

APPRAISAL OF FACTORS FACILITATING MATE-SELECTION AMONG UNIVERSITY UNDER-GRADUATES IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper looks into the factors that necessitate the choice of mates among adolescents. The study is anchored on social exchange theory by Thibaut and Kelly (1959). A simple random technique was used in the study to select a sample of 240 students drawn from Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, and Federal University of Science and Technology, Akure all in Ondo State. A structured Questionnaire schedule was utilized to elicit information from the respondents. The questionnaire contains two sections: Section "A" on bio-social data; and Section "B" on social factor relating to mate-selection. The data from the questionnaire were analysed statistically and presented in a descriptive manner while Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses formulated. The Chi-square test showed a significant relationship between mate-selection and religion in both Long-term and short-term relationships with chi-square calculated value of 77.137 and 125.082 respectively, the second hypothesis shows that there is a significant relationship between mate-selection and parental background, the finding was significantly confirmed by the chi-square calculated value of 251.110 and 135.986 respectively for both short and long term relationships, while the third hypothesis show a significant relationship between mate-selection and one's ethnic group with the chi-square calculated value of 64.479 for the responses from long-term relationship and 68.644 for short-term relationship. It was observed that qualities that influence short-term relationship are the same qualities that influence a long-term relationship. And despite the qualities identified by these adolescents, divorce is on the increase in our society, it was therefore recommended that; students should be cautious when selecting a mate, as this can either make or mar their future, stakeholders in the marriage institution should help the adolescents in whatever capacity they can, parents should guide and lead their children properly, helping them to arrive at decisions that will not lead to future regret.

Keywords: Mate-selection, Courtship, , Marriage, Compatibility, Counseling.

INTRODUCTION

The choice of a marriage partner is one of the most serious decisions people face in life. In contemporary Nigeria, this decision usually follows a long learning period during which people engage in more informal and often multi-partner relationships; i.e., dating. Today, human mate-choice criteria are thought to vary mostly between men and women (Buss, 1999). Humans also vary in their ability to translate such criteria into actual mate choice, as a result of some situational constraints that vary from one geographic setting to the other. But the criteria themselves seem to vary little among human populations.

Culturally, there are methods by which mate-selection is carried-out in every society, that have to do with the ways of life of the people. In South-western Nigeria, before now, parents and families played a significant role in mate-selection for their children. The parents and families go as far as negotiating for a wife whom they believe would be compatible with their children (Ogunjuyigbe and Adeyemi, 2003).

There are some underling factors that can necessitate such choice of mate by parents. These factors range from the family history of the intended mate; to the intended mate social standing such that issues like health, socio-economic and moral factors come into reckoning. The process of courtship among the Yoruba of South-west Nigeria is clearly influenced by their value for marriage. They believe that the success of a home depends on the compatibility of the two people coming together. This is why the parents of a prospective husband sees nothing wrong in introducing their son to a lady they have observed over a period of time to be well-behaved and/or industrious as a potential wife. Also, parents generally believe that a young man knows little or nothing about the issues of life. Hence, parents do everything possible to see that their marriageable sons have what they consider to be the best choice for him.

In some cases, the parents of a prospective husband can initiate the process with the parents of the girl; this move may be kept secret from the prospective couple, until both parents have made substantive progress towards the proposed union. These processes have changed over the years, given the speed of globalization and the attending diffusion of cultures across the world.

Statement of the Problem

With all that has been seen and experienced by youngsters in the hands of peer groups, the issue of mate selection amongst the youth cannot be over-emphasized. Considering the fact that majority choose mate so as to gain identity. Most of the youngsters have a problem of identity, they are not always sure of who they are, they therefore look for certain facilitating factors for their mate selection. Some factors are well-defined, while some are not, but the fact that there is a facilitating factor which is the determinants of their selection of mates which can either be good or bad has the problem. Today, youths give little or no room to their parents to play the traditional role of negotiating on whom their children marry and this has brought about a drastic change in the family structure (Fasoranti and Owagbemi, 2012). Youngsters tend to choose mates for wrong reasons which need to be paid attention to. University undergraduates are the ones who is just entering maturity, and have the tendency to deviate from social norms as a result of search of identity. If the factor for the selections are not well noted by parents and guardians, the future of such young person is blur because attitudes imbibed by young ones tend to define them and their future. With this socio-cultural change in our society which has also brought about deviation from our culture, it is therefore necessary to know what necessitate the choice of mate among the university undergraduate.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- (a) To examine the factors that influence adolescents in mate-selection.
- (b) To ascertain if long-term and short-term courtships are influenced by the same factors.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Mate-Choice in Humans

