Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Attitude towards Marriage among Residents of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

By

Joseph Oke Omoro PhD
Department of Sociology &Anthropology
Federal University Otuoke
Joseph.omoro@yahoo.com
&
Balogun Morakinyo Oladimeji PhD
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Federal University Otuoke
morakinyobalogun4@gmailcom

Abstract

The study examined the influence of emotional intelligence on attitude towards marriage. The study used Yenagoa in Bayelsa State as the study area; one hundred and Twenty Participants were used for the study, and they were all women. Demographic characteristics like marital status, age, educational status, relationship with parents, salary range were put into consideration while collecting the data. A self -developed scale was used to measure attitude towards marriage and Emotional intelligence. And they have the reliability coefficient of 0.86 and 0.78 respectively. After subjecting the data to analysis using Anova design, the study revealed that emotional intelligence has an influence on attitude towards marriage, moreover, the study further showed that work status influences individual attitude towards marriage ($t(118) = -5.539$ $p<.01$), Marital status also significantly influence attitude towards marriage. ($F(2,117) = 9.98$ $p<.01$). It was also revealed that salary range influence attitude towards marriage. ($F(3,115) = 12.211$ $p<.01$. The study subsequently made relevant recommendation.

Keywords: Attitude, Marriage, Emotional Intelligence

Introduction

Studies have earlier highlighted factors that could influence attitude towards marriage, for instance O'Malley (2004) noted that adolescence consistently displayed positive attitudes towards marriage across the study years. That is, most children (90.8%) rated having a good marriage and family life as quite or extremely important for them (Schulenberg 1994). Clearly, the beautiful fantasy of future married life signifies the positive attitudes towards marriage among children. On the other hand, analyses of gender differences revealed that female adolescents tend to express more positive attitudes towards marriage than male adolescents (Goslin, 2014). Given the positive attitudes towards marriage among adolescents, the experience of parental divorce at this stage might completely ruin the lovely fantasy of future married life. Mounting evidences pointed a close relationship between parental marital status and attitudes towards marriage among adolescents (Wood 2008). Specifically, children from divorced family are more likely to show negative attitudes towards marriage than those from intact family. Sodermans, Vanassche, Bastaits, Matthijs, & Van Peer (2010) demonstrated that adolescents from divorced family tend to perceive higher chance of getting divorce in future than their intact counterparts. As a matter of fact, divorce is similar to other infectious disease, where it can be transmitted to the next generation. Existing evident indicated that individuals who experienced parental divorce are at greater risk to divorce themselves in later years (Cui, Fincham, & Durtschi, 2011; Teachman, 2002), signaling a need of research focusing on offspring of divorced families. Despite the proliferation of studies trying to explain the formation of attitudes toward marriage and divorce, a consistent theoretical model has been lacking (Li, 2014; Willoughby, Hall, & Luczak, 2015). Social learning theory, family system theories, and ecological theories have all been adapted at one point or another to account for the ways in which parental experiences and attitudes could be transmitted to offspring. Previous research on relationship outcomes and attitudes toward marriage and divorce complements and confirms Jensen (2014) findings. The

"intergenerational transmission of divorce," one of the strongest and most replicated findings in the early divorce literature, refers to the higher likelihood for children from divorced families to experience divorce in their own marriages, compared to those raised in intact families. Individuals from divorced families are more likely to marry partners who themselves experienced parental divorce, and the latter's unions are three times more likely to end in divorce, compared to marriages of children from intact families (Wolfinger, 2003). Studies have highlighted several factors which influence children's experiences of parental divorce.

