

Perceived Factors Influencing Premarital Sexual Practice Among University Students in Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study was carried out to determine the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. Participants in the study were students of the Niger Delta university, both males and females. To collect the data for this study, the survey research design was adopted, 230 structured questionnaires were distributed to 230 respondents, out of which 216 questionnaires were collected. The analysis was done using the simple percentages/tables and hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical method. Finding reveals that premarital sexual practice among students in the university is high. The consequences of premarital sex on the students were examined and among the consequences include; unwanted pregnancy, poor academic performance, regret, health, effect, depression etc.. Based on the findings, the study made recommendations on how to alleviate this problem.

Key words: Perceived factors; Influence; Premarital sexual practice; University students; Niger delta; Bayelsa state; Nigeria

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual activities among students have been reported to be increasing worldwide. Several studies in sub-Saharan Africa have also documented high and increasing premarital sexual activities among university students (World Health Organization, 2004). Pre marital sex is sexual activity practiced by persons who are unmarried and it has been considered taboo in some cultures and sin in numerous religion.

Mehmet (2006) concluded that among the background variables considered mother education, age, ethnicity and employment status were among the most important predictors of attitudes towards women premarital activity. Allen (2003) had earlier reported that several polls have indicated peer pressure as a significant sexual activity predictor, while on the contrary, sexually inducing drugs and alcohol have been identified as factors which may encourage unintended sexual activities (UNICEF, 2001).

In southwestern Nigeria, sex before now was regarded as sacred and limited only to adult males and females within marriage but today, many adolescent engage in various delinquent behavior such as drinking of alcohol, smoking and premarital sexual activities (Alo, 2008). It has also been noticed that most behavioral responses of young people habitually revolve around sexual activities (Inyang, 2007). Engagement in the pleasure of romantic intimacy, usually end up in sexually intercourse among the students. Many reasons are often postulated by the students who engage in reckless romantic and sexual explorations to justify their sexual behavior, some people believe that premarital sex is necessary because everyone is entitled to engage in sexual intercourse but the person must have safe sex while others sees premarital sex to be a taboo (Rena, 2006).

Premarital cohabitation has been reported as a common phenomenon among Nigeria university undergraduates

because sex is a predisposing factor in the initiation of sexual activities (Alo, 2008). Furthermore, Ibrahim (2003), opined that the life style of university students have changed over the years because students, seem to value free sexual life on campus.

WHO (2001), stated that premarital behaviors of university students, tend to pose major threats to life and the future of the country as students involved in reckless sexual activities. Public opinion polls have consistently shown that premarital sex is wrong and dangerous to health, resulting in abortions, teenage mothers and sexually transmitted disease (Aaron, 2006). This study therefore, intends to explore the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

A. Statement of the Problem

Researchers have observed that there is prevalence of premarital sexual practices among youths in contemporary society, which leads to high incidence of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Most writers and school authorities from upon students indulgence in premarital sex. Some communities carry out disciplinary action on youths who indulge in it. The federal health management Board engages in series of campaigns to create public awareness on the danger and circulation of sexually transmitted diseases. But in this study, the issue of premarital sexual practice among students is fast emerging as a serial social and public health problem. Why do university students involve actively in premarital sex? Are students aware of the consequences of premarital sex?

B. Objective of the Study

The purpose of the study is to determine the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

The following is the specific objectives of the study.

- i. To assess the knowledge of students on premarital sexual practice in Niger Delta University.
- ii. To identify factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University.
- iii. To determine the consequences of premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University.

C. Research Questions

For the purpose of this study, a few research questions were formulated to guide the researcher in the process. They are the following

- i. What is the knowledge of students on premarital sexual practice?
- ii. What are the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University?

- iii. What are the perceived consequences of premarital sex among students of Niger Delta University?

D. Research Hypothesis

The following is the hypothesis formulated to guide this study.

- i. There is no significant relationship between gender of the respondents and their knowledge about premarital sexual practice.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between age and premarital sexual practice.

