

**PREMARITAL SEX AMONG SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EGOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Glory of God Almighty and to my lovely parents, W.O. (Rtd) and Mrs. Moses Erhahon for their parental guidance and counselling, God will immensely bless you.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. To guide this study, five research questions were raised and they were all answered. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The population of study was 5,373 respondents in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

The study adopted a descriptive survey design, 250 respondents were randomly selected from 5,373 students which was the population of the study. The instrument used in collecting the data was questionnaire. The data collected was analysed using a simple percentage.

The study revealed that premarital sex among secondary school students can lead to poor academic performance, various forms of sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and death. Thus, parents should educate their children about sex at early age. Health educators should organise awareness campaign in order to provide adequate reproductive health information to students.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Experience has shown that adolescents are curious about some or all the aspects of their sexuality in general, and that many will wish to experience their sexuality (Orieh, 2001). At this stage of adolescence, most of these people are in secondary school level of education ranging from J.S.S. 1 to S.S.S. 3. Originally, tradition in this part of the world did not give children of this age range (11-19years) the opportunity to learn about the implication of premarital sex practices which some (mostly uneducated) parents still prevent their adolescent children from learning about sex education. This could be as a result of ignorance on the part of the parents/guidance, they feel shy to teach their children about sex education or they consider it a taboo until marriage.

This has made the secondary school students who fall into this category to get sex education informally from friends and the media and most of this information is of doubtful value. Much of such information are usually known to be deficient especially during this period following puberty when curiosity of sexual matters is the most acute. This deficiency is increasingly evident by the increasing incidence of teenage pregnancies, especially in the western countries after the 1960s. As part of each country's efforts to reduce such pregnancies,

programs of sex education were instituted, initially over strong opposition from parents and religious groups (Oganwu, 2003).

The secondary school is one of the places where the adolescent child associate with friends, outside academic work, and tends to express himself/herself better and more openly among peers. Although, sex education does not mean instructing children in sexual techniques or art, rather it entails giving the necessary facts or knowledge about sex and encouraging questions and discussions. The present researcher feels that sex education should commence as soon as the child begins to talk. For instance, it is not usual to see a child of 2years or 4years asking his or her parents, “Why is mummy having big breasts and daddy’s breasts are small?” or “Why Michael is having a hanging thing between his thighs and she is not?” The answers to these questions should be simple and geared to the child’s level of understanding using terms and languages that are appropriate for male and female anatomy (Penis and Vulva). Nowadays sex is being glamorized in books, television, movies and the internet. These sources of information do not encourage young one, especially those in secondary schools to become chaste and also maintain conduct that gives them real happiness both now and in the future. Since they (adolescent children) are curious about sex, it will really be

damaging/destructive to the secondary school children if they are not given sex education at home and in the school.

Over the years and all through history, it has been observed that opposite sex attracts, that is, man to woman, young boys to young girls, male child to female parent (Oedipus Complex) and female child to male parents (Electra Complex). This attraction could be for sexual gratification, sense of identity, or a feeling of belonging.

Premarital sex is generally used in reference to individuals who are presumed not yet of marriageable age, or between adults who will presumably marry eventually, but who are engaged in sexual activity prior to marriage (Lucas, 2000, Ashiwini 2008 & Streis, 2011). Ogunsola (2004), Stated that premarital sex can be described as having sex outside wedlock, which usually leads to premarital pregnancies that prevents students from completing their education. Added to this, Moilanem (2000) posted that premarital sex is that type of sex that exists or occurs before marriage and also can be termed as the indulgence into sex which occurs before marriage and without the consent of both parents.

Roberts (2001), noted that premarital sex has become a wide problem in our schools. He also stressed that it has been one of the social problems in

Militating against the goals and objectives of educational planning. Secondary school students live in community where they meet people from different background and as such, are exposed to peer influence and a desire to meet up with certain standard. All of these and more can lead to premarital sex which culminates in various problems such as unwanted pregnancy, exposure to sexually transmitted infections, poor academic performance, school dropout and a host of others.

The causes behind it have been established including curiosity among the youth, proof of manhood, lust, pornographic exposure either on the internet or television and its adverse effects, insanity and sexual promiscuity as well as moral decadence among the youths (Moretz, 2004). Premarital sex is perceived as a taboo in many cultures and considered a sin against man and God in most religion. The rise of premarital among secondary students in recent time can be traced mostly to the unguided exposure of these students to the internet. Sexual intercourse from observation and from the reports and witness of people who engage in them attest to the fact that it is highly pleasurable both during and after the act, and as such, average person would be attracted to activities that induce pleasure. Onyekwelu (2006), pointed out that

premarital sex leads to a feeling of guilt and disappointment. The few minutes of illicit enjoyment can easily ruin years of a clean conscience.

Many factors account for premarital sex, youthful age itself is a stage of human life that is characterized by accelerated development in different parts of the body. In particular, the unprecedented growth and development of sex organs and the attendant heightened emotion as correlate are enough significant factors that may predispose youth to premarital sex. Different studies identified different factors that may dispose young persons to premarital sex. In Thailand and Philippines, family structure was associated with premarital sex; youths living with single parent have higher rate of premarital sexual activities than those living with both parents (Stewart, Sebastiani & Lopez, 2001). In Turkey, Mechet, (2006) identified mother's education, age, ethnicity and employment status as the most important predictors of attitudes of young women toward premarital sex. One may deduce from the two studies mentioned that home background is a common factor that dispose youths to premarital sex.

In support of this, Durojaiye (1972) did observe that in Africa homes, parents are not fully equipped to answer questions on sexual matters adequately; even those who attempt to pass on faulty information to their children. Thus, insufficient sex education from home throws youths into

confusion which often results to personal search and in the process become prey to adults who could take advantage and defile the innocent young females especially. Other factors associated with premarital sex include influence of media, peer pressure, insatiable lust for money, cultural influence, sexual harassment, curiosity, poor school discipline, location of school, religious teachings and literacy (Kiragu & Zabin, 1993; Abraham & Kumar, 1999; Ajiboye, 2006; Adegoke, 2013).

Often, we don't anticipate or consider the physical consequences of premarital sex. We simply want to feel good. But that fleeting moment fulfilled can bring with it a lifetime of concern, change, or challenge for us, a future spouse, family members, and children yet to be born. Here are two very real physical consequences to consider. Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Disease. Both of these physical consequences have effects on multiple people. Pregnancy takes into account another life, and sexually transmitted disease is something a future spouse would need to know about. But in addition to physical consequences, there are emotional ones as well.