In the history of human being, most women invest heavily in parenting and are choosy when it comes to mating and marriage partners (Buss, 1994). Men also express the basic mammalian pattern: that is, they compete intensely for access to prefer and often-times multiple mates; but in addition, many men invest in the well-being of their children (Geary, 2000; Geary & Flinn, 2001). Men's parenting complicates the dynamics of sexual selection. In addition to male-male competition and female choice, female- female competition and male choice are also common.

The preferred mate choices and attendant social conditions and behaviours of both women and men are predicted to have evolved to focus on and exploit the reproductive potential and reproductive investment of members of the opposite sex. Reproductive potential is the individual's ability to invest in the growth, development, and later social and reproductive competencies of offspring and/or the potential genetic benefits a mate would confer on offsprings (Alexander, 1987; Geary, 2002). Reproductive investment is the expenditure of this potential on offsprings.

In most mammals, sexual relationships are short-term. Men's paternal investment extends the potential length of these relationships such that many are long-term. One consequence is that human sexual relationships can vary from very brief to decades. The most fundamental difference is that the costs of reproduction are higher for women than for men; and, therefore, women are predicted to be choosy in their mate choices for both short-term and long-term courtships. In fact, women on average are predicted to largely avoid short-term courtships, given that the potential costs outweigh the potential benefits.

The opposite pattern is evident for men, given that potential benefits of short-term courtships outweigh the potential costs. When men do commit to a long-term courtship, the costs increase and thus the level of choosiness is predicted to increase accordingly. Note that most people are not consciously aware of these patterns, but, they are predicted to respond (e.g., preference for casual sex) in ways that are consistent with them.

Culturally Successful Men

In primate species in which long-term relationships develop, females generally prefer dominant males as mates. In comparison to other males, dominant males provide greater protection from danger (i.e., members of the same species) and often provide better access to high quality foods (Smuts, 1985). Similarly, the social status of men is an important consideration in women's choices of and preferences for marriage partners (Buss, *idem.*). Although the markers of social status can vary somewhat from one culture to the next (Irons, 1979, 1983), the basic relation is the same: culturally successful men are preferred as mating and marriage partners. These men wield social influence and have control over resources that women can use for themselves and their children. In short, culturally successful men have more reproductive potential than other men, and women's mating and marriage preferences suggest that they are motivated to capture and use this potential for their own reproductive ends.

The reason for this is clear: in most cultures so studied, the children of culturally successful men have lower mortality rates than the children of other men (Geary, *idem.*). Even, in

cultures in which mortality rates are low, children of culturally successful men benefit in terms of psychological and physical health and in terms of longevity in adulthood (Adler, *et al.*, 1994). These are exactly the conditions that would result in the evolution of women's preference for socially dominant and culturally successful marriage partners. Actual choices, in many cultures of, women's mate choices are complicated by the influence and often-times competing interests of their kin (Daly & Wilson, 1983; Flinn, 1988b).

The marriage patterns of the Kipsigis, a pastoral group in Kenya, provide an example (Borgerhoff, 1988, 1990.). Choice of marriage-partners is technically made by the young woman's kin, but, in most cases, the parents' decisions are influenced by their daughters' preferences. These joint decisions are strongly influenced by the amount of land made available to her and her future children. In this society, land and cattle are controlled by men, and gaining access to these resources has important reproductive consequences for women. "Land access is correlated with women's reproductive success, and may be an important causal factor contributing to reproductive differentials, given the greater availability of food in the homes of 'richer' women and the lower incidence of illness among them and their offspring" (Borgerhoff, *ibid.*).

Because the land is divided among her sons, who eventually use the land to attract wives, women who gain access to large land plots (through marriage) have more surviving grandchildren than do women with small land-plots (Borgerhoff, 2000). Given this situation, it is not surprising that across an 18-year period, (Borgerhoff, *ibid.*) found that the two men offering the most land were chosen as husbands by 13 of 29 brides and their families, and either one or both of these men got married in 11 of the 15 years in which one or more marriages occurred. The two lowest ranking men were chosen as husbands in only 1 of these 15 years.

