

Causes of Marital Infidelity among Married Residents of Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigates the causes of marital infidelity among married residents in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. A descriptive research design of the survey type was used for this study. The population for the study comprises all married residents in Ilorin metropolis. A multistage sampling technique was used to select three hundred and eighty-three (383) respondents who participated in the study. A researcher-designed structured questionnaire validated by three experts in the Department of Health Promotion and Environmental Health Education, University of Ilorin. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through the test re-test method. A reliability coefficient of 0.74 was obtained. The three postulated hypotheses were tested using the parametric statistics of t-test, mean and standard deviation at 0.05 alpha level. The findings of this study showed that childlessness, lack of sexual satisfaction and distance between spouses were responsible for the marital infidelity in the study area. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that childlessness, lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses and distance between spouses were among the causes of marital infidelity among married residents in Ilorin metropolis. It was recommended that married residents should be informed that procreation is not the basis of marriage, the married partner should be able to adjust to the sexual demands of each other and spouses should not be far from each other; they should keep a close distance from each other.

Keywords: Causes, Marital-infidelity, Married, Residents, Metropolis

Introduction

Marriage is a type of interpersonal union that is established in different regions of the world to create a familial link. It is recognised legally, religiously, or socially, and grants the participating spouses with mutual conjugal rights and duties. Marriage, the sanctioned social institution for forming a family, lacks a universally agreed-upon definition. Marriage is an intricate and distinctive bond between two unfamiliar individuals united by the intricate phenomena known as "love" (Oniye, 2008). Many individuals may question the reasons behind marriage being the most

widespread social institution observed in nearly all societies. The primary explanation is in the indispensable function that marriage serves in relation to procreation and the promotion of sexual intercourse leading to the birth of offspring. According to Hassan (2012), marriage is a complex and intricate bond between two individuals of opposing genders, which plays a fundamental role in fulfilling their emotional, psychological, and physical needs.

Infidelity is typically defined as a violation of the expectation of sexual exclusivity. Infidelity refers to engaging in an affair or a sexual relationship outside of marriage, which may involve sexual intercourse, oral sex, kissing, fondling, and emotional relationships that go beyond mere friendships (Blow & Hartnett, 2007). Marital infidelity refers to engaging in sexual activities outside the bounds of marriage. According to Lee (2013), an extramarital affair is seen as a breach of rules and conventions within a partnership by one partner, leading to feelings of envy and competition, which might manifest as either sexual or emotional actions. In addition, Glass & Wright (2002) define extramarital affair as any form of emotional or sexual connection that breaches trust. According to Swenson (2012), infidelity refers to the act of engaging in a sexual connection with someone other than one's spouse, which goes against the sacredness of marriage.

Modern culture is plagued with marital infidelity, which goes against the established standards, conventions, and values of traditional society. Since its inception, every civilization has possessed its own set of traditional beliefs and values, including the importance of spousal love and the exclusivity of sexual relationships. These vows are spoken during wedding ceremonies and are intended to be honoured by spouses in order to maintain the sacredness of the institution of marriage. Nevertheless, certain couples diverge from these societal conventions and engage in marital infidelity by pursuing relationships outside of their matrimonial residences. The adverse implications of this situation can have significant impacts on the psychological and sociological aspects of children's lives, perhaps resulting in marital instability and its associated repercussions (Fernando, 2013). Marital infidelity refers to the breach of established standards or societal expectations inside a marriage, leading to emotions of sexual jealousy and competition. The violation may involve sexual acts such as kissing, fondling, or engaging in sexual intercourse with someone other than one's spouse (Leeker & Carlozz, 2012). According to Schneider (2003), marital infidelity refers to a situation where a person engages in a relationship with someone other than their spouse, which affects the amount of intimacy, emotions, and overall balance in the marriage. Marital infidelity refers to the breach of the solemn promises made during the marriage ceremony in front of witnesses. It might have either a sexual or non-sexual connotation.