Statement of the problem

In so many communities in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, there have been various cases of secondary school dropout which could be linked to unwanted pregnancies or acquisition of sexually transmitted disease. The major cause of this pitfall (secondary school dropout) is premarital sexual activities among the secondary school students. Students who dropout due to pregnancies and acquisition of sexually transmitted infections tends to develop sense of inferiority complex might lead to depression. It is of great concern that these students, who are mostly adolescents, are given the right education on sexual matters to curb the problem of premarital sex and its consequences. It is perceived that high rate of sexual activities as well as limited knowledge and use of contraceptives among secondary school students/undergraduates, Iyaniwuwa, & Salako 2005, cited in Nwaorah, Mbamara, Ugboaja, Ogelle & Akabuike, 2009). But there is dearth of studies on causes of premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor L.G.A of Edo State, it is the gap in research that the researcher attempts to fill.

It is seemingly apparent that many Nigerian researchers and observers are of the opinion that the traditional values are changing rapidly and for the worse (Ezeh, 2001 and Arumala, 2005). An area in which the decline of

traditional value is loud and obvious is the issue of sexuality. It appears the society has accepted premarital sex as a legitimate practice since emphasis has shifted from virginity till marriage. Yet, the consequences of premarital sex among secondary school students are still pronounced in the society.

Research Questions

To carry out this study, the following research questions were put forward to guide the direction of the study:

1. What are the perceived causes of premarital sex among secondary school students?
2. To what extent do secondary school students in Egor L.G.A engage in premarital sex?
3. What are the perceived consequences of premarital sex among secondary school students?
4. Does perceived consequences of premarital sex influence its engagement among secondary school in Egor L.G.A?
5. Does parental educational level influence perceived causes of premarital sex among secondary school students n Egor?

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are to;

1. determine the causes of premarital sex among secondary school students.
2. examine the consequences of premarital sex among secondary school students.
3. determine the extent secondary school students in Egor L.G.A practice premarital sex.
4. ascertain the level of parental education on the perceived causes of premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State
5. find out the influence of religious affiliation on secondary school students in the area of study

Significance of the Study

The conclusion reached and the result gotten from this research will provide additional knowledge to past research on premarital sex, to provide the secondary schools with an arsenal of knowledge about the causes of premarital sex in secondary schools in Egor L.G.A and also would be very beneficial to the student who will be better equipped against the pressure of engaging in premarital sex.

Scope of Study/Delimitation

This research study is focused on some secondary schools located in Egor L.G.A of Edo State, Nigeria. The study is delimited to secondary school students of Egor Local Government Area and the descriptive survey research design.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The main thrust of this chapter is on the review of related literature about “perceived causes and consequences of premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government area, Edo State” under the following sub-headings:

- ❖ Concepts of premarital sex
- ❖ Premarital sex and social effects
- ❖ Effects of premarital sex
- ❖ Prevention of premarital sex
- ❖ Types of sexual relationship
- ❖ Causes of pre-marital sex
- ❖ Consequences of Premarital Sex
- ❖ Peer influence on premarital sex
- ❖ Religious influence on premarital sex
- ❖ Family influence on premarital sex
- ❖ Summary of Literature

Concepts of Premarital Sex

Students who begin early pre-marital sexual activity are more likely to be engaged in unsafe sex. Early sexual debut puts them at increased risk for acquiring or transmitting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; and makes them highly vulnerable to unwanted pregnancy and its consequences. The National Institute of Health (2005) claimed that aging is associated with a variety of changes in man's life. It explained that secondary school students is a period of life characterized by dramatic changes in biological processes, as well as physical and social contexts. It defined the age range of secondary school students as transversely the period between 12-17 years old. In the online article entitled Caring for Your Teenager (2003) it discusses that secondary school students stage ranges from years of puberty to adulthood. Generally, these are the ages were young ones are still in their college education. In addition, the online article Caring for Your Teenager (2003) lay own that, young boys and girls as they go into their secondary school students stage they infrequently think of the future. They do not have the ability to consider what the effects of their action are. At late secondary school students, a lot of young ones appear to value modification of situations and ideas and they now plan the future.

They started to increase their thoughts and at this moment there is augmentation of their competence to solve problems; however, with the presence of their innocence in life they inconsistently apply their newly acquired ability and occasionally they may act with lack of correct judgment. As teenagers, there are points in life which they are not yet of much understanding as the old ones. To be specific this refers to the acts called premarital sex. According to Abbey (2002) “virginity is no longer a universally expected prerequisite for the marriage covenant”. This statement might not be true to all people in the world. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are present in North America or European countries and they noticed that there is widespread premarital sex among secondary school students in their respective place. They learned that chastity is not important to them for they consider this as old-fashioned virtue. This the reason why OFWs especially mothers are praying deeply that their daughters and sons will continue to value chastity and do not follow what the Western societies are doing (Adegoke, 2012).

In the United States of America (USA) teenage pregnancy was seen to be existing while there are teenagers. The 75 percent of teenagers between ages 13 and 19 have had sex and 40 percent of all U.S.A. women will get

pregnant by the age 19 (Myers, 1990). It can be noted that teenage pregnancy entails lasting hardships to the mother and child. According to Myers (1990) USA studies show that “women who bear their first child at an early age bear more children rapidly and have more unwanted and out-of-wedlock births”. Myers (1990) continued that, “82 percent of girls who gave birth at age 15 or younger were daughters of teenage mothers”. She cited that experts point out that the reasons for the increase in the rate of teenage pregnancy are pressures in the society and lack of sex education. The state of being pregnant before getting married is at present one of the many problems in Thai society, though Thai people have very good values and norms; however, in the present social trend, more people have become open minded about couples cohabitating before marriage and this trend is evident in all age groups, from students to adults (Arumala, 2005).

The increase in the frequency of premarital sex was seen since there were individuals who engage in sex exclusively with a future spouse. They further claimed that “very few men had premarital sex with someone other than a future spouse”. The state of being pregnant before getting married does not happen only in the foreign land but this is also present in the Philippines. Persons who engage premarital sex is not punish under Philippine laws but in

some other countries they considered it as a crime but victimless. Since victimless states do not prosecute persons accused of the crime (“Gale Group”, 2008). In the study conducted by Zablan (1994) revealed that 18 percent of Filipino youths approved premarital sex, 80 percent disapproved, and 2 percent were neutral (as cited in Leyson, 2009). According to the World Bank, the Philippines is among the top ten countries where there is an increasing number of teenage mothers (Ong, 2009). Once the child is born the teenage mom bears the burden of rearing the child at her very young age. This is not the only point to be considered but generally this will add to the overpopulation of the country and increase the poor quality of life. In the online article of Wiltse (2009), the Philippines is one of the fastest growing populations in Asia with about 2 million new births each year.

