

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.