

PREDICTORS OF MARITAL STATUS IN THE SUNYANI MUNICIPALITY IN THE BRONG AHAFO REGION OF GHANA

Theresa Antwi¹, & Richard Kwasi Gyamfi (Rev)²

¹Department of Basic Education, University of Education, Winneba, GHANA

²Assemblies of God Church, Sunyani, GHANA

ABSTRACT

The multivariate study investigated whether Social Support, premarital Counselling, Level of Average Income and Education mediate the relationship between Family Pressure, Attraction and Peer Pressure. Data collected from 300 respondents (married and divorced men and women) from the Sunyani Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana were analysed using logistic regression (and chi-square) analytical techniques. Among the study findings was that Social Support was significantly related to Marital Status and that as Social Support increases, sustenance of marriages also increases even when the effects of family pressure, attraction and peer pressure are held constant. Thus Social Support is sustenance of marriage far more than Family Pressure, Attraction and Peer Pressure. The study also investigated the relationship between Premarital Counselling, Level of Education and Level of Income on one side and marital status on the other, using chi-square test. The study found that Premarital Counselling tested for significance while Level of Education and Level of Income did not. The findings of the study have serious implications for guidance and counselling personnel and were recommended that the services of the clergy, Immams, experienced men and women in society and government-trained professional guidance and counselling coordinators are very much needed in the area of Premarital Counselling. Also, marriage is not for everyone. Family members and friends should recognise this fact and desist from pressurising anyone who has chosen the simple life into getting married.

Keywords: Attraction, Family Pressure, Marital status, Peer Pressure, Premarital Counselling, Social Support.