1. LITERATURE REVIEWS

1.1 Engagement of Student in Premarital Sex

The youth sexual behavior is sometimes linked to the socio economic status of the family, primarily through the education and incomes of the parents. According to Nunn and Andrew (1994) young adults act in their own best interest when deciding to engage in premarital sex. They weigh the benefits from the joy of sex against its costs, the possibility of having an out-of-wedlock birth. An out-of-wedlock birth has many potential costs for young women; it may reduce her education and job opportunist. It may damage her prospects in the marriage market, she may feel shame.

Similar investigation were also carried out intend to merely document levels of sexual practice, numbers and ages of sexual partners, knowledge and use of contraceptives, in a study of Kenya population (Karman, Zulkiff, & Low, 2007) reported that a lot of Kenya engages in premarital sex and the behavior is on the increase. However, Nigeria is a relatively cultural conservative country, the topic of sex is still considered a taboo between parents and children a child learns through the mass media, and peers unguided.

Premarital cohabitation has been reported a common phenomenon among Nigeria university undergraduate. Teens everywhere are not waiting until they are married to have sex. Teenagers are saying, "sex is fun" and "everybody is doing it". Students who engage in premarital sex are more likely to suffer negatively from long-term physical, emotional, social and moral effects, than students who choose to wait.

Onyemelukwe (1993) explained that in contemporary time, Nigeria youths have gained in the sex revolution in Europe and America. The impact of alien ideas and cultures, mass communication and conditions of urban life on the behavior and attitude of Nigeria adolescents cannot be over emphasized. There were extensive interest, inquiry and curiosity in premarital sexual activities. The youths are exposed to sexual stimuli in magazines, television and the movies to a greater extent than before, thereby creating a general trend towards liberated attitude and values that encourage open discussion on sexuality.

1.2 Factors Influencing Premarital Sex Practices

Children are initially socialized in the home environment but as they begin to attend school, other people like teachers and peers, begin to have an influence on them and their behaviors as well. A number of factors were identified as reasons for the existence of pre-marital sex among the student of Niger Delta university namely: parental influence, economic reasons, peer pressure or influence, search of pleasure, academic pursuit, etc. the factors include:

1.2.1 Parental Influence

The supply and amount of parental emotional resources for control can have a significant influence on the youth to have or not to engage in premarital sex (Magwaza & Bhana, 1991) family factors such as the relationship between the parents and adolescents in the area of care and protection, single parents, monogamy and polygamy and the parenting style cannot be ignored in the study of premarital sex. Family is the first socializing agents that a child comes in contact with, and it goes a long way in defining and determining what the child will be. The most powerful sources of social influence are parents and family members.

Another aspect of parental control is parent-child communication. Conventional wisdom would suggest that adolescents whose parents frequently engage in discussions (particularly discussions on reproductive and sexual Health issues) would be less likely to be sexually delinquent. Some researchers have noted that in sub-Saharan Africa, parent-child communication usually fraught with discomfiting, especially with fathers.

Family as the first agent of socialization helps in shaping the life of an individual.

The socialization given to one in the home has a big role to play in one's life in the tertiary institution. Some student involve in premarital sex because of lack of parental control and home training. They come to school and behave anyway they like.

1.2.2 Economic Reasons

This is a group of reasons that include the need for money, materialism and other valued goods like cellular phones, laptop etc. Economic reason is the main reason why student indulge in pre-marital sex rather than the other (influence, pleasure and academic) explanatory factors given in students have modern technology-driven material and enough money to lavish around, students need money to make ends meet and some of them can do "Anything to get the money

The desire for high social status or fashion and material goods among the students is another factor for engaging in premarital sex. Most students, after satisfying all their basic needs, go ahead to acquire things like sound sets, expensive dresses, cars, iphones, television sets, etc. They go the extra mile acquiring things for themselves in immoral ways. Most students

strive to acquire false status by pretending to be rich or to be from rich families

Poverty or economic depravity has also been linked with premarital sexual practice among students. Girls whose parents are economically disadvantaged or less empowered are often times unable to adequately provide for their daughters and thus, their daughters are exposed to seek financial favours elsewhere. In this regard, research has shown that the most likely sources of obtaining such financial favours are from young and older men who in turn ask for sexual favours from such girls.