Gender disparities manifest in regards to infidelity. Recent research indicates that men exhibit a higher inclination towards seeking novel experiences and, as a result, are more prone to engaging in extramarital activities (Lalasz & Weigel, 2011). Guadagno and Sagarin (2010) found that women are more prone to experiencing

jealousy in response to emotional adultery, while males are more likely to feel jealousy in response to sexual infidelity. Women perceive a profound emotional connection with someone other than their partner as an act of infidelity, even if it lacks a physical aspect. According to Thornton and Nagurney (2011), males prioritise physical contact, usually of a sexual nature, when it comes to defining infidelity, without necessarily involving emotions.

Several factors contribute to and heighten the probability of individuals engaging in marital infidelity. These aspects encompass displaying a sexually permissive attitude, possessing a higher level of education, residing in an urban area, having lower religious beliefs, experiencing poor communication skills, and having low self-esteem, among other factors (Feldman & Cauffman, 2009). Blow and Hartnett (2007) stated that marital issues and a significant age difference between spouses are additional factors that contribute to marital infidelity. According to Onwusanya (2006), factors such as age at marriage, educational attainment of the couple, religious beliefs, income, type of marriage contract, fertility status, family structure, communication, cultural background, lack of trust, sexual incompatibility, and issues with in-laws, directly contribute to marital disharmony. This frequently results in spousal unfaithfulness within partnerships. Anyawu and Ofordile (2012) have identified several factors that contribute to marital infidelity, including consumerism, breakdown in communication, childlessness, sexual activity, geographical separation, peer influence, and lack of desire.

Marital infidelity has multiple causes that span across various dimensions. The causes of marital infidelity are diverse and intricate over the course of a lifetime. Gagnon (2001) suggests that marital infidelity can be a consequence of living separately among married individuals. For example, a married individual who resides distant from their spouse due to the demands of their professions may be inclined to seek emotional intimacy in closer proximity. Whyte (2008) affirmed that sexual dysfunction in either the man or woman might result in marital infidelity. Male sexual dysfunction may manifest as impotence, a condition in which a man is unable to achieve sufficient erections to fulfil his wife's sexual desires. The woman may exhibit frigidity, causing the guy to encounter difficulty in achieving penetration, often leading to his frustration and annoyance. Given the aforementioned circumstances, this may prompt the individual to partake in spousal unfaithfulness.

In addition, the research conducted by Ogwohademhe and Ishola (2013) among married couples in Lagos State, Nigeria, uncovered the following factors contributing to marital infidelity: i) Infertility-related issue - The wife is unable to conceive children, the couple is unable to have a kid, and the couple exclusively produces children with disabilities. ii) Sexual incompatibility - one or both couples do not derive sexual satisfaction from each other, one partner **withholds sexual** fulfilment from the other, one partner desires sexual variety, or the husband is impotent. iii) Occupational-related factor- The husband is excessively occupied with

his professional responsibilities, while the wife consistently has fatigue after her daily work. Either one of the partners frequently travels for work, and either the wife or husband has night shifts as part of their job. iv) Age-related factor - couples belong to the same age group, either husband or wife had an early marriage, either husband or wife is significantly younger than their spouse, or either husband or wife is significantly older than their spouse.

In the research conducted by Barta and Kiene (2005) on a sample of 451 American university students, four arguments were revealed: a) Partner discontent; b) Partner neglect and absence in the relationship; c) Anger and desire for retribution towards the partner; and d) Sexual desire, interest in variety, and increased sexual frequency. Drigotas, Safstrom, and Gentillia (2009) proposed five criteria for rationalising infidelity: a) Sexual gratification, either driven by a desire for sexual diversity or due to sexual incompatibility with one's partner; b) Emotional contentment, wherein the emphasis lies on finding emotional fulfilment in a new relationship; c) Social circumstances, encompassing factors such as availability or physical distance from one's partner; d) Regulations and beliefs influenced by societal norms, such as attitudes towards sexual permissiveness; and e) Vengeance or animosity stemming from the wish to retaliate against a perceived betrayal. Anyanwu and Ofordile (2012) identified materialism, breakdown in communication, infertility, sexual activity, geographical separation, social influence, and waning attraction as factors contributing to marital infidelity in couples.