Research conducted throughout the world strongly supports the position that women prefer marriage partners who are culturally successful or have the potential to become culturally successful. The most extensive of these studies included 10,000 people in 37 cultures across six continents and five islands (Buss, 1989). On the mate-choice survey, women rated "good financial prospect" higher than did men in all cultures. In 29 samples, the "ambition and industriousness" of a prospective mate were more important for women than for men, presumably because these traits are indicators of his reproductive potential--that is, his ability to eventually achieve cultural success. Hatfield and Sprecher (1995) found the same pattern for college students in the United States, Japan, and Russia. In each culture, women valued a prospective mates' potential for success, earnings, status, and social position more highly than did men.

Women's preference for culturally successful men is also found in studies of singles' advertisements and popular fiction novels. In a study of 1,000 "lonely hearts" advertisements, Greenlees and McGrew (1994) found that British women were 3 times more likely, than British men, to seek financial security in a prospective partner. Oda (2001) found that Japanese women were 31 times more likely, than Japanese men to seek financial security and social status in a prospective long-term partner; 9.4% of Japanese women explicitly sought these traits, compared to 0.3% of men. Whissell (1996) found the same themes across 25 contemporary romance-novels and six classic-novels that have traditionally appealed to women more than men, including two stories from the Old Testament written about 3,000 years ago. In these stories, the male protagonist is almost always an older, socially dominant, and wealthy man who ultimately marries the woman.

Bereczkei and Csanaky's (1996) study of more than 1,800 Hungarian men and women who were 35 years of age or older (and thus not likely to have more children) found that women who had married older and better educated men on average had more children, were less likely to get divorced, and reported higher levels of marital satisfaction than did women who married younger and/or less educated men. In short, marrying a culturally successful man provides the woman with social, psychological, and reproductive benefits (Geary, *idem.*; Low, 2000).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Social Exchange Theory

According to "social exchange theory", - i.e., Thibaut and Kelly. (1959); Homan. (1961)- in social relationships, people are faced with rewards which they can get from the other and cost which they suffer. On the basis of the theory, people form and dissolve social relationships according to these costs and benefits: one forms a relationship with someone who offers higher rewards and lower costs her/him. Possible rewards in the relationships are help and social support, so one reward can be willingness to provide these. Other examples of rewards are sociability, fair-mindedness, dependability, and enthusiasm (Thibaut and Kelly, *idem.*) and these are characteristics which are generally rewarding. However, these are also traits which are rewarding only for specific people. They are similar interests, similar attitudes, or complementary needs.

Cost in a relationship includes physical distance which makes it difficult to maintain the relationship and, possibly, rejection. According to the theory, people also have a "comparism level" (CL). This is a minimal level of the rewards over the costs, which they expect from a relationship. If no relationship offers this minimum level of rewards-costs difference, it means that the individual's best choice is to be alone. Moreover, the higher the rewards-costs difference over the CL is, the more satisfying is the relationship. The authors also defined a comparism level for alternatives. It represents the rewards from the possible alternative relationships. So, if the CL will be higher than the rewards-costs difference in the actual relationship, the person will leave the relationship for another one. According to the authors, the higher the difference is between the actual rewards-costs level and the CL, the higher will be the commitment to the actual relationship.

Scholars of marriage 'markets' tested social exchange theory the following way: they assumed that having more valued attributes on the market gives people greater chance to attract partners with more valued characteristics. This must be true even for two different characteristics.

An implicit assumption of this "applied version" of social exchange theory is that it assumes that there are generally valued traits in society. Based on this assumption, it is evident why factors for mate-selection among humans differ from individual to individual. But the truth of the matter is that there are characteristics -social, biological, etc- possessed by every individual who is attracted to an opposite sex. Then, in the process of mate-selection, there is an exchange of these characteristics. If people had preference for similarity, no such exchange would be possible.