According to Ankomah (1999) observed that some females entered into premarital sexual relationships ostensibly for financial reward; because their parents could not meet their basic needs such as paying for tuition fees.

1.2.3 Peer Influence

Peers like roommates, classmates, club associates and other members of one's social group members equally influence one to be a deviant or conformist. Research has shown that some students engage in one form of premarital sex or the other as a result of the influences of their mates.

Peer pressure is another factor that influences student sexual behavior. As students begin to socialize with their peers, they tend to shift and values they learnt from home socialization to reliance on their peers. Hammer and Bangers (2010, p.290) state that a commonly cited reason for initiating sexual relations among adolescents was pressure from society and their peers. In their quest for a sense of belonging and to avoid rejection by the group the adolescents succumb to this pressure.

It has been shown that young people whose friends are sexually active or who perceive their friends to be sexually active are more likely to be sexually active themselves (Kiragu, 2001; Blum & Mmari, 2004). In a Canadian study, Boyce and colleagues (2003) observed that students who stated that more than half of their friends had sex were also more likely to have had sex themselves. Yet, others engaged in sexual activity to raise their ego or status among their peers.

1.2.4 Pleasure

Benda and Leon (1995) observe that when students are in the transitional stage of like, pleasure and sensation is what most of them seek on campus. Meeker and Calves (1997) argued that while some people engage in sex for money and love, others do so for the pleasure of it.

This study has revealed that students engage in premarital sex for a variety of factors. A student may engage in pre-marital sex with another person for pleasure. Premarital sex for pleasure is not rampant and it is associated with boys and girls who have enough money and materials. Students involved in pleasure sex do not have a permanent partner and consequently they are the potential victims of STDs/HIV/AIDs in most cases.

1.2.5 Search for Academic Advantage

Students can occasionally engage in sex for academic advantage, specially the academically weak ones. Students who are academically weak become “lay ups” for any student that is academically sound and is ready to do his/her assignments and exams. Some of the Lombroso’s (poor but intelligent students) are always willing to come to the aid of dull student. They sometimes engage in sex with them and also collect money. As a result of search for academic advantage, female students sleep with male students as a payment for his writing examinations, assignments, copying notes etc for her.

Students know that if they don’t perform well in their academics, the school will withdraw (WAF) them from the school. They go the extra mile to maintain academic excellence or good grades.

1.3 Consequences of Premarital Sex

According to McDowell (1996, p.282) today’s youth are more susceptible to the dangers of illicit sex than previous generations. Unfortunately, some Nigerian youths actively engaged in premarital sex despite the detrimental consequences associated with it. However Ukor (1990, p.39) believes that many adolescents indulge in sexual relationship with the opposite sex without really knowing the implications. The primary effort of this section is to make bare these harmful consequences of premarital sex. According to Akpede (2007) sex has created and is still creating problems for many of our youths, parents and the entire society, such as unplanned marriage, abortion, premature deaths etc. Many scholars like menses (2008) and Bong (2012) believe that the most prominent effects of premarital sex are sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies. The consequences include:

1.3.1 Unplanned Pregnancy

This is often associated with premarital sex. When a pregnancy is an outcome of premarital sex, most students resort to abortion as a way of concealing their acts in order to avoid embarrassment. The girl feels ashamed to carry a pregnancy that is out of wedlock while the boy responsible for the pregnancy is not mature enough to tackle the responsibilities of fatherhood. According to Dike (2000, p.92) this act is most commonly associated with females while males co-pilot the affair. An unsuccessful abortion could lead to death or the destruction of the womb. It could also lead to childlessness at later years. Premarital sexual practices have given birth to illegal child trafficking. Young female students can now take in, only to deliver and dump babies accordance with the management of such homes. Such babies are later adopted by couples who are childless. The practice of sharp-sharp sex was said to contribute for some unwanted pregnancy among to students. Sharp-sharp is carried out mostly in party venues and some of them are drunk and engaged in sex without condom.