First, the number of transitions (re-marriages and second divorces) following the biological parents' divorce heightens the risk for poor adjustment (Kelly & Emery, 2003) and later divorce, and is often associated with unstable alternative caretakers (step-parents), changes in socio-economic status, and a generally more unstable family life (Wolfinger, 2000). Second, exposure to continuing conflict between parents is a similarly robust negative influence that partially accounts for the difficulties in romantic relationships among children of divorce (Cui
& Fincham, 2010). Research concerning adult children of divorce's entry into marriage has yielded less consistent results. Parental divorce has been associated with the children's earlier marriage (Ross & Mirowsky, 1999), their later marriage and earlier cohabitation (Cui, Wickrama, Lorenz, & Conger, 2011), or a curvilinear relationship with children of divorce getting married before their mid-twenties or much later than children from intact families (Wolfinger, 2003b). Participants from single-parent families after divorce are more likely to cohabitate and never marry as adults (Valle & Tillman, 2014). Sociological changes, such as the wider acceptance and use of cohabitation between the 1980s and the 2000s, might account for some of the discrepancies among studies (Cui 2011). In the same vein, the discuss of marriage cannot be separated from emotions, hence the discussion about emotional intelligence in the study.

Emotions are involved in everything people do: every action, decision and judgement. Emotionally intelligent people recognize this and use their

thinking to manage their emotions rather than being managed by them. In the course of last two decades, Emotional Intelligence (EI) concept has become a very important indicator of a person's knowledge, skills and abilities in workplace, school and personal life. The overall result of researches suggested that EI plays a significant role in the job performance, motivation, decision making, successful management and leadership and ultimately marriage.

According to Egbule (2009), emotional intelligence is the ability to validly reason with emotions and to use emotions to enhance thought. It involves the ability to utilized emotional knowledge to accurately perceive, understand, generate, access and assist feelings or emotions so as to promote emotional and intellectual growth. People that are emotionally intelligent possess a clear understanding of the feelings, and can restore their moods more quickly before damage can ensue than those individuals with low levels of emotional intelligence (Ciarrochi,Chan &Caputi,2000) .Consequently, since Ciarroch ,Chan & Caputi,2000 has linked emotional intelligence to mood and emotions , it is logical to say that it might have a link with marriage ,since marriage has to do with emotions and mood, but in this instance the present study will look at the concept of marriage from attitude towards it.

Statement of Problem

Studies in time past like that of Onyekuru and Ugwu (2017) focused on emotional intelligence and marital satisfaction , therefore the main crux of the present study will to add further to studies in this line by focusing on emotional intelligence as it relates with attitude towards marriage .

On the other hand, attitude towards marriage towards marriage has changed over the years, it has become obvious that the meaning of marriage in the 19th century is not what young adult mean by marriage these days, the rise in feminist movement contributes a great deal to this and this might also contribute to the increase it the number of single others in the modern Nigerian society.

There appears to be a large number of unmarried ladies in the Nigeria, in the same vein the rate of divorce in the country is increasing daily. More so, the social media space is filled with ladies with feminist orientation, hence it is needed to make an in-depth search on this social trend in Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the influence of emotional intelligence on attitude towards marriage. The other objective is to

(1) Examine whether other demographic details will influence attitude towards marriage

Literature Review

A study conducted by Mayer (2014) found that emotional intelligence of couples in marriage union influences marital satisfaction. Kenot (2012) investigated the relationship between empathy and marital stability and found that marital stability related positively with empathic measures.

Shaka (2011) carried out a study on the influence of emotional intelligence on job performance among high school teachers. A sample of 200 teachers was randomly drawn from 10 high schools in Debrece, Hungary. Instrument for data collection was Teachers Job Performance Questionnaire (TJPQ) Data generated from the instrument were analysed using Pearson product moment correlation technique Result of the study showed significant relationship between emotional intelligence and job performance ($r=0.78$, $P < 0.05$).

Barranta (2011) carried out a study to investigate emotional intelligence and personality traits of Filipino Seafarers and their attitude towards work environment. A sample of 183 seafarers was used for the study. The instrument for data collection was a written survey questionnaire, the result indicated high positive relationship between emotional intelligence and attitude towards work environment.