Marital infidelity, a prominent factor in divorce, weakens the fundamental basis of a partnership and has severe consequences. The cause of relationship crises worldwide is the reason (Rastogi, 2013; Whisman, 2007). Marital infidelity results in excruciating emotional anguish and suffering, a devastating blow to one's self-worth, and the shattering of trust. It impacts individuals' social lives and alters victims' view of reality and various aspects of existence. Amato and Previti (2003) discovered that marital infidelity is the primary reported cause of marital instability and divorce, as well as the most influential factor leading to divorce. Supporting the aforementioned statement, Barr (2013) provided evidence that marital infidelity has an impact on both the immediate and extended families. Divorce resulting from marital infidelity often leads to the divorced spouse being held responsible for the downfall of the other spouse and the harm caused to the children.

Mbiti (2008) asserts that marital infidelity leads to family instability, a sensitive matter inside a marital partnership. It is fragile in the sense that couples no longer cohabit harmoniously. If a marriage is not properly maintained, it might result in permanent dissolution, which often creates significant challenges for both the couple and their children. When a married individual engages in marital infidelity, the responsibilities that are expected to be shared by both partners are now shouldered by only one, leading to a decline in the quality of child rearing.

Statement of the Problem

Marriage is intended to be a holy and lasting bond between a husband and wife, as well as a socially accepted union for the purposes of intimate companionship, sexual relations, reproduction, and the upbringing of children who will eventually make their own contributions to society. Contrary to the widely held belief that partners should be faithful to one another. Marital infidelity is not typically accepted or anticipated in a marriage. The prevalence of marital infidelity among married couples has been steadily rising in recent times, due to increasing public awareness and concern. What was once a rare occurrence has now become commonplace in Nigerian society, particularly in the Ilorin Metropolis.

The researcher witnessed a case of marital infidelity where the wife caught her husband engaging in claimed unfaithful behaviour. Upon her arrival home after work, she saw her husband engaging in intimate relations with a lady who is his concubine. This encounter prompted the wife to confront her husband, resulting in a physical altercation. Despite the attempts made by their neighbours to intervene, the struggle persisted until the woman lost consciousness and was promptly sent to a local hospital, where a medical doctor successfully revived her. The act of infidelity elicits a detrimental response inside the family. According to the researcher's understanding, there has been limited research conducted on infidelity, and no one has specifically examined the causes of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin Metropolis. This study aims to fill this gap and contribute to the existing literature for future scholars interested in studying infidelity in this particular area.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide this study:

1. Will childlessness be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?
2. Will lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?
3. Will distance between spouses will be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- HO₁: Childlessness will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis
- HO₂: Lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis
- HO₃: Distance between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis

Methodology

This study employed a survey-based descriptive research design. The chosen research methodology is deemed suitable as it enabled the researcher to extract information from a representative sample and draw conclusions that can be applied to the full population. The focus of the study was to investigate the factors contributing to marital infidelity among married individuals residing in Ilorin Metropolis. The study encompasses the entire population of Ilorin metropolis, which amounts to 1,055,800 individuals. The study's target population comprises all married individuals residing in the Ilorin metropolitan across three local government areas: Ilorin East with a population of 280,000, Ilorin South with a population of 282,500, and Ilorin West with a population of 493,000 (N.P.C, 2006). The study utilised a sample size of 383 respondents. A multi-stage sampling approach was employed to select married citizens (respondents) from three local government areas in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state. The selection techniques used included cluster sampling, proportionate sampling, simple random sampling, and accidental sampling. **First stage:** clusters sampling technique was used to clustered the respondents based on local government.

Second stage: proportionate sampling technique was used 36.3% sample of select wards in each of the three Local Government Areas (Asika, 2010).