1.3.2 Health Effects

Scholars such as Okoye (2006), Brennen (2011) and Tant (2013) strongly believe that premarital sex poses a lot of health challenges to those who engage in it. Students who engage in premarital sex run the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STI) such as AIDs, HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Genital herpes, general Warts, Trichomoniasis, syphilis and so on. These diseases are life-threatening, painful and can cause infertility. Students who engage in group sex, sharp-sharp sex and sodomy account for a greater proportion of STI’s victims.

1.3.3 School Drop Out

Unwanted pregnancy often disrupts the education of female students, thereby increasing the chances of dropping out of school. When a girl becomes pregnant and drops out of school, she may never resume again except in rare cases. Even when the girl decides to remain in school, the challenges of unplanned pregnancy and motherhood may lead to poor academic performance. This had prevented many female students from achieving their educational goals. Consequently poverty may set in because job opportunities have decreased as a result of lack of education

1.3.4 Victims of Rituals

It is believed that engaging in sex deviant act may lead one to be victim to ritualizes while trying to use what they have to get what they want. Some become bedridden with strange diseases, a lot of others never lived to tell the tale.

Most people who were looking for human parts for ritual purposes give huge amounts of money to greedy and materialistic students, who possibly would end up with missing part or death. Female students are more likely to be victims of rituals because they need money by all means to maintain high class on campus. Students like this see themselves as the “big girls on campus”.

1.3.5 Depression

Studies have shown that most victims of rape, those who had unwanted pregnancies and those caught in acts of sodomy tend to more depressed than others who engage in premarital sex. Depression may lead to risky sexual behavior, increase ones ability to control impulsive behavior, increase emotional reactivity in peer relationship, reduce motivation and increases fatalism. These effects of depression may inhibit an individual clear perception of the risk of contracting an STD and their ability to prevent risky sexual behavior (Khan et al, 2009).

The emotional stress of breaking sexual relationships also causes depression. Young students tend to invest more in a relationship that seems real at first, and then suffer deeper pain and hurt when the relationship comes to an end. Depressed students and young adults are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours, have an

increased risk of a sexually transmitted infection, and are less likely to use condoms or use them appropriately. In some cases drug use and alcohol consumption were said to be coping strategies or remedies for the depression the individual was passing through.

1.3.6 Poor Academic Performance

Student engagement in premarital sexual practice can lead to poor academic performance. Problem frequently experienced by university students due to premarital sex includes missed classes, missed assignment and poor academic achievement. From many undergraduate students, university life is a major transition in their lives since they are accorded the chance to decide what to do without the undue influence of their parents

Many researchers believe that students sexual relationship adversely affects academic performance. In the United States, a number of studies have shown that teenagers who abstain from sexually active peers (Sabia & Rees, 2009). Most sexually active students perform poorly in their studies and faced several problems, which compromised their academic lives. Student sexual relationship is inherently short-term and unstable, which means, when it collapses the result is likely to be emotional turmoil and depression (Rector & Johnson, 2005). Academically, if student is psychological disturbed or depressed, there are likely to perform poor.

1.3.7 Loss of Self Respect

Student engagement in premarital sex leads to loss of self-respect. When a person falls so low and allows him/her to be used as a sex object he/she will certainly lose self respect and personality in the eyes of both the person and the larger society. Loss of self respect also comes when students happen to contact STDs or were raped in the case of female students.

Female students who engage in group sex, sharp-sharp sex or being watched by others while having sex, usually suffer a loss of self-esteem. Students who had abortion or got pregnant equally suffer from loss of self-esteem.

1.3.8 Feeling of Regret or Guilt

In as much as a sexual act can be pleasurable, it leads to guilt and regret. Guilt about past sexual acts ends up crippling people when they become parents and most often they become very strict with their children's sexual behavior, which in turn makes such children curious about sex acts and thus easily get involved when the opportunity comes up.

Some female students regret losing their virginity because money or material things that won't last. Guilt is a form of regret, a feeling that a person has gone against his/her conscience or has done something morally wrong. Guilt comes as a result of the fear that parents are aware of one's sexual acts or would be upset if they know one is having sex. It's terrible when the guilt comes.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Population of Study

All persons or things that fall under the research topic to be examined are referred to as the population of the study (Ohaja, 2003).