The government estimated that in 2040 the Philippines' population is projected to expand to as many as 142 million. Furthermore, she expound that teenage pregnancy is widespread in the Philippines, especially amongst the poor in Manila. Even though in the study conducted by Hayward, Grady, and Billy (1992), outside the Philippines, showed that “socioeconomic status (SES), in which income is part of SES, indirectly affects the risk of pregnancy”, still teenagers should have to exercise prudence to avoid getting

pregnant at early age. Young mothers face enormous health risks, obstructed labor is common and results in newborn deaths and deaths or disabilities in the mothers. Harding (2010) concurred in his article when he said that there are alleged harmful physical and psychological effects of premarital sex and similarly with the out-of-wedlock childbirth. The words of Wiltse (2009) as regards to teenage pregnancy and fast growing population was confirmed by Ong, (2009), the latter said that, “Teenage pregnancy is on the rise in the Philippines specifically in Manila”.

She added that, in time of her reports there were 3.6 million teenage mothers in the Philippines. Gorne (2006) in a phone interview with the Population Officer Velma Kangleon learned that teenage pregnancies are rampant and premarital sex occurrences in Southern Leyte, Maasin City alarms the provincial government According to Kangleon, the latest result on the Pinoy Youth Survey in close coordination with Population Commission was shocking as Eastern Visayas ranks second in the prevalence of teenage pregnancies and pre-marital sex incidence next to Metro Manila to include Southern Leyte (as cited by Gorne, 2006). Kangleon reported further that, teenage pregnancies does not exempt children at elementary level specifically those who have already their monthly period. To be pregnant at the age far

away from the secondary school student's stage is important since at this time the woman is expected to have finished her school and have a better job already which will help her to escape economic problems. This is also expected that she is now physically ready to face her motherhood (Melgar, (2009) as cited in Ong, 2009). Nevertheless, this social phase of teenagers' life needs proper guidance. In the Philippines, a woman having the age below 17 is expected to be unmarried since the age of majority is 18.

This is the age where under the Philippine laws people could enter into a valid contract. Therefore, this will raise the belief that when a woman has a child at this age she is not yet married and has engaged in premarital sex. In the study carry out by the UP Population Institute exhibit lower ages to those who engaged in premarital sex. It manifested that one (1) out of four (4) Filipinos aged 15-24 are engaging in premarital sex, (Premarital sex, 2007). The study Adhikari and Tamang (2009) revealed that premarital sex is more likely engaged by students aged 20. The results of the study of Chun Yi, Ksobiech and Chiao (2012) affirm the previous study; however it specifically mentioned that male college students with an educated mother were less likely to have premarital sex between the ages of 20 and 22 but not the female. In the online article of Naijanewsreel (2011), it was stressed that corruption of public

morals and household disorder are social disorders which seems to be the results of premarital sex.

Some of the literature on sexual behavior failed to establish the fact that some of our sexual activities like pre-marital sex, adultery and homosexuality constitute a serious social problem and a threat to civilization. Ikpe (2003), Twa-Twa (1997) and Johnson (2007), studied and reported the existence of sexual activities among undergraduates and they all advise on the need to use condom. Lack of condemnation of such vices as deviant acts by some scholars encourages pre-marital sex. Most writers on sexual behavior end up as interventionist strategists to the sponsors of their study by encouraging the use of condom and other methods for safe sex. Sex relations appear as one of the most important aspects of students' life in the university. Members of the larger society are no exception either. Sex, Afi (1977) argues, is crucial to social survival. True as the statement may be, it is equally important to note that sex is bound up in deep psychological gratifications.

Societal norms and values have placed restrictions and conditions for engaging in sexual act. By such normative restrictions, significant members of the population will be deprived of sexual gratifications. It was for the interest

of the individual and the society at large that sexual relationships sanctioned and regulated.

Premarital sex is capable of impelling individuals toward behavior which may disrupt the relationship upon which social life depends. Robertson (1989) observes that societies of the West have shrouded sexual behavior in myth, taboo and ignorance. Research interest into the field of sex began in the late 1940s to early 1950s. It was Kinsey (1948) who first carried out elaborate investigation on sexual behavior, tie faced condemnation from many religious organizations and media. In Africa, most of our traditional leaders and parents still find it difficult to publicly speak on sexual practices, despite its seeming implications to youths. This attitude has led our children to acquire sexual knowledge from the media and peers, particularly in a learning environment. Robertson further argued that sex in itself may not he immoral, but the circumstance under which the act is carried out could be immoral. When the sex act is carried out outside the conventional sexual norms of the society or the community, it becomes a deviant act and inappropriate when measured against the general standards of behavior. Robertson's view is shared by Kuria (1987) and Clinard and Meier, (1998). Clinard and Meier

argue that sex is a natural part of life and is important to the society, because it perpetuates species.

Potts and Selman (1979) argued that adolescent sexuality was not a problem in Africa. But now, it is. The society defines maturity rites of passage. But it is not the case in contemporary times. Adolescents are carrying pregnancies and terminating pregnancies when they are yet to marry. Sex and reproductive behavior, they argue, are molded by cultural and social forces but moral commandments regarding sex tend to be cut deep on the „tablets“ of social behavior.

Scott (2006) corroborates this when he stated that, throughout the world; most young people have had sex before they reach 19 years of age (the adolescence and pre-marriage age) without engaging in marital vow. He went further to identify some other ones who engage in so-called “sexually alternatives” such as fondling their sex organs (masturbation). Gelana (2009) stated that in Ethiopia, 60% of pregnancies which emanated from premarital sex are unwanted or unintended and thus endanger the life of the expectant youth who become mothers by accident. In a study of Kenya’s population, Kiragu and Zabin (1993) reported that a lot of Kenyan youth engage in premarital sex and the behaviour is on the increase. The proportion of young

people who are sexually experienced by age 15 and 18 years old in Nigeria in 2008 showed significant variations between male and female. Where 5.7% male of age 15 have had sex the female population was 15.7%. At age 18, the statistics showed that 25.6% of males have had sex but the females' proportion was 49.3%, which is remarkably higher than their male counterparts (Adeyemi, 2013). The reasons for the variation could be numerous ranging from biological (maturation), social, cultural to psychological.

Premarital sexuality is any sexual activity with an opposite sex partner or with a same sex partner before he/she has started a married life. The term is usually used to refer the intercourse before the legal age of a marriage. Adults who presumably marry eventually also fall under this definition. (Hazzaz, Bin, Zubairu, & S.A. (2005). Premarital sex is referred to sexual relations between two people prior to marrying each other. During that period, it was the norm in western societies for men and women to marry by the age of 21 or 22, and there was no consideration that one who had sex would not marry. The term was used instead of fornication, which has negative connotations, and was closely related to the concept and approval of virginity, which is sexual abstinence until marriage (Adinma and Okeke, 2005).