Population of respondents from the three local government area and sample selected

S/N and Local Government Area	Population	Sample Selected (36.3%)
1. Ilorin East	280,000.	101
2. Ilorin South	282,500	103
3. Ilorin West	493,300	179
Total	1,055,800	383

Third stage: Simple sampling technique was used to select three hundred and eighty

S/N Local Government Area	Wards Selected	Sample selected
1. Ilorin East	1. Balogun gambari I	21
	2. Gambari II	18
	3. Magaji are I	17
	4. Magaji Are II	15
	5. Iponrin	12
	6. Apado	18
2. Ilorin South	1. Balogun Fulani I	24
	2. Balogun fulani II	23
	3. Balogun Fulani III	20

	4. Akanbi I	12
	5. Akanbi II	24
3. Ilorin West	1. Balogun alanamu	27
	2. Baboko	28
	3. Ajikobi	35
	4. Adewole	20
	5. Ojuekun/ zarumi	30
	6. Ubadawaki	39
Total		383

Last stage: Accidental sampling technique was used to select respondents from each ward selected for the study, respondents were selected by chance at their various households.

The study utilised a structured questionnaire titled "Causes of Marital Infidelity among Married Residents (CMI)" as the research tool. The questionnaire was partitioned into two distinct portions, labelled A and B. Section A has items pertaining to demographic data of the respondents, including the number of homes with married residents. Section B collects data on the variables being investigated. The components of the measure were evaluated using a customised four-point Likert scale, consisting of the categories Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The instrument was provided to three specialists from the Department of Health Promotion and Environmental Health Education, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin, to assess its validity in terms of both appearance and content. The final version of the instrument was created by incorporating their comments, ideas, and the Supervisor's recommendation. The reliability of this instrument was assessed utilising the test-retest technique. The survey was conducted on a sample of twenty participants who are not included in the study, residing in the Lafiagi municipality. Following a two-week gap, the identical instrument was once again given to the same group of participants. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation was used to determine the correlation between the results of the first and second doses. A reliability coefficient of 0.74 was observed, indicating that the instrument is sufficiently dependable for the investigation. The researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the Head of the Department of Health Promotion and Environmental Health Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin. The researcher disseminated the questionnaires to the respondents with the assistance of two research assistants. The research assistants received comprehensive training on the methodology of distributing and collecting questionnaires to prevent any loss or reduction in the number of questionnaires and to maintain a perfect retrieval rate of one hundred percent. This objective was successfully accomplished throughout the implementation of the survey instrument.

The data were gathered, encoded, organised, and examined. The demographic characteristics of the respondents were analysed by calculating the percentage and frequency count. The suggested hypotheses were examined using parametric statistics such as mean, t-test, and standard deviation. These statistical methods were utilised to evaluate the null hypotheses at a significance level of 0.05.

RESULTS: Answer to Research Questions

Research Question One: Will childlessness be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?

Table 1: Percentile analysis on childlessness as a cause of marital infidelity

S/N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	Positive Response	D (%)	SD (%)	Negative Response
1.	Low sperm count on the part of man resulting into childlessness can cause marital infidelity among couples	198 (51.7%)	167 (43.6%)	365	9 (2.3%)	9 (2.3%)	18
2.	Ovulation disorder among women resulting into infertility can lead to marital unfaithfulness among married couples	184 (48.0%)	190 (49.6%)	374	9 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	9
3.	Lack of sperms cell among men can cause marital infidelity among couples	174 (45.4%)	200 (52.2%)	374	9 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	9
4.	Uterine abnormality affecting fertility among women may cause marital infidelity among couple	135 (35.2%)	216 (56.4%)	351	32 (8.4%)	0 (0.0%)	32
5.	Long term pelvic infection among women delaying conception can leads to marital infidelity among couples	163 (42.6%)	193 (50.4%)	356	27 (7.0%)	0 (0.0%)	27
	\bar{X}			364 (95.0%)			19 (5.0%)

Table 1 shows the response to Research Question One. The mean of positive responses by the respondents to the items under the research question one is 364 (95.0%), which is greater than the mean of negative responses, 19 (5.0%). This implies that childlessness is a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Research Question Two: Will lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?