Therefore, the target population for this study consist of all unmarried students of Niger Delta University,, irrespective of their ages, gender and their level of students

2.2 Sample Size

The sample size is used by the researcher UKS based on the distribution of the questionnaires to the students in Niger Delta University. Hence, a total of two hundred and thirty (230) questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and about two hundred and sixteen (216) questionnaires were successfully completed and returned out of the 230 distributed.

2.3 Sampling Techniques

In order to ensure a systematic or scientific selection of the sample to be studied, the issue of sampling cannot be over-emphasized. Sampling is therefore a process or techniques of selecting a suitable sample of the population for the study (Teyumaiye, 2003). The researcher adopted the simple random method as sampling techniques.

Simple random sampling method is the most fundamental method of probability sampling, it involves giving every subject in a population an equal opportunity of appearing in the selection

2.4 Method of Data Analysis

In this research study, the researcher used a simple percentage method to present the responses gotten from the field and Chi-square (χ^2) statistical method was used to test the hypotheses formulated at a significant level of 0.05.

The formula the Chi-square is thus:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(O_1 - E)^2}{E_1}$$

2.4.1 Data Presentation

In this section, data collected from the field (respondents) will be presented, analyzed and interpreted via use of tables and percentages. The hypothesis will also be tested using chi-square according to response to answers relating to each reach question and hypotheses.

Table 1
Sex of the Respondent

Sex	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Male	126	58.3
Female	90	41.7
Total	216	100

From the above table, 126 respondents representing 58.3% of the total response are male while 90 respondents representing 41.7% of the respondents are female.

Table 2
Age Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
16-20	55	25.5
21-25	107	49.5
26-30	44	20.4
31-35	7	3.3
Total	216	1.34

From the above table, 55 respondents representing 25.5 of the respondents are from 16-20 years old, 107 respondents representing the 49.5% of the total response are between the as of 21-25, 44 respondents representing 20.4% of the response are the between 26-30, 7 respondents representing 3.3% of the response are between 31-35, finally 3 respondents representing 1.3% of the total response are between the ages of 36 and above.

Table 3
Religious Distribution of the Respondents

Religion	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Christian	191	88.4
Islam	20	9.3
Total	216	100

From the above table, 191 respondents representing 88.4% of the respondents are Christian, 20 respondents representing 9.3% of the respondents are Christian, 20 respondents representing 9.3% of the respondents are Islam and 5 respondents representing are Islam and 56 respondent representing 2.3% of the respondents attend other religious.

• Have You Heard of Premarital Sex?

Table 4
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	194	89.8
No	22	10.2
Total	216	100

From the above table, 194 respondents representing (89.8%) have heard of premarital sex while 22 respondents representing (10.2%) have not heard of it.

• If Yes, What Source?

Table 5
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Friends	96	44.5
Article	34	15.7
Seminar	34	15.7
Film	12	5.6
Other	18	8.3
Never heard	22	20.2
Total	216	100

From the above table, out of 216 respondents, 96 respondents representing (44.5%) heard its source of premarital sexual practice from friends, 34 respondent which represent (15.7%) from article, 34 respondents which represent (15.7%) from seminar, 22 respondents representing (10.2%) have not heard of it, 18 respondents representing (8.3%) from other source, while 12 respondents representing (5.6%) from film.

• Have You Practiced Premariteal Sex?

Table 6
Shows Respondents Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	130	60.2
No	86	39.8
Total	216	100

From the above table, 130 respondents representing (60.2%) of the total response have practiced premarital sexual practice while 86 respondents representing (39.8%) have not practiced.

• If Yes, at What Age Did You Practice It

Table 7
Shows Response Rate

Age	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
16-20	108	50
21-25	20	9.3
26 and above	2	0.9
Total	216	100

From the above table, majority of the respondents with the percentage of 108 (50%) practiced premarital sex between the age of 16-20 years, 86 (39.8%) respondents never practiced premarital sex, 20 (9.3%) were between the age of 21-25 years while few of the respondents 2 (0.9%) were from 26 years and above.

● **Are You Currently Sexually Active?**

Table 8
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	130	60.2
No	86	39.8
Total	216	100

From the above table, majority of the respondents 130 (60.2%) were sexually active while few of the respondents with percentage of 86 (39.8%) were not sexually active.