Sexual behaviour refers to the organization and expression of an individual's criticism and /or emotional attachment with reference to the sex and gender of the partner involved in sexual activity (Omoni & Onoyase, 2013). The sexual behavior of an individual is to a large extent a function of the inherited sexual response pattern or the extent of the restraint exerted on the individual by society. Today, due to the advances in technology and its impact on the quality of life, addressing the health and its influencing factors has become important. Also, providing health for health for the society is considered as one of the main issues in any country.

Sexual behaviors of adolescents and youths are categorized as one of the main health priorities of society because of high prevalence of human immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies. Sexuality is not an instrument of enjoying lustful pleasure for human being, at least. In premarital sex, many a times, immature human beings explore the sexuality, just out of curiosity, and might be unaware of the consequences. The feared consequences of risky sexual behaviors are: sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy and sometimes psychological consequences of sexual violence (Umeononihu, 2012). This study was undertaken amongst students in a tertiary institution to ascertain the

risky sexual behaviors amongst them so as to suggest solutions on how to remedy the problem.

The meaning has since shifted to refer to any sexual relations a person has prior to marriage and removing the emphasis on the relationship of the people involved. The definition has a degree of ambiguity. It is not clear whether sex between individuals legally forbidden from marrying or the sexual relations of one uninterested in marrying would be considered premarital. Alternative terms for premarital sex have been suggested, including non-marital sex (which overlaps with adultery), youthful sex, adolescent sex and young adult sex. These terms also suffer from a degree of ambiguity, as the definition of having sex differs from person to person. However, from my own view, pre-marital sex simply means engaging in sexual activity before the legal marriage or out of marriage.

Premarital Sex and Social Effects

Sexuality is an instinct imprinted into the genes of each living creature. Attraction to the opposite sex has been the key factor behind reproduction and survival of each species. Most of the species are born with only seasonal sexual necessities. They mate and reproduce only at limited times a year. Human beings, on the other hand, have active sexual instincts throughout his/her life;

right from the very day he/she discovers his/her sexuality in pre-adulthood. This instinct has found overpowering the cultural advancement we have gained over the past.

Sexuality is only sexuality for all other animals, but human beings have restricted forms of sexuality like pre-marital sexuality and extra-marital sexuality. The main reason behind introducing this restriction is that unlike all other animals we live in a civilized society with strict norms of morality and cultural obligations. The society always long for mature relationships and mutual respect between each member of this society. The main goal behind bringing in the sexual restrictions is that each member of this society should be treated with dignity and not as instruments of fulfilling lust.

Though a human being gains the physical maturity of procreation at the beginning of puberty, he/she is considered eligible for mating and reproduction much later may be after 18 years of age or 20. And also the society insists that a sexual practice outside a marriage is improper and illegal at times. Premarital sexuality is any sexual activity with an opposite sex partner or with a same sex partner before he/she has started a married life. The term is usually used to refer the intercourse before the legal age of a marriage. Adults who presumably marry eventually also fall under this definition.

Modern societies don't appreciate premarital lovemaking for various reasons. Lovemaking is no more considered an outflow of the natural sexual instincts among human beings. We see it as a necessary obligation to share the romance between married couples and also as a medium to fulfill the social responsibility of giving birth to the next generation. Sexuality is not an instrument of enjoying lustful pleasure for human beings, at least. In premarital sex, many a times, immature human beings explore the sexuality, jut out of curiosity, and might be are unaware of the consequences. Society has forbid premarital sex from the very outlook that adolescence is the time to form oneself as mature and responsible human being and not at all a time to procreate.

Effects of Premarital Sex

Premarital sex is universally known as two people having sex before marriage. In the past, premarital sex is considered as forbidden and doing so will lead to a heavy retribution. Now as society evolves, values and mind-sets develop and our degenerating society is slowly embracing premarital sex as a common thing in relationships. This had led to ambivalent responses from the society as well as religions Barker (1992). The significant question is has our society embraced premarital sex? Does the youth of our society know the

effects of premarital sex? Sex in itself, is not wrong at any age; but premarital sex may harm the mental development of adults in several forms. Premarital sexual experiences, many a times, leads to the misconception that sex is to be enjoyed at whatever ways possible. Forced premarital sex will lead to mental depression and dilemma. Another danger is possible exchange of diseases; as premarital partners may not be aware of diseases that spread through intercourses. Getting pregnant through premarital sex is another disaster. Emotional imbalances and guilt feeling could be the result of most premarital sexual affairs Kiragu (1993).

Prevention of Premarital Sex

Premarital sex is not approved by any modern society, yet, stories of adolescent fathers and mothers come out largely, especially from the highly civilized European nations. Modern lifestyle has opened multiple opportunities for boys and girls to interact closely and deeply in public and private. They have ample chances to experiment the sexuality which they witness through internet and Televisions. Law can only threaten people, can never make them to not do something. The most effective way of defending premarital sex is spreading awareness of healthy sexuality among children. Awareness of healthy sexuality is not at all the knowledge of safe sexuality.

Train them to mingle with opposite sex in a mature way. Inspire them with mutual respect between man and woman. From the very childhood itself a baby should learn to accept people as men and women, the equal partners of life on earth; not as objects to fulfill lusty wishes and ambitions.

Types of Sexual Relationship

Sexual relationships are divided into three, namely;

1. **Premarital Sex** - premarital sex is what most youths engage in before marriage.
2. **Marital Sex** - is referring to physical sexual activity that does not necessarily end up in an intercourse within marriage.
3. **Extra Marital Sex** - extramarital affairs are relationship outside marriage where an illicit romantic/sexual relationship occurs.

Causes of Premarital Sex

Premarital sex is what most youths engage in before marriage while extra-marital sex is what some married people indulges in, when they are not faithful to their partner. Pure, holy or legal sex is the only legitimate sex, it occurs between married couples. It is Holy and wonderful, God loves it and it brings purity. What we will be talking about here is premarital sex which the

Bible calls fornication. It is not fun, it is not love-making but fornication. It is sin, I would have agreed if it is called lust making.

1. **Pressure:** Pressure from parents, friends, peer group, lecturer, boss, future partners. Some men do mount pressure physically on their partners while some ladies mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their nakedness to seduce men. Some male bosses in places of work do mount pressure on their female workers, they want girls that can work for them and still satisfy them sexually.
2. **Curiosity:** Many youths have engaged themselves in premarital sex as a result of curiosity. They thought they were searching for reality, but they ended up destroying themselves. They are not satisfied with what their parents, pastors and Christian friends told them concerning sex, they want to experience it themselves.
3. **Electronic media:** Television, film, radio and video has contributed to the high rate of premarital sex. What youths watch on screen determine their behaviour and character. Every product advertised on T.V. is just promoting sex. In fact, to advertise food items they use sex, film, television and radio promotes premarital sex. Most home videos are sex promoters.

