of education (Whisman & Snyder, 2007), suggesting that these statistics are dependent on contingent variables. For example, in a large U.S. national study of dating, cohabiting, and married women, Forste and Tanfer (1996) found that women who were more educated than their husbands were more likely to engage in sexual infidelity; but if the husband was more educated than the wife, she was less likely to philander. Level of education relative to that of the partner appears to be more important than absolute level of education.

Income level and the distribution of income between partners is also related to infidelity. Atkins et al (2001) found a positive relationship between income and extramarital sexual involvement among individuals with an annual income above \$30,000. These researchers suggest that higher income leads to infidelity through its influence on factors such as opportunity, education, and feelings of entitlement. Further, lower income individuals may be financially dependent on their partners and thus regard infidelity as too risky to pursue. Individuals who work outside the home while their partners remain in the home also express higher rates of extramarital sexual involvement (Atkins, et al, 2001), perhaps because the work environment provides the opportunity and time to get to know coworkers (Treas & Giesen, 2000). In clinical samples, 46% to 62% of individuals reported that they met their extramarital sexual partner at work (Glass, 2003). The likelihood of extramarital involvement is also related to the degree to which an individual's job involves touching clients, discussing personal concerns with colleagues or clients, or working alone with coworkers (Treas & Giesen, 2000). Liu (2000) found a positive relationship between

opportunity and sexual infidelity among men. It is unclear, however, whether men actually create more opportunities for infidelity, respond to more opportunities for infidelity, or have fewer qualms about engaging in infidelity (Atkins, Yi, & Baucom, 2005).

Duration of the primary relationship also plays a role in infidelity. Among dating, cohabiting and married couples, the longer the primary relationship continues, the more likely that sexual infidelity will occur. Among married women, the likelihood of extramarital involvement peaks in the seventh year of marriage, then declines; but among married men, the likelihood of extramarital involvement decreases over time until the eighteenth year of matrimony, after which the likelihood of extramarital involvement increases (Blow, 2005). Similarly, in a sample of couples in therapy for infidelity, sexual infidelity first occurred after an average of seven years of marriage. Lawson and Samson (1998) reported, however, that the length of marriage prior to initial sexual infidelity is decreasing with younger cohorts. Certain developmental stages in a marriage, including pregnancy and the months following the birth of a child, are also high risk times for infidelity among males (Allen & Baucom, 2001; Brown, 1991).

Age may make a difference in one's inclination toward infidelity, however the data are contradictory. Recent, large, representative surveys indicate that the prevalence of sexual infidelity generally increases with age in America. However, there are also seems to be an interaction between age and gender. In a sample of married American participants, women ages 40-45 and men ages 55-65 were more likely to report infidelity at some point in their lifetime. Individuals outside of these age ranges were less likely to have been unfaithful, and men and women younger than 40 did not differ significantly in their reported rates of infidelity. These data may not necessarily reflect age differences but rather cohort differences (Wiederman, 1997).

## 2. Statement of the Problem.

Marital infidelity is a major problem that affects most marriages and if proper care is not taken to

curb or control it by both sex, it can destroy a loving marriage, as most marriages that suffered from marital infidelity always ended up been scattered, divorce, full of domestic violence and emotional trauma. The researcher's observation of many families reveals that women in Ilorin East Local Government Area, Kwara State have different perception on factors responsible for marital infidelity on the basis of economic factor, occupational factor, infertility and sexual incapability as all these factors were seen to be the reason why some marriages in the area suffers from marital infidelity. All these are what prompted the researcher to investigate the factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata Market women in Ilorin Kwara State.

### 3. Research Question

The following research question is raised to guide the study;

What are the factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata market women in Ilorin Kwara state?

### 4. Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated for this study:

There is no difference in factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata Market women in Ilorin Kwara State

### 5. Methodology

The research design for this study is descriptive research design of survey type and according to Abiola (2007), this type of research design involves a clear definition of the problem, collection of relevant and adequate data, careful interpretation of the data and skillful reporting of the findings. In the same vein, Oladunni (2005), explained that descriptive survey type involves collection of data for the purpose of describing existing conditions and further explained that descriptive survey type may also involve the exploration of an observed phenomena or the description in a precise form of the

characteristics of individuals, groups, people or phenomena in education.

The population of the study comprises all married women in Ilorin East Local Government Area of Kwara State. However, women in Ipata Market, Ilorin East Local Government Area of Kwara State were used as the target population. Sampling technique is defined as a systematic process employed to select a required proportion of the target population (Daramola, 2007). A purposive sampling technique was used to select two hundred and thirty (230) select married women in Ipata Market, Ilorin East Local Government. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 230 respondents in Ipata Market, Ilorin East Local Government (Married women) for the study.

According to Oyewo (2003), instrumentation is the process of selecting or developing a measuring device method appropriate to a given evaluation or research problems. The instrument employed in gathering data from the respondents was researcher-designed questionnaire title "Factors Responsible for Marital Infidelity Questionnaire (FRMIQ). The questionnaire has three (3) sections; A and B. Section A focused on the demographic data of the respondents which include information on age, length of marriage, gender and religion. Section B contained items that sought to establish some of the factors responsible for marital infidelity among married couples. The response format was in 4 point Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2 and strongly Disagree (SD) = 1.