Table 2: Percentile Analysis on lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses as a cause of marital infidelity

S/N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	Positive Response	D (%)	SD (%)	Negative Response
6.	Frigidity suffered by women affecting sexual enjoyment can lead to marital infidelity	165 (43.1%)	192 (50.1%)	357	18 (4.7%)	8 (2.1%)	26
7.	Premature ejaculation among men can force women to involve in extra marital affairs	136 (35.5%)	229 (59.8%)	365	9 (2.3%)	9 (2.3%)	18
8.	Multiple sexual feelings which often becloud spouse mind can make the other partner vulnerable to marital unfaithfulness	150 (39.2%)	216 (56.4%)	366	9 (2.3%)	8 (2.1%)	17
9.	Low libido of spouse can leads to extra marital affairs	155 (40.5%)	223 (58.2%)	378	5 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)	5

10.	Undue sexual denial can promote marital infidelity among couples	196 (51.2%)	167 (43.6%)	363	20 (5.2%)	0 (0.0%)	20
11.	Impotence suffered by men leading to sexual dissatisfaction can leads to marital unfaithfulness among couples	228 (59.5%)	127 (33.2%)	355	19 (5.0%)	9 (2.3%)	28
\bar{X}				364 (95.0%)	19 (5.0%)		

Table 2 shows the response to Research Question Two. The mean of positive responses by the respondents to the items under the research question two is 364 (95.0%), which is greater than the mean of negative responses, 19 (5.0%). This implies that lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses is a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Research Question Three: Will distance between spouses be a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis?

Table 3: Percentile analysis on distance between spouses as a cause of marital infidelity

S/N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	Positive Response	D (%)	SD (%)	Negative Response
12.	Loneness due to distance of the other partner can trigger marital infidelity	181 (47.3%)	116 (30.3%)	297	59 (15.4%)	27 (7.0%)	86
13.	Couples living far away from each other can paves way for extra marital affairs	184 (48.0%)	136 (35.5%)	320	44 (11.5%)	19 (5.0%)	63
14.	The nature of job that keeps the other partner far away from the other can results into marital infidelity	161 (42.0%)	147 (38.4%)	308	51 (13.3%)	24 (6.3%)	75
15.	Inability of husband and wife to live together may cause marital infidelity	145 (37.9%)	144 (37.6%)	289	75 (19.6%)	19 (5.0%)	94
16.	Emotional disconnection between couples due to distance may leads to marital infidelity	182 (47.5%)	107 (27.9%)	289	65 (17.0%)	29 (6.5%)	94
17.	Pursuit of further studies which makes one's partner stay away from home for a long period of time can leads to marital infidelity	165 (43.1%)	129 (33.7%)	294	51 (13.3%)	38 (9.9%)	89
18.	Long staying in the place of work with opposite sex due to distance of the other partner can cause marital unfaithfulness	163 (42.6%)	131 (34.2%)	294	65 (17.0%)	24 (6.3%)	89
19.	Pressure form colleagues due to non - availability of spouse can expose someone to marital infidelity	133 (34.7%)	212 (55.4%)	345	30 (7.8%)	8 (2.1%)	38
\bar{X}				304 (79.4%)	79 (20.6%)		

Table 3 shows the response to Research Question Three. The mean of positive responses by the respondents to the items under the research question three is 304 (79.4%), which is greater than the mean of negative responses, 79 (20.6%). This implies that distance of the spouses to each other is a cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: Childlessness will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Table 4: Mean, Standard deviation and One sample t-test statistics on childlessness as a cause of marital infidelity among married residents

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Childlessness	383	16.9582	2.17153	.11096

There were 383 participants, the sample mean of childlessness score is 16.96, the standard deviation (s) is 2.17 and the standard error of the mean is 0.11 which is lower than the mean and the mean

Test Value = 383						
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Childlessness	-3298.868	382	.000	-366.04178	-366.2599	-365.8236

The table shows the result of the hypothesis one which stated that childlessness will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis. The calculated t-test value of -3298.868 is greater than p value of 0.000 at degree of freedom of 382. The null hypothesis one is rejected, since p value is less than 0.05 level of significant (p<0.05). Therefore, the result shows that childlessness is a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Hypothesis Two: Lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Table 5: Mean, Standard Deviation and One sample t-test statistics on lack of Sexual Satisfaction between spouses as a cause of marital infidelity among married residents

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Lack of sexual satisfaction	383	20.3029	2.48812	.12714

There were 383 participants, the sample mean of lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses score is 20.30, the standard deviation (s) is 2.49 and the standard error of the mean is 0.13 which is lower than the population and the standard population.