4. **Books and Magazines:** Some satanic authors are in town destroying the youths, they write some sexual stories, books and magazines, they bring out many pictures that stimulate the youth to think about sex always. Having read all these books, youths do become restless until they have put into practice what they learned in the books and magazines.
5. **Environmental influence:** We live in a corrupt society where people do not see anything bad in ungodliness they do not see premarital sex as sin; they see it as a normal thing. Hence, girls are encouraged to dress exposing their bodies. Premarital sex has become the norm of the society. Some Christian youths find it difficult to cope in this kind of environment; hence, they fall into this ungodly act.
6. **Covetousness:** Greed for money, wealth and position is another cause of premarital sex. Some ladies want money at all costs hence they are ready to use their bodies to get it by sleeping around with men.
7. **Indiscipline:** Lack of discipline has led many singles into the dungeon of premarital sex.
8. **Wrong association:** This has led many youth into destruction. Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are.

9. **Ignorance:** Lack of good sex education has led many youth into premarital sex, some went into it not knowing what they were doing.
10. **Wrong information:** Since parents have refused to educate their children on the subject and the church is not forth coming with anything meaningful, the youth have resorted to any information they can get from anywhere either wrong or right.
11. **Bad parenting:** Children that are not well brought up are likely to fall into wrong hands.
12. **Idleness:** An idle hand is the devil's workshop. If you are idle, you may cuddle the devil.
13. **Loneliness:** Some claim they went into fornication due to loneliness.
14. **Broken homes:** Children from broken homes can fall into wrong hands due to the situation of their homes.

Consequences of Premarital Sex

Premarital sex is considered immoral as its consequences leads to other immoral behaviour and also breaking of the law. When people engage in unprotected premarital sex, it will lead to unwanted pregnancies and children born out of wedlock Johnson (2007). This leads to mental and emotional stress for couples who are not ready to bear the responsibility of having children. As

premarital sex often occurs throughout teenage years and among teenagers, adolescent invariably students, many are not ready for unwanted pregnancies after engaging in premarital sex as they are neither mature nor responsible enough. This causes a number of unwanted pregnancies to be aborted. In many countries, abortion is deemed to be illegal thus is against the law.

Also, children born to young couples who are not married might suffer physical, mental or sexual abuse. The number of such cases has been on the rise and it is believed that this is caused by young couples who engage in unprotected premarital sex that are not prepared to rear children Wright et. al., (2006). In other cases, girls that do not abort their foetus might abandon their babies as soon as they are born as they are unable to raise them. This leads to a rise in the number of babies being abandoned in the society. Most of the time, these babies are often dead by the time they are found. If caught, the mothers of these babies are punishable by the law.

One the other hand, teenagers that engage in premarital sex can be going against the law if they are minors, even if there is mutual consent. Most importantly, as those that engage in sex before marriage usually have unprotected sex, there is a high risk for them to contract sexually transmitted

diseases like Herpes, Chlamydia, Genital Warts, Gonorrhea, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDs) Odoemelan, (1996). and other diseases as people who engage in premarital sex tend to have multiple sex partners.

Peer Influence on Premarital Sex

A Secondary school student's decision to engage in sexual intercourse may be influenced by many different variables, one of which is their friends. Several studies have indicated that peer's sexual attitudes are closely associated with secondary school students (Raffaelli & Crockett, 2003). Similarly, evidence suggests that one of the most consistent predictors of an adolescent's risky behavior is whether the individual has friends who also engage in that behavior (King & Furrow, 2004). In addition, peer pressure, specifically negative peer pressure, may increase risk taking, such as engaging in premarital sex (Jaccard, Blanton, & Dodge, 2005). Such evidence has lead researchers to conclude that secondary school student's premarital sex is influenced by their peers.

An adolescent's relationship with his or her best friend has been found to be of the most importance when determining the amount of influence peers have on an individual's decision to engage in pre-marital sex. An adolescent's

predisposition to risky behavior is a factor in and of itself when determining the likelihood of engaging in pre-marital sex, but because adolescents befriend those who have similar qualities and characteristics, the chances of engaging in risky sexual behavior may increase. In addition, the influence of peers has more of an effect when the adolescent's relationship with their parents has been strained (Jaccard, Blanton, & Dodge, 2005).

It was found in a recent study that the odds of an adolescent engaging in pre-marital sex increased 1.65 times when his or her best friend had engaged in such behavior (Jaccard, Blanton, & Dodge, 2005). Considering that best friends have the most influence on an adolescent's risk-taking behavior, this statistic is rather small in the overall picture of factors that influence an adolescent's behavior. It is widely known that peers have influence on one's choice in music, clothing, and extracurricular activities. However, when it comes to risk behaviors, such as engaging in pre-marital sex, peer influence may not be enough to persuade an adolescent's decision when the decision is one that may be deeply rooted in personal values. These findings may lead one to conclude that although peer influence may be a factor in an adolescent's decision to engage in sexual activity, it is not as powerful of an influence as previously thought.

Religious Influence on Premarital Sex

Premarital sex involves any kind of sexual contact prior to entering into a legal marriage relationship. There are a number of reasons why Scripture and traditional Christianity oppose this. God designed sex to be enjoyed within a committed marital relationship of one man and one woman. To remove it from that context is to pervert its use and severely limit its enjoyment. Sexual contact involves a level of intimacy not experienced in any other human relationship. When God brought Adam and Eve together in marriage, He established the “one flesh” relationship. Genesis 2:24 tells us that a man will leave his family, join to his wife, and become “one flesh” with her.

All major religions prohibit premarital sex. Hayes wanted to know whether the low level of premarital sex among Muslims was more a matter of individual choices (micro level effects) or national cultural forces (macro level effects). To test this, they looked at how the probability of a Muslim woman having had premarital sex changes depending on how dominant Islam is in the country where she lives.

There are, in general, two contexts for premarital sex. There is the “we love each other and are committed to each other, but just don’t want to wait to be married” sexual relationship, and there’s “casual sex.” The former is often

rationalized with the idea that the couple will surely marry, so there's no sin in engaging in marital relations now. However, this shows impatience and disrespect to oneself, as well as to the other person. It removes the special nature of the relationship from its proper framework, which will erode the idea that there's a framework at all. If we accept this behavior, it's not long before we'll regard any extra-marital sex as acceptable. To tell our prospective mate that they're worth waiting for strengthens the relationship and increases the commitment level.