Several decades ago William Goode (1970, p. 8) wrote that "all courtship systems are market or exchange systems." Goode's claim only slightly exaggerates the influence of the market

metaphor in scholarship about mate selection. More recently the influence of market, exchange, and utility-maximizing theories of the family have increased as the new economics of the family has gained more adherents (Becker 1991; England and Farkas 1986). “The marriage market” is an alliterative and ubiquitous phrase whose underlying assumptions are too rarely scrutinized. One form of exchange theory predicts that men with high status and earnings should marry women of great physical beauty (Elder 1969; Waller 1937; Goode 1951; Taylor and Glenn 1976) and that the union between two such individuals is supposed to represent an exchange of the man’s economic resources for the woman’s youth and attractiveness. In a second form of exchange theory, men with excellent labor-market skills are predicted to marry women with especially strong domestic skills (Becker, 1991). The influence of these forms of exchange theory has declined somewhat as women have entered the labor force in greater numbers and as the traditional nuclear family of working husbands and dutiful housewives has lost some of its central dominance in American family life. Status exchange theory as originally proposed by Davis (1941) and Merton (1941) predicts that black spouses would have to have higher status than their white partner to make the union worthwhile for the white partner. The ethnographic evidence (DuBois 1996; Porterfield 1978; Root 2001; Spickard 1989) indicates that interracial unions are formed along a basis of solidarity and affection and personal choice, not a basis of exchanges. The question now is whether the empirical support for social exchange theory is strong enough to justify the theory’s continued use, yet, social exchange is a venerable theory that has been influential for 60 years.

Methods of Social Research

The study used a sample of two hundred and forty (240) students who were randomly selected from three higher institutions in Ondo State. These institutions are: Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko; Federal University of Technology, Akure; One Hundred and twenty under-graduate. It was indicated in Table above that majority of the respondents in both Long-term (83.1%) and short-term (67.5%) relationship agreed that parental background is essential in mate-selection. The finding was significantly confirmed by the chi-square calculated value of 251.110 and 135.986 respectively with df of 5 at 0.05 level of significant. The students were purposively selected from each of these institutions - 110 (45.83%) were female while 130 (54.17%) were male. Data-collection was done through the aid of a Questionnaire schedule containing two sections. Section ‘A’ contains bio-social data while Section ‘B’ elicited information on characteristics that attract people to each other in mate-selection. The data were analysed, using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I. Long-term Relationship's Criteria for Mate Selection. How the following Factors Influence Mate-selection among Undergraduates.

	Research Question	NR	%	SA	%	A	%	U	%	D	%	SD	S D	%
1	In selecting a mate I consider height & physical attractiveness	1	0.5	106	48.4	88	40.2	16	7.3	3	1.4		5	2.3
2	I need someone that is sexy and good in bed	2	0.9	74	33.8	97	44.3	27	12.3	10	4.6	9		4.1
3	The environment where I live has a lot to do with who I choose as my mate	3	1.4	92	42.0	87	39.7	16	7.3	10	4.6	11		5.0
4	Before going into a relationship I need to know if there are any similarities between me and my choice	2	0.9	99	45.2	99	45.2	14	6.4	3	1.4	2		0.9
5	It is important to consider the reproductive potentials of one's mate before selection	2	0.9	108	49.3	81	37.0	11	5.0	7	3.2	10		4.6
6	I cannot go out with someone who is not emotionally stable	3	1.4	111	50.7	84	38.4	12	5.5	4	1.8	5		2.3
7	Age has nothing to do with mate selection	3	1.4	60	27.4	74	33.8	15	6.8	26	11.9	41		18.7
8	I cannot marry outside my religion	3	1.4	82	37.4	65	29.7	25	11.4	20	9.1	24		11.0
9	Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous	2	0.9	61	27.9	59	26.9	32	14.6	34	15.5	31		14.2
10	Parental background is essential in mate selection.	3	1.4	83	37.9	99	45.2	18	8.2	6	2.7	10		4.6
11	Course of study is very important when selecting a mate among colleagues.	2	0.9	33	15.1	60	27.4	23	10.5	37	16.9	64		29.2
12	I cannot select someone who has no respect for me	2	0.9	129	58.9	66	30.1	15	6.8	3	1.4	4		1.8

Source: Field Work, 2014

Table I, above contains variables that influence long-term mate-selection among the university undergraduates. The factors for a long-term relationship among the students are ranked as follows: compatibility is ranked first, as 90.4% of the respondents agreed to be interested in it; emotional stability/understanding was ranked second, by 89.1% of the respondents; the third factor is mutual respect for each other, by 89% of the respondents; height/physical attractiveness is also considered to influence mate selection by 88.6% of the respondents; 86.3% of the respondents considered reproductive potential of their would-be mates as paramount; and 81.9% of the respondents see environment where they live as being influential in mate-selection

Table II
Short-term relationship's criteria for mate selection. How the following factors influence Mate-selection among Undergraduates.