● **How Many Sexual Partners Do You Have Currently?**

Table 9
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
1	55	25.5
2	60	27.8
Above 2	15	6.9
None	86	39.9
Total	216	100

From the table above, 55 respondents representing (25.5%) have one sexual partners, 60 respondents which represent (27.8%) have two sexual patterns, 15 respondents representing (6.9%) have more than two sexually partners, 86 respondents representing (39.9%) have no sexual partners.

Table 10
Should Premarital Sex Be Practiced Before Going Into Marriage?

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	136	63
No	80	37
Total	216	100

From the above table, 136 respondents representing (63%) of the total response revealed that premarital sexual practice should be practiced before going into marriage while 80 respondents representing (37%) revealed that it should not be one practiced.

● **Premarital Sex Detrimental to Future Intimate Relationship**

Table 11
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	146	67.6
No	70	32.4
Total	216	100

From the above table, majority of the respondents 146 (67.6%) revealed that premarital sexual practice

is detrimental to return relationship while few of the respondents 70 (32.4%) revealed that premarital sexual practice is not detrimental red to fulture relationship.

● **What Should Be the Consequence of Engaging in Premarital Sex? Does Your Parents Attitude Encourage Premarital Sex?**

Table 12
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	132	61.1
No	84	38.9
Total	216	100

From the table above, 132 respondents representing (61.1%) revealed that their parents attitude influence their practices of premarital sex while 84 respondents representing (38.9%) were not influenced premarital sexual practice?

Table 13
Showing Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	120	55.6
No	96	44.4
Total	216	100

From the above table, 120 respondents representing (55.6%) revealed that Economic reason influence premarital sexual practice, while 96 respondents representing (44.4%) were not influenced by economic reason.

● **Does Your Peers Influence Your Practice of Premarital Sex?**

Table 14
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	114	52.8
No	102	47.2
Total	216	100

From the above table, 114 respondents which represent (52.8%) were influenced by peer groups, while 102 respondents representing (47.2%) were not influenced by peer groups.

● **Do You Practice It for Fun?**

Table 15
Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	152	70.4
No	64	29.6
Total	216	100

From the table above, 152 respondents representing (70.4%) practiced premarital sex for fun, while 64 respondents representing (29.6%) do not practice it for fun.

• Does Search for Academic Excellence Influence Premarital Sex?

Table 16 Shows Responses Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	160	74.1
No	56	25.9
Total	216	100

From the above table, 160 respondents representing (74.1%) revealed that search for academic excellence influenced premarital sexual practice, while 56 respondents representing (25.9%) were not influenced by search for academic excellence

Table 17 Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	117	54.2
No	99	45.8
Total	216	100

From the table above, 117 respondents representing (54.2%) revealed that family background influence premarital sex, while 99 respondents representing (45.8%) were not influenced by family background.

• Calculating Data for Hypothesis One

Table 20 The Relationship Between Gender of the Respondents and Their Knowledge About Premarital Sexual Practice

Gender	Have you heard of premarital sexual practice		(χ^2)cal	(χ^2) table value	df	Ls	Remark
	Yes	No	0.301	3.841	1	0.05	
Female	82	8					There is no significant relationship
Male	112	14					

The table above shows the relationship between gender of the respondents and their knowledge about premarital sexual practice with $\chi^2 = 0.301$, table χ^2 -value = 3.841 and $df = 1$ at 0.05

The table value is greater than the calculated Chi-square (χ^2). There is no significant relationship between gender of respondents and their knowledge about pre-

• Does Parents Educational Status Influence Premarital Sex Practice?

Table 18 Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
Yes	113	52.3
No	103	47.7
Total	216	100

From the table above, 113 respondents representing (52.3%) revealed that parents educational status influence premarital sexual practice, while 103 respondents representing (47.7%) were not influenced by parents with educational status.

• Does Your Relationship With the Opposite Sex Increase Your Desire For Premarital Sex Practice?

Table 19 Shows Response Rate

Response	Frequency (N)	Percentage %
Yes	106	49.1
No	110	50.9
Total	216	100

From the table above, 106 respondents representing (49.1%) were influenced by the relationship with the opposite sex, while 110 respondents representing (50.9%) were not influenced by their relationship with the opposite sex.