Casual sex is rampant in many societies. There is, in truth, no such thing as "casual" sex, because of the depth of intimacy involved in the sexual relationship. An analogy is instructive here. If we glue one object to another, it will adhere. If we remove it, it will leave behind a small amount of residue; the longer it remains, the more residue is left. If we take that glued object and stick it to several places repeatedly, it will leave residue everywhere we stick it, and it will eventually lose its ability to adhere to anything. This is much like what happens to us when we engage in "casual" sex. Each time we leave a sexual relationship, we leave a part of ourselves behind. The longer the relationship has gone on, the more we leave behind, and the more we lose of ourselves. As we go from partner to partner, we continue to lose a tiny bit of

ourselves each time, and eventually we may lose our ability to form a lasting sexual relationship at all. The sexual relationship is so strong and so intimate that we cannot enter into it casually, no matter how easy it might seem.

Family Influence on Premarital Sex

Secondary school students always feel close relationship with their parents. Everybody always concern about connections and how to maintain family relationship, and that growing closer and more emotionally dependent on their parents over time, particularly to their mothers (GSO et. al., 2010; Phan, 2005). Many Asian cultures continue to depend on the family as their primary agent that prepares children for life and social participation. While secondary school students are impacted by both negative and positive factors in their sexual knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour, studies conducted in Vietnam, China and other country (GSO, 2005; Vu, 2007; Podhisita et. al., 2001) showed that family connections and parental support parental monitoring, and positive outlook are protective mechanisms for young people. Parental and familial factors influence the quality of children's close relationship with peers later in their life and support adolescents against negative impact from peers and mass media and also help reduce the probability of premarital sex. Sex education in the family communication

between parents and secondary school students regarding premarital sex is often viewed as desirable and perceived as an effective means to desist. Family shy away from their responsibility pertaining premarital sex particularly mothers.

Summary of Literature

Although attitudes to premarital sex may be influenced by several factors, the importance of religion to that discourse cannot be underestimated. By providing standards to judge and guide behaviour, religion provides a social control function such that religious persons are expected to act in ways that conform to certain norms. This study perceived causes and consequences of premarital sex. In addition, peer pressure, specifically negative peer pressure, may increase risk taking, such as engaging in premarital sex (Jaccard, Blanton, & Dodge, 2005). Such evidence has lead researchers to conclude that secondary school student's premarital sex is influenced by their peers. The most effective way of defending premarital sex is spreading awareness of healthy sexuality among children. Awareness of healthy sexuality is not at all the knowledge of safe sexuality.

Additionally, while a high level of religiosity was found to associate with more conservative views on premarital sex, the effect was more pronounced among Pentecostal groups. The findings are discussed in relation to programmes on adolescent sexuality.

CHAPTER THREE

METHOD OF THE STUDY

This chapter shows the procedures and steps used in the research work which ensured that the outcomes of the examination are valid and reliable. It described the research design, population of the study, sample size, sampling techniques, research instrument, data collection and methods of data analysis.

- ❖ Research Design
- ❖ Population of the Study
- ❖ Sample and Sampling Technique
- ❖ Research Instruments
- ❖ Method of Data Collection
- ❖ Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Orji (2011) opined that descriptive research is often used when a researcher intends to elicit responses from a relatively large number of respondents by administering pertinent instruments for collecting primary data on a portion of the population known as sample. Thus, survey design was considered appropriate for the study.

Population of the Study

Population is the totality of the objects or elements being studied and to which the conclusion or generation of our results are applied. The target population of the study is the whole 13 secondary schools in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A total of two hundred and fifty (250) respondents were used for the study. The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents in the area of study. The researcher used multi-stage random sampling techniques.

S/N	SCHOOLS	ADDRESS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL	NO OF RESPONDENTS
1	Uselu Senior Secondary School	Mela Motel Road, Benin City	720	44
2	Evbareke Secondary School	Evbareke Quarters, Benin City	680	28
3	Government Science Technical College	Benin Technical College Road, Benin City	1,785	62
4	Uwelu Secondary School	Uwelu Quarters, Benin City	423	17
5	Iyoba Girls College	Along Benin Technical College Road, Benin City	980	40
6	Edo Boys High School (Adolor College)	Adolor Road, Benin City	785	32
	Total		5,373	250

Source: Ministry of Education, 2021

Six schools were randomly selected using ballot replacement method. in each of the selected schools, the attendance register was used to systematically select every even numbered student on the register until the desired sample size is attained.

Research Instrument

The instrument that was used for the study was questionnaire designed by the researcher. The instrument was made up of three (3) sections. Section A,B and C. Section A was demographic information of the students, section B was open-ended question on premarital sex while section C was information on premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

Method of Data Collection

The Researcher administered the questionnaire with the help of two research assistants who was more familiar with the sampled school. Before the administration of the questionnaire, the objectives of the research work was clearly explained to the respondents. However, respondents was given time to complete the questionnaire.

Method of Data Analysis

Data obtain was analysed in simple descriptive statistics presented in tables. The primary data was collated, edited and coded into a meaningful form. Descriptive statistics technique such as frequency and simple percentage.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data gathered in the course of the study. First, we present and analyse data for sample background (demographic) variables, thereafter, we present and analyse data for the dependent and independent variables of the study.

Presentation of Results

The following schools were studied in the research work. Uselu Senior Secondary School, Evbareke Secondary School, Government Science Technical College Ugbow, Uwelu Secondary School, Iyoba Girls College and Edo Boys High School. A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed, out of which a total of 238 were filled and returned respectively.

Table 1: Perceived Causes of Premarital Sex

S/N	Statements	A		D	
		No	%	No	%
1	Electronic media such as facebook	185	81.9	53	18.1
2	Some girls mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their nakedness to seduce men	238	100		
3	Peer group influence give rooms to premarital sex	183	76.9	55	23.1
4	Poverty is one of the major causes of premarital sex	169	71.0	69	29.0

Table 1 revealed perceived causes of premarital sex. The table revealed that 185(81.9%) of the respondents agree that electronic media such as

facebook, twitter, telegram, television, film and pornography etc promote premarital sex, while 53(18.1%) disagree. It was also revealed in the table that some girls mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their body to seduce men with the total sample size of 238(100%) agrees and there was no one that disagree with the terms. On the basis of peer group influence gives rooms to premarital sex, 183(76.8%) agree and 55(23.1%) disagree. Lastly from table 1, poverty is one of the major causes of premarital sex with 169(71.0%) agree and 69(20.0%) disagree respectively.