Apama (2007) investigated the influence of emotional intelligence on job acquisition and progression using a sample of 200 employees from primary

and secondary schools in Asaba. Instrument for data collection was a researcher designed questionnaire. The results of the study showed influence of emotional intelligence on job acquisition and progression

Methods

Research Design

The study employed survey research design which involve distribution of questionnaires to research participants

Participants

The study used one hundred and twenty participants all drawn from Yenagoa, Bayelsa state, they were chosen because, Yenagoa has a high population of single mothers and matured but unmarried ladies. While gathering the data, the study focused on demographic data like age, marital status, work status, educational status, and relationship with parents among other things.

Instrument

A self-designed instrument patterned after some foreign instrument was used to gather the data for both emotional intelligence and attitude towards marriage and they both reported a high reliability coefficient of 0.86 and 0.78 respectively.

Data Analysis

The study used ANOVA statistical and Independent t test for the analysis of the data gathered for the study.

Results

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Family type	120	1.4583	.50035
Educational Status	120	2.6333	1.23624
Age	120	1.4750	.66056
Marital Status	120	1.7833	.76897
Relations of parent	120	1.5417	.50035
Work status	120	1.3500	.47897
Salary range	119	2.7899	1.07257
Attitude towards Marriage	120	139.0167	25.19203
Emotional Intelligence	120	1.1667	.37424
Valid N (listwise)	119		

Table 1.1: Independent t-test summary table showing the influence of emotional intelligence on attitude towards marriage

Group Statistics

	Emotional Intelligence	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	P
Attitude towards Marriage	High	100	134.4600	24.45628	2.44563	-4.828	118	<.01
	Low	20	161.8000	14.23709	3.18351			

The table above revealed that emotional intelligence has an influence on attitude towards marriage. (t (118) = -4.828 p<.05). Hypothesis supported.

Nonetheless, the comparison of the mean scores revealed that individual with low emotional intelligence (N= 20, Mean = 161.8, S.D = 14.23) score higher in attitude towards marriage than those with high intelligence (N= 100, Mean = 134.4, S.D = 24.45)

Table 1.2: Independent t-test summary table showing the influence of work status on attitude towards marriage

Group Statistics

	Work status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	P
Attitude towards Marriage	Yes	78	130.6538	23.56303	2.66799	-5.539	118	<.01
	No	42	154.5476	20.47271	3.15901			

The table above revealed that work status influences individual attitude towards marriage (t (118) = -5.539 p<.01). In addition, the comparison of the mean scores revealed that individual who are employed (N= 78, Mean = 130.6) has positive attitude towards marriage than those who are not employed (N= 42, Mean = 154.54)

Table 1.3: Independent t-test summary table showing the influence of relations of parent on attitude towards marriage

Group Statistics

	Relations of parent	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	P
Attitude towards Marriage	Divorced	55	136.3273	28.25155	3.80944	-1.076	118	.284
	Cordial	65	141.2923	22.25121	2.75992			

The table above revealed that relations of parent does not influence attitude towards marriage (t(118) = -1.076 p<.05). Nonetheless, the table also revealed that children whose parents relationship are cordial (N=65, Mean = 141.29) has positive attitude towards marriage than children whose parent are divorced. (N= 55, Mean = 136.32) Table 1.4: One way analysis of variance showing the influence of age on attitude towards marriage

ANOVA

Attitude towards Marriage

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	P
Between Groups	18233.874	3	6077.958	12.211	.000	<.01
Within Groups	57238.916	115	497.730			
Total	75472.790	118				

The table above revealed that age has a significant influence on attitude towards marriage. (F(3,115) = 12.2 p<.01)

Table 1.5: One way analysis of variance showing the influence of marital status on attitude towards marriage

ANOVA
Attitude towards Marriage

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	P
Between Groups	11006.911	2	5503.456	9.981	.000	<.01
Within Groups	64515.055	117	551.411			
Total	75521.967	119				