	Test Value = 383					
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Lack of sexual satisfaction	-2852.803	382	.000	-362.69713	-362.9471	-362.4472

The table shows the result of the hypothesis two which stated that lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis. The calculated t-statistic value of -2852.80 is greater than p value of 0.000 at degree of freedom of 382. The null hypothesis two is rejected, since p value is less than 0.05 level of significant ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, the result shows that lack of sexual satisfaction between spouses is a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Hypothesis Three: Distance between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Table 6: Mean, standard deviation and one sample t-test statistics on distance between spouses as a cause of marital infidelity among married residents

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Distance of the spouse	383	25.3003	5.49547	.28081

There were 383 participants, the sample mean of distance of the spouses score is 25.30, the standard deviation (s) is 5.50 and the standard error of the mean is 0.28 which is lower than the population and the standard population.

	Test Value = 383					
	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Distance of the spouse	-1273.835	382	.000	-357.69974	-358.2519	-357.1476

The table shows the result of the hypothesis three which stated that distance between spouses will not be a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis. The calculated t-statistic value of -1273.835 is greater than p value of 0.000 at degree of freedom of 382. The null hypothesis three is rejected, since p value is less than 0.05 level of significant ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, the result shows that distance between spouses is a significant cause of marital infidelity among married residents of Ilorin metropolis.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of research question one indicates that a significant number of

respondents believe that being childless is a contributing factor to marital infidelity among married individuals. Furthermore, hypothesis one was disproven, indicating that being childless is a notable factor contributing to marital unfaithfulness among married individuals residing in the Ilorin city. Possible causes include reduced sperm count, ovulation disorders, and absence of sperm cells. This discovery aligns with the research conducted by Ogwokhademhe and Ishola (2013), which identified infertility-related factors as a leading cause of marital infidelity. These factors include the wife's inability to conceive, the couple's inability to have children, and the marriage only producing children with disabilities.

Regarding research question two, a significant proportion of the participants expressed the belief that insufficient sexual gratification between partners is a contributing factor to marital unfaithfulness among married individuals. Furthermore, hypothesis two was invalidated, indicating that a dearth of sexual gratification among partners is a noteworthy factor contributing to marital unfaithfulness among married individuals residing in the Ilorin metropolis. Possible causes include female frigidity, male premature ejaculation, poor libido in a partner, male impotence, and other related factors. Whyle (2008) suggests that sexual dysfunction in either partner can potentially result in marital infidelity, which aligns with this data. Impotence is a sexual condition in men characterised by the inability to achieve full erections, thereby preventing them from satisfying their wife's sexual requirements. The woman may experience frigidity, causing the guy to encounter difficulty in achieving penetration and often resulting in his frustration.

The findings of study question three indicates that a significant proportion of the participants believe that the physical separation between spouses contributes to marital infidelity among married individuals. Furthermore, hypothesis two was disproven, indicating that the distance between spouses is a key factor contributing to marital infidelity among married individuals residing in the Ilorin city. This could be attributed to long-distance relationships, marital discord, emotional detachment, and other similar factors. This discovery aligns with the research conducted by Gagnon (2001), which indicated that married individuals who live separately occasionally engage in marital infidelity. For example, a married individual who resides far from their spouse due to the demands of their professions may be inclined to seek emotional intimacy with someone in closer proximity.

Conclusion

The study's findings showed that childlessness is a major contributing factor to marital infidelity among married individuals living in the Ilorin metropolis. The absence of sexual gratification between partners is a major factor contributing to marital unfaithfulness among married individuals residing in the Ilorin city. The geographical separation between spouses is a major contributing factor to marital infidelity among married individuals residing in the Ilorin city.

Recommendations

The researcher provided the following recommendations based on the study's findings:

1. Married individuals should be informed that the purpose of marriage is not solely for procreation.
2. Married partners should possess the ability to accommodate one other's sexual desires.
3. Spouses should maintain proximity to one another, avoiding distance between them.

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