	Research Question	NR	%	SA	%	A	%	U	%	D	%	SD	%
1	In selecting a mate I consider height & physical attractiveness	1	0.5	106	48.4	88	40.2	16	7.3	3	1.4	5	2.3
2	I need someone that is sexy and good in bed	2	0.9	74	33.8	97	44.3	27	12.3	10	4.6	9	4.1
3	The environment where I live has a lot to do with who I choose as my mate	3	1.4	92	42.0	87	39.7	16	7.3	10	4.6	11	5.0
4	Before going into a relationship I need to know if there are any similarities between me and my choice	2	0.9	99	45.2	99	45.2	14	6.4	3	1.4	2	0.9
5	It is important to consider the reproductive potentials of one's mate before selection	2	0.9	108	49.3	81	37.0	11	5.0	7	3.2	10	4.6
6	I cannot go out with someone who is not emotionally stable	3	1.4	111	50.7	84	38.4	12	5.5	4	1.8	5	2.3
7	Age has nothing to do with mate selection	3	1.4	60	27.4	74	33.8	15	6.8	26	11.9	41	18.7
8	I cannot marry outside my religion	3	1.4	82	37.4	65	29.7	25	11.4	20	9.1	24	11.0
9	Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous	2	0.9	61	27.9	59	26.9	32	14.6	34	15.5	31	14.2
10	Parental background is essential in mate selection.	3	1.4	83	37.9	99	45.2	18	8.2	6	2.7	10	4.6
11	Course of study is very important when selecting a mate among colleagues.	2	0.9	33	15.1	60	27.4	23	10.5	37	16.9	64	29.2
12	I cannot select someone who has no respect for me	2	0.9	129	58.9	66	30.1	15	6.8	3	1.4	4	1.8

Source: Field Work, 2014

Table II, above contains the factors for short-term mate selection. 79% of the respondents considered height/physical attractiveness important in mate selection, emotional stability is ranked second, by 77.2% of the respondents; 74.5% of the respondents agreed that mutual respect for each other determines whom they select as mates; the environment where they live is considered to influence their choices of mates by 73.5% of the respondents, 73% of the respondents agreed that they seriously consider the issue of compatibility when selecting a mate; 69.2% of the respondents also agreed that they needed someone that is good in bed; reproductive potentials is ranked seventh, as 67.6% of the respondents agreed to be interested in it; and 67.5% of the respondents considered family background -selection.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between student's religion and his/her choice of mate

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
No response	4	54.8	-50.8
Islam	43	54.8	-11.8
Christianity	171	54.8	116.2
Total	219		

I cannot marry outside my religion (long- term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	3	1.4	36.5	-33.5
Strongly agreed	67	30.6	36.5	30.5
Agreed	61	27.9	36.5	24.5
Undecided	31	14.1	36.5	-5.5
Disagreed	27	12.3	36.5	-9.5
Strongly disagreed	30	13.73	36.5	-6.5
Total	219	100		

I cannot marry outside my religion (short-term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	3	1.4	36.5	-33.5
Strongly agreed	82	37.4	36.5	45.5
Agreed	65	29.7	36.5	28.5
Undecided	25	11.4	36.5	-11.5
Disagreed	20	9.1	36.5	-16.5
Strongly Disagree	24	11.0	36.5	-12.5
Total	219	100		

Test Statistics

	Religion	I cannot marry outside my religion (long term)	I cannot marry outside my religion (short term)
Chi-Square	3.492E2 _a	77.137 _b	125.082 _b
df	3	5	5
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 54.8.
- b. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 36.5.

The above Table reveals that majority of the respondents in Long-term relationship (58.5%) and short-term (67.1%) relationship agreed that they cannot marry outside their religion. The Chi-square calculated value of 77.137 and 125.082 respectively with df of 5, indicated that the response was significant at 0.05 level. This implies that there is a significant relationship between student's religion and his/her choice of mate which rejects the null hypothesis (H_0) which says there is no significant relationship between student's religion and his/her choice of mate. This finding supports the works of Maliki (2009) and Levi-Strauss (2006) who reported that adolescents consider demographic characteristics, like religion, as an important determining factor when selecting a mate.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between student's parental background and his/her choice of mate.