The Psychometric properties of the instrument was ascertained through validation and reliability. In the light of this, to ascertain the validity of this instrument, the researcher gave the instrument to experts in the Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin. So as to carry out both face and content validity of the instrument. Comments and suggestions made by the experts was carefully studied and used to improve the quality of the research instrument.

In order to determine the reliability of the instrument, the researcher adopted a test re-test method, by which the questionnaire was administered to twenty (20) respondents from another area outside the study area with an

interval of two weeks. The result of the first administration was compared with the result of the second administration using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) statistical analysis. A correlation coefficient of 0.64 ‘r’ was obtained considered reliable for the study.

The researcher also considered careful observation of the respondents on the consequences of behavior while carrying out the research. The rights and dignity of participants and privacy was considered. The researcher seeks the informed consent of those who participated in the study. The researcher makes it clear to respondents that they are free to decide on whatever information they wish to share with the researcher and that they are under

no pressure or obligation to disclose information that they do not wish to disclose. The researcher administered the instrument with the help and support of four trained research assistants who equally helped in the interpretation of items on instrument to participant who are unable to read. Data and information obtained from respondents through questionnaire were analyzed with the use of frequency counts and percentage. The data gathered for this study were collected, coded and subjected to appropriate statistical analysis. The inferential statistics of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the stated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

## 6. Results

What are the factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata market women in Ilorin Kwara state?

**Table 1: Mean and Rank Order of Respondents’ Expression on Factors Responsible for Marital Infidelity**

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Item No	Factors responsible for marital infidelity	Mean	Rank
14.	Sexual dissatisfaction from husband/wife	3.87	1 <sup>st</sup>
16.	Low sexual desire of either partner	3.81	2 <sup>nd</sup>
13.	Impotence/frigidity	3.69	3 <sup>rd</sup>
15.	Painful sex with partners	3.44	4 <sup>th</sup>
10.	Childlessness	3.36	5 <sup>th</sup>
8.	Extramarital affair as an exchange for job security	3.23	6 <sup>th</sup>
7.	Threat on job by the opposite sex	3.18	7 <sup>th</sup>
6.	Over ambition to secure an employment	3.11	8 <sup>th</sup>
9.	Delayed child-bearing	2.98	9 <sup>th</sup>
5.	Joblessness	2.86	10 <sup>th</sup>
11.	Desire to have many children	2.84	11 <sup>th</sup>
12.	Desire to have children of both sexes at all cost	2.78	12 <sup>th</sup>
3.	The low income of the partners	2.76	13 <sup>th</sup>
1.	Incriminate search for money	2.62	14 <sup>th</sup>
4.	Poor access to investment by the partners	2.61	15 <sup>th</sup>
2.	Inability to cater for the need of the family	2.60	16 <sup>th</sup>

## 7. Hypotheses Testing

Four null hypotheses were formulated and tested for this study. The hypotheses were tested employing t-test Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) methods at 0.05 levels of significance.

Table 1 indicates the mean and rank order of the respondents’ expression of factors responsible for marital infidelity. Item 14 which (sexual dissatisfaction from husband/wife) was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> with the mean score of 3.87. Item 16 which (low sexual desire of either partner) was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with the mean score of 3.81. Item 13 which (impotence/frigidity is a factor responsible marital infidelity) was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> with the mean score of 3.69. Item 15 (painful sex with partners) was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with the mean score of 3.44. Item 10 (childlessness) was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> with the mean score of 3.36. Item 8 (that extramarital affair as an exchange for job security) was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> with the mean score of 3.23. Since all the sixteen items have

means scores above the mid mean score of 2.50, then it can be said that respondents attested to all the items as factors responsible for marital infidelity.

**Hypothesis**

There is no difference in factors responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata Market women in Ilorin Kwara State.

**Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results on age of the respondents**

S/N	Source	Sum of squares	DF	Mean Squares	Calc. value	F- value	Crit. value	F- value	Remarks
	Between group	405.234	3	311.230	3.44		2.69		Rejected
	Within group	7774.422	226	156.380					
	Total	8723.344	229						

@0.05 alpha level

Table 8 shows that the calculated f-value is 3.44 and the critical/table f-value is 2.69 with the degree of freedom 229 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated t-value 3.44 is greater than the critical f-value of 2.69 the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is significant difference in factor responsible for marital infidelity among Ipata Market women in Ilorin Kwara State.

There are numerous factors responsible for marital infidelity, but the most significant are: sexual dissatisfaction from husband/wife, low sexual desire of partner and impotence/ frigidity. This finding agreed with the earlier study of Glass, (2003) who found that there are different reasons for being unfaithful such as education level, personality opportunity, attachment style, income level and employment, race, culture, religion and marital satisfaction. However, Drigotas, Annette, Gentilia and Tiffani (1999) divided these reasons of infidelity into five categories: sexuality-emotional satisfaction, social context, attitudes-norms and revenge-hostility.

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