Table 2: Extent to which Secondary School Students Engage in Premarital Sex

S/N	Statements	A		D	
		No	%	No	%
1	Bad parenting system leads to premarital sex among secondary school students	187	78.6	51	21.4
2	Lack of sex education (home & school) lead to premarital sex	231	97.1	7	2.9
3	Low self-esteem leads to premarital sex among secondary school students	200	84.0	38	16.0
4	Careless or carefree mindset among secondary school students lead to premarital sex	176	73.9	62	26.1

Table 2 showed that bad parenting system leads to premarital sex among secondary school students with 17(7.6%) agree while 51(21.4%) disagree. It was observed as a matter of fact that lack of sex education (home and school) lead to premarital sex with 231(97.1%) agree while 7(2.9%) disagree. Low self-esteem leads to premarital sex among secondary school students 200(84.0%)

disagree and 3(16.0%) disagree. Lastly, it was revealed also that careless or carefree mindset among secondary school students lead to premarital sex while 176(73.9%) agree and 69(26.1%) disagree respectively.

Table 3: Perceived Consequences of Premarital Sex

S/N	Statements	A		D	
		No	%	No	%
1	Premarital sex leads (HIV/AIDs), sexually transmitted infections (STiS) AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES	230	96.6	8	3.4
2	Premarital sex leads to early pregnancy which may cause secondary school students to be dropped out	283	100	-	-
3	Forced premarital sex leads to mental depression and dilemma	229	96.2	9	3.8
4	It leads to untimely death of the person involved in premarital sex	183	76.9	55	23.1

As shown in table 3 above, 230(96.6%) agree that premarital sex leads (HIV/AIDs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies 8(3.4%), disagree and the total sample size of 238(100%) agree that premarital sex leads to early pregnancy which may cause secondary school students to be dropped out. The same table shows that forced premarital sex leads to depression and dilemma with 229(96.2%) agree while 9(3.8%) disagree respectively. Finally, it leads to untimely death of the person involved in premarital sex with 183(76.9%) agree while 55(23.1%) disagree respectively.

Table 4: Influence of Perceived Consequences to the Engagement of Premarital Sex among secondary school students

S/N	Statements	A		D	
		No	%	No	%
1	Loss of family supports is a consequence of premarital sex	222	93.3	16	6.7
2	Low self-esteem is one of the consequences of premarital sex	221	92.9	17	7.1
3	Street hawking causes premarital sex among secondary school students	147	61.8	91	37.8
4	Premarital sex leads to abuse of contraceptive pills	224	94.1	15	5.9

Table 4 above shows that loss of family supports is a consequences of premarital sex with 222(93.3%) agree while 16(6.7%) disagree respectively. Low self-esteem is one of the consequences of premarital sex and was represented by 221(92.9%) agree while 17(7.1%) disagree to that effect. The table also stress that with 147(61.8%) agree that street hawking causes premarital sex among secondary school students while 91(37.8%) disagree and 224(94.1%) agree that premarital sex leads to abuse of contraceptive pills while 14(5.9%) disagree respectively.

Table 5: Parental Educational Level Influence Perceived Causes of Premarital Sex

S/N	ITEMS	PRIMARY		SECONDARY		TERTIARY	
	Parental Educational Level influence perceived causes of premarital sex among	%		%		%	
		A	D	A	D	A	D

	secondary school students						
1	Parental exposure affects students premarital sex	19(7.6)	9(3.4)	62(26.1)	24(10.1)	94(39.8)	30(13.0)
2	Sometimes, mother is embarrassed to discuss sexual issues with her children	88(37.0)	46(18.9)	58(24.4)	39(16.4)	2(0.8)	6(2.5)
3	Educational status of parents contribute to students premarital sex	17(7.1)	19(8.0)	79(33.2)	55(23.1)	32(13.4)	36(15.1)
4	While parents try to teach children on premarital sex, it gets formal gradually	43(18.1)	14(5.9)	59(24.8)	23(9.7)	80(33.6)	19(8.0)
5	Educated parents tell their children the causes and effect of premarital sex	62(26.1)	27(11.3)	64(26.9)	34(14.3)	20(8.4)	31(13.0)
6	When they grow, they will learn, I cannot tell children whether male or female about dangers of premarital sex	75(31.5)	47(19.7)	42(17.6)	17(7.1)	17(7.1)	40(16.8)
7	Parents build on their children the knowledge about their sexual issue	30(12.8)	8(3.2)	17(7.1)	41(17.2)	142(59.7)	-
8	Sex education is important and should start from parents	60(25.2)	-	70(29.4)	-	108(45.4)	-
9	Parents that can teach their children about sex at an early age	38(16.0)	12(5.0)	55(22.9)	24(10.0)	83(35.0)	15(6.1)
10	Parents want to be in control of what their children are learning about sex	47(19.9)	15(6.3)	55(22.9)	19(8.0)	78(32.6)	25(10.3)

Table 5 revealed the influence of parental educational level on premarital sex among secondary school students whereby 19(7.6%) representing primary agree, 9(3.4%) disagree, 62(26.1%) who has secondary qualification agree, 24(10.1%) disagree; 94(39.9%) agree that parent exposure affects students premarital sex and 30(13.4%) disagree respectively. Sometimes, mother is embarrassed to discuss sexual issues with her children and was said to be common among primary school

holders with 88(37.0%) agree, 46(18.9%) disagree, 58(24.4%) agree that secondary school holder possess this character and 39(16.4%) disagree while 2(0.8%) are tertiary and was agree while 5(2.5%) disagree. On the ground of educational status of parents contribute to student's premarital sex; 17(7.1%) were primary school that agreed to the terms, 19(8.0%) disagree, 79(33.2%) were secondary school holder that also agree while 55(23.1%) disagree and lastly 32(13.6%) were tertiary education holder who agree to the terms and 36(15.1%) disagree to the terms.

Moreover, while parents try to teach children on premarital sex, it gets formal gradually, it was agree by 43(18.1%) that this is found among primary school holders and 14(5.9%) disagree also 59(24.8%) agree under secondary school holder, 23(9.7%) also disagree under secondary school and we also observed that 80(33.6%) agree that those with tertiary education commonly engage in this and 19(8.0%) disagree respectively. On the basis of educated parents tell their children the causes and effect of premarital sex, it was observed that 62(26.1%) agree in primary school and disagree by 27(11.3%), 64(29.9%) agree and 34(14.3%) disagree by the secondary schools. Lastly, 20(8.4%) were

tertiary education who agree to the terms and 31(13.0%) disagree. “When they grow, they will learn, I cannot tell children whether male or female about dangers of premarital sex” and was agreed by primary school holders with 75(31.5%), 47(19.7%) disagree to the term, 42(17.6%) were secondary schools holders and agreed to the term while 17(7.1%) disagree also 17(7.1%) who are tertiary disagree to the terms. Parents build on their children the knowledge about their sexual issue, 30(12.8%) are primary school holder who agree to the terms, 8(3.2%) disagree under primary school status; 17(7.1%) in secondary school holder agree, 41(17.2%) disagree with the terms. Also 142(59.7%) were tertiary education holder that agree to the terms.