Parental background is essential in mate selection (long term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	3	1.4	36.5	-33.5
Strongly agreed	83	37.9	36.5	46.5
Agreed	99	45.2	36.5	62.5
Undecided	18	8.2	36.5	-18.5
Disagreed	6	2.7	36.5	-30.5
Strongly disagreed	10	4.6	36.5	-26.5
Total	219	100		

Parental background is essential in mate selection (short term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	3	1.4	36.5	-33.5
Strongly agreed	59	26.9	36.5	22.5
Agreed	89	40.6	36.5	52.5
Undecided	24	11.0	36.5	-12.5
Disagreed	21	9.6	36.5	-13.5
Strongly disagreed	23	10.5	36.5	-15.5
Total	219	100		

Test Statistics

	Parental background is essential in mate selection (long term)	Parental background is essential in mate selection (short term)
Chi-Square	251.110 _a	135.986 _a
df	5	5
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 36.5.

It was indicated in Table above that majority of the respondents in both Long-term (83.1%) and short-term (67.5%) relationship agreed that parental background is essential in mate-selection. The finding was significantly confirmed by the chi-square calculated value of 251.110 and 135.986 respectively with df of 5 at 0.05 level of significant. This also implies that there is a significant relationship between student's parental background and his/her choice of mate which therefore rejects the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between student's parental background and his/her choice of mate. This finding support the work of Armstrong and Onu (2013) which revealed that adolescents prefer selecting someone who is financially comfortable, and this can be derived from the type of family background such adolescent comes from. This is in support of the finding that family background is one of the factors that attracts adolescents to each other.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between student's ethnic group and his/her choice of mate.

Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous (long term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	2	0.9	36.5	-34.5
Strongly agreed	61	27.9	36.5	24.5
Agreed	59	26.9	36.5	22.5
Undecided	32	14.6	36.5	-4.5
Disagreed	34	15.5	36.5	-2.5
Strongly disagreed	31	14.2	36.5	-5.5
Total	219	100		

Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous (short term)

	Observed N	%	Expected N	Residual
No response	2	0.9	36.5	-34.5
Strongly agreed	65	29.7	36.5	28.5
Agreed	56	25.6	36.5	19.5
Undecided	26	11.9	36.5	-10.5
Disagreed	37	16.9	36.5	.5
Strongly disagreed	33	15.1	36.5	-3.5
Total	219	100		

Test statistics

	Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous (long term)	Selecting one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous (short term)
Chi-Square	64.479 _a	68.644 _a
Df	5	5
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 36.5.

The test of hypothesis 3 indicated that most of the respondents in both long-term relationship (54.8%) and short-term relationship (55.3%) agreed that the selection of one's mate outside one's ethnic group can be dangerous. This was confirmed by the chi-square calculated value of 64.479 for the responses from long-term relationship and 68.644 for short-term relationship. A degree of freedom of 5 was indicated and the findings were significant at 0.05 level. Based on these, there is a significant relationship between student's ethnic group and his/her choice which rejects the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between student's ethnic group and his/her choice of mate.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study attempted to identify the qualities that draw adolescents to each other. The qualities identified by these students are: height/physical attractiveness, reproductive potential, compatibility, emotional stability, mutual respect for each other, and the environment where they live. Writing on the extent of sexual selection generally links back to Darwin (1871). From the test of the formulated hypotheses, the results showed that a significant relationship exists between the adolescent religion, ethnic group, family background, and his/her choice of mate.

It was observed that despite all the qualities identified by these adolescents in mate-selection, the rate of divorce in our society is on the increase, the degree of mutual understanding (compatibility) between couples is also reducing. This has been a source of concern to all stakeholders in marriage institution. Based on this, the following recommendations are therefore suggested: students should be cautious when selecting mates, knowing quite well that this singular action goes a long way in determining their future as an individual; the stakeholders in marriage institution should also consider it very important to help these adolescents in whatever capacity they can, so as to divert them away from the potential doom which wrong mate-selection may attract. Despite the influence of modernization which has robbed the parents of certain responsibilities to their children, parents still need to guide and lead them properly recognizing their choices, preferences, and desires as well as helping them to arrive at decision that will not lead to regrets and pains later in life.

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