The table above revealed that marital status significantly influence attitude towards marriage. (F(2,117) = 9.98 p<.01

Table 1.6: One way analysis of variance showing the influence of salary range on attitude towards marriage

ANOVA
Attitude towards Marriage

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	P
Between Groups	18233.874	3	6077.958	12.211	.000	<.01
Within Groups	57238.916	115	497.730			
Total	75472.790	118				

The table above revealed that salary range influence attitude towards marriage. (F(3,115) = 12.211 p<.01

Discussion

After analysis, result showed that emotional intelligence has an influence on attitude towards marriage. (t (118) = -4.828 p<.05, the reason for the outcome of the result cannot be far from the assertion of onyekuru and ugwu , who were of the opinion that . The overall result of researches suggest that EI plays a significant role in the job performance, motivation, decision making, successful management and leadership and ultimately marriage.., more so Ciarrochi, Chan &Caputi,2000 , People that are emotionally intelligent possess a clear understanding of the feelings, and can restore their moods more quickly before damage can ensue than those individuals with low levels of emotional intelligence, all these are basic factors in marriage , and they all go a long way in determining attitude towards marriage.

Result further showed that work status influences individual attitude towards marriage (t (118) = -5.539 p<.01). In addition, the comparison of the mean scores revealed that individual who are employed (N= 78, Mean = 130.6) has positive attitude towards marriage than those who are not employed (N= 42, Mean = 154.54), most ladies look up marriage after being gainfully employed , hence they tend to look up to it as the nect stage in their life , which mot times wil be a positive outlook ,as opposed to those that are unemployed who might think there is still much to be achieved before thinking of marriage.

Result also showed that relations of parent does not influence attitude towards marriage (t(118) = -1.076 p<.05). Nonetheless, the table also revealed that children whose parents relationship are cordial (N=65, Mean = 141.29) has positive attitude towards marriage than children whose parent are divorced. (N= 55, Mean = 136.32), the reason for the outcome could be directly linked to what the participants have learnt directly from their parents , therefore they could either see marriage as some time positive or otherwise , another reason for the outcome be the redefinition of marriage in recent time, the facts and components of marriage has ultimately being redefined by modernization.

On the overall, result showed that age, marital status and salary range have a significant relationship with attitude towards marriage. Age sometimes comes with maturation, hence the reason for a positive outlook on marriage, salary range comes with some sense of fulfilment, especially if it's quite high, therefore an individual might see marriage as the next big thing to achieve. The Abraham Maslow's theory of need gives more credence to the outcome of this result.

Conclusion

From the result, the following could be concluded

(1) Emotional intelligence has a positive relationship with attitude towards marriage
(2) Relationship with parents have positive relationship with attitude towards marriage
(3) Salary range have positive relationship with attitude towards marriage.
(4) Age have positive relationship with attitude towards marriage.
(5) Marital status have positive relationship with attitude towards marriage.

References

Bastasti, T. L., Mathys, J. H & Vapeer (2010). Who will divorce? A 14 – year longitudinal study of Black couples and white couples. *Journal of social and Personal Relationships*, 19, 179 – 202.

Claran, G .R, Chan, D.A., Caputi, S.A. (2000).Emotional Intelligence: Effectively bridging the gap between high school and college. Texas Study Magazine for Secondary

Education,Spring Edition.

Cue, R. D. (2011). Predicting Marital Instability from Spouse and observer report of marital interaction. Journal of Marriage and the family, 58, 641 – 655.

Egbule, C. A. (2009). Emotional intelligence (EQ) and success in post-graduate studies: A pilot study. SA Journal of Higher Education, 14(3), 151-160.

Glenn, N. D. & Weaver, C. N. (1978). A multivariate, multi survey study of marital happiness. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 40, 269-282.

Hartley, C. & Watson, L. (2012). Political Liberalism, Marriage and family. Law and Philosophy, 31 (2), 185 – 212.