2.4.2 Testing of Hypotheses

Ho: There is no significant relationship between gender of the respondents and their knowledge about premarital sexual practice.

marital sexual practice. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted in Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island Bayelsa State.

2.4.3 Testing of Hypothesis Two

Ho: There is no significant relationship between the age of respondents and the premarital sexual practice.

Table 21
The Relationship Between Age of Respondents and Premarital Sexual Practice

Age	Have you heard of premarital sexual practice		(x^2) cal	(x^2) table value	df	Ls	Remark
	Yes	No					
15-20	108	33	72.975	5.991	2	0.05	There is no significant relationship
21-25	20	11					
26 & above	2	42					

The table above shows the relationship between age of respondents and premarital sexual practice with $x^2 = 72.975$, table value = 5.991 and $df = 2$ at 0.05 level of significant. The value is lesser than the calculated chi-square (x^2). There is significant relationship between gender of respondents and their knowledge about premarital sexual practice. Hence the null hypotheses are rejected in Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

2.4.4 Discussion of Findings

After presentation and analysis of collected data, the hypotheses were tested, in the course of this research work, the following findings where arrived at:

The first hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between gender of the respondents and their knowledge about premarital sexual practice was accepted. It was tested and ascertained that knowledge about premarital sexual practice has nothing to do with gender.

The second hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between age of respondents and premarital sexual practice among students was tested and it was resolved that many teenagers indulge in pre-marital sex. The hypothesis was rejected.

Finally, it was discovered from this analysis relationship while in the university.

CONCLUSION

(a) This study examines the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among university student with reference to Niger delta university in Bayelsa state, Nigeria. In carrying out the research, the researcher employed survey research design, in which 230 respondents were drawn from the population using simple random sampling.

(b) The questionnaire method constituted the researcher source of primary data, while, library research, journals and internet research constituted review of the literature shows that premarital sexual practice is a social problem that have eaten deep into our society and needs to be controlled.

(c) This study attempt to find out the factors influencing pre-marital sexual practice among students may have its social and economic benefits, but at the end, it also comes with bitter experience, most students,

especially the female ones are more vulnerable than male students because female students in some instances think of sex as a way to show care, affection and love, with the possibility of marriage in future.

(d) This study shows that the re-stating factors. Influencing pre-marital sexual practice remains an important problem and diminishes the well-being of both new and old students in the university. To reduce the prevalence, of premarital sexual s practices among students of Niger Delta University the school authority and non-governmental organization, religious groups as well as the government should replicate programmes that will educate the new and old students in the tertiary institutions that are at risk and danger of premarital sexual practices with the benefits of avoiding its negative consequences of premarital sexual practice after major attainment in life-like tertiary education. Finally, this study can be used to correlate with the result obtained in typical tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATION

Premarital sexual practices is a public health problem which compares most psychological and physical and social health problems and economic problems among students for tertiary institution today with increasingly young age, therefore needs recommendation on how to solve it from students who are knowledgeable and interested in the topic. Premarital sexual practice is preventable, if awareness is created in every social institution most especially the tertiary institution in the country. Base on the result of the study, it is important to note that prevention of premarital sexual practice, should be a collective responsibility of the parents, religions, institutions, school authority and the government; hence the following suggestions and recommendations should therefore be recommended:

Parents should as a matter of responsibility monitor and pay regular visits to their children in the universities and provide them with materials that will make them stay comfortable

The university should revise its policies on days of room visitation that allow make students to visit female students and conic up with rules governing sexually realtionhsio on campus

Government should enforce dress code in all higher institutions of learning through legislation. This will

reduce sexual urge, rape and temptations that are in some instances facilitated by provocative and sexy dyes that some students put on, this will further help the university authority to overcome the prevalence of premarital sexual practice and rape cases.

The Nigerian university commission (NUC) and the federal Ministry of Education should develop a curriculum on sex education for the institution of high learning. This will enable students to understand the dangers associated with premarital sexual practice and prepare them on how to manage sexual urges.

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