Sex education is important and should start from parents and was agree with 60(25.2%) under primary school holders, 70(29.4%) were secondary school that also agree and 108(45.4%) were tertiary education that as well agree. Parents that can teach their children about sex at an early age, it was said the primary school holder can do this with 38(16.0%) agree, 12(5.0%) disagree, 55(22.9%) were secondary school and have agreed to the term while 24(10.0%) disagree and 83(35.0%)

agree that the above term is common among tertiary education holder and was also disagree with 15(6.1%) that tertiary education holder does not possess the above character. Lastly from table 5, 47(19.9%) agree that parents want to be in control of what their children are learning about sex, 15(6.3%) disagree. 55(22.9%) were secondary holders that are always found in this category with 19(8.0%) disagree and 78(32.6) agree that tertiary education holder are seen in this category and was disagree by 25(10.3%) respectively.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of findings for this study was based on the data gathered during the course of the research in relation to the research questions. The research was carried out on some significant issues that relate to premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

Research question one revealed that peer group influence causes premarital sex. Some adolescents decide to have sexual relationship because their friends think 'sex is cool' while some get caught up in the romantic feelings and believe having sex is the best way they can prove

their love. Research question one also revealed that electronic media such as facebook, television, film and pornography can lead to premarital sex.

Research question two revealed the extent to which secondary school students engage in premarital sex. Bad parenting, lack of sex education, low self-esteem and careless mindset among secondary school students lead to the engagement of premarital sex.

Research question three revealed the consequences of premarital sex which include the acquisition of sexually transmitted disease (STDs), early pregnancy, mental depression and untimely death of the person involved in premarital sex.

Research question four revealed the consequences of engagement in premarital sex family support, low self-esteem and abuse of contraceptive pills are the consequences of premarital sex engagement among secondary school students.

Research question five revealed how parental educational level plays a vital role on the consequences of engaging in premarital sex. Research question five revealed that sex education is important and ot

should start from parents. Parents with high (tertiary) level of education expose their children more to sex education than parents with primary and senior secondary school qualification.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

In the study, the researcher examined premarital sex among secondary school students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. Five research questions were postulated as well as five objectives. The study looked at the perceived effect of engagement of premarital sex and its consequences in secondary schools. The consequences as revealed by the study include HIV/AIDs (94.1%) and pregnancy (99%), all of which are hereby seem to have biological effect in nature. The psychological consequences identified include depression (96.2%), untimely death (30.3%) etc. It can also leads to poor academic performance and alienation from peers, particularly close friends.

Conclusion

Premarital sex among secondary school leads to depression, guilt, regret, loss of family support, poor academic performance, loss of self-respect, drug abuse and alienation from the larger society. Students who engage in premarital sex are likely to suffer negatively from long term physical, emotional and social consequences.

From the findings, premarital sex leads to possible exchange of diseases, emotional imbalances and guilt, loss of family supports, poor academic performance, loss of self-respects and regrets. High prevalence of HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and other STIs are due to the engagement in premarital sex among adolescents.

Recommendations

- 1) Health educators should rise to the challenge of organising enlightenment activity in schools in order to provide adequate reproductive health information to students parents.

- 2) Secondary school should have counsellors that will guide students on how to management their sexual feelings without necessarily engaging in premarital sex. Counsellor should help to enlighten students on healthy peer friendship to discourage bad influence.
- 3) Parents should as a matter of responsibility, monitor and pay regular attention to their children's activities and provide them with the basic needs. Also, parents should endeavour to provide the necessary materials for their children in order to discourage commercial (premarital) sex among in-school adolescents.
- 4) Premarital sex education should be inclusive in Parent Teachers Association (PTA) meetings. This will enable teachers to encourage parents to educate their children on the dangers of premarital sex.
- 5) Parents should teach their children about sex at an early age.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

FACULTY OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BENIN CITY

Dear Respondent,

I am an undergraduate student of the above named institution. I am currently working on the topic “**Perceived Causes and Consequences of Premarital Sex among Secondary School Students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State**”. The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain first-hand information on the above topic. Your identity remains undisclosed in the course of this research and your response will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used only for academic purposes.

Erhahon Osasere
(Researcher)

Section A: (Demography of Respondents)

Instruction: please tick (√) the most applicable response and write where applicable

- 1) Age of respondent; 12 – 15 () 16 – 18 () 19 above ()
- 2) Religion: Christianity () Islam () Others ()
- 3) Class: SS I () SS II () SS III ()

Section B: Information on Premarital Sex among Secondary School Students in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

KEY: A – Agree and D – Disagree

S/N	Perceived causes of Premarital Sex	A	D
	What are the perceived causes of premarital sex among secondary school students?		
1	Electronic media such as Facebook, twitter, telegram, television, film and pornography etc promote premarital sex		
2	Some girls mount pressure on their partners by dressing carelessly exposing their nakedness to seduce men		
3	Peer group influence give rooms to premarital sex		
4	Poverty is one of the major causes of premarital sex		
	To what extent do secondary school students in Egor L.G.A. engage in premarital sex?		
5	Bad parenting system leads to premarital sex among secondary school students		
6	Lack of sex education (home & school) lead to premarital sex		
7	Low self-esteem leads to premarital sex among secondary school students		
8	Careless or carefree mindset among secondary school students lead to premarital sex		
	What are the perceived consequences of premarital sex among secondary school students?		
9	Street hawking causes premarital sex among secondary school students		
10	Premarital sex leads (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies		
11	Premarital sex leads to early pregnancy which may cause secondary school student to be dropped out		
12	Forced premarital sex will lead to mental depression and dilemma		
	Does a perceived consequence of premarital sex influence its engagement among secondary school in Egor L.G.A?		
13	It leads to untimely death of the person involved in premarital sex		
14	Premarital sex leads to abuse of contraceptive pills		
15	Loss of family supports is a consequence of premarital sex		

16	Low self-esteem is one of the consequences of premarital sex		
	Does parental educational level influence perceive causes of premarital sex among secondary school student?		
17	Parental exposure affects students premarital sex		
18	Sometimes, mother is embarrassed to discuss sexual issues with her children		
19	Educational status of parents contribute to students premarital sex		
20	While parents try to teach children on premarital sex, it gets formal gradually		
21	Educated parents tell their children the causes and effect of premarital sex		
22	When they grow, they will learn, I cannot tell children whether male or female about dangers of premarital sex		
23	Parents build on their children the knowledge about their sexual issue		
24	Sex education is important and should start from parents		
25	Parents that can teach their children about sex at an early age		
26	Parents want to be in control of what their children are learning about sex		