Heavy, C. L., Christensen, A. & Malamuth, N. M. (1995). The Longitudinal impact of demand and withdrawal during marital conflict. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology,* 63, 797 – 801.

Houston, T. L., Caughlin, J.P., Houts, R. M., Smith, S.E, & George, L.J. (2001). The Connubial, Crucible: Newlywed years as predictors of marital delight, distress, and divorce. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 80, 237 – 252.

Jenson (2014) Divorce Stress, Stepfamily Stress, and Depression Among Emerging Adult Stepchildren. Journal *of Child and family studies. 78,78-91*

Karney, B.R. & Bradbury, T.N. (1995). The longitudinal cause of marital quality and stability. A review of theory, methods, and research. Psychological Bulletin, 118, 3-34.

L. T., & Kirby, S. L. (2002). Is emotional intelligence an advantage? An exploration of the impact of emotional and general intelligence on individual performance. Journal of Social Psychology, 142(1), 133-143.

Lemiller, J.J. & Agnew, C.R. (2007). Perceived marginalization and prediction of Romantic Stability. *Journal of marriage and family,* 69 (4), 1036 – 1049.

Li (2014) Continuing Trends and New Developments. *Journal of marriage and Family 72(3);650-666*

Mirowsky .J. & Ross C.E., (2003). Education, SocialStatus, and health. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

Nwobi, P. C. (1990). Personal background and environmental factors influencing marital adjustment among Anambra State couples: Implications for marital counseling. Ph.D thesis, Department of Education, University ofNigeria.

O'Malley, J.M (2004). What predicts divorce? The relationship between marital processes and marital outcomes. Hills Date. N.J. Eribaum.

Omoluabi, F.F. (1994). Psycho-social causes and remedies of single parenthood. Paper presented at the first APQUEN conference Enugu. 15

Onyeizugbo, E.U. (2005). The contributions of gender, age and education in marital adjustment. Nigerian Journal of Psychological Research, 4, 24-29.

Orbuch, T.L. & Veroff .J. (2002). Sociodemographic and Divorce, Journal of Marriage and the family, 55, 815 – 826.

Rauer, A. I. (2005). The role of husband & wives emotional expressivity in the marital relationship. Sex Roles: *A Journal of Research*, 577-587.

Reiss, C. L. & Benjamin, B. (1971). Predicting longevity. Lexington, D.C.: Health and Company.

Remland, M. (2009). Non-verbal communication in everyday life. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Richmond V. P., MC Cross Key, J.C. & Roach K.D. (1997). Communication and decision Making Styles, power usage, and satisfaction in marital Dyads. Communication Quarterly, 45 (4), 410.

Rogers S. J. (2004). Dollar, dependency, divorce; four perspectives on the roles of communication and aggression in predicting adverse marital outcomes. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology* 67, 340– 351.

Rollof, M. (1981) Interpersonal Communication. The Social Exchange Approach. Beverly Hills.

Schulenberg S. M. & Markman, H.J. (1994), Effect of parental divorce on marital commitment Journal of Family Psychology, 22, 789 – 793.

Schwartz, C. R. & Mare R.D. (2005). Trends in Educational Assortative Marriage from 1940 – 2003.

Demography, 42, 621 – 646. 15

Smith, D.A, Vivian, D, & O'Leary, K. D. (1990). Longitudinal Prediction of marital discord from premarital expressions of affect. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 58, 790 – 798.

Standford, L. (2008). Social exchange theories. In LA. Engaging theories in Interpersonal Communication. Multiple perspective (PP – 377 – 389). Thousand Oaks.

Valle, J, Veroff. J. & Tillman, D. (2014). Perceptions of marital interaction among black and white newly weds. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 65, 494–511.

Wolfinger, C.R. (2003). Marginalized relationships: The impact of social disapproval on romantic relationship commitment. Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 32, 4051.

Wood J. S., (2001). Social factors and unequalities in health. *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour* 43:125 – 142. Pub. Med. 15