

APPRAISAL OF INFERTILITY AMONG MARRIED COUPLES  
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## ABSTRACT

Childlessness is one of the challenges confronting the stability of many marriages and infertility is one of the major causative elements. The purpose of this research is to bring out to limelight the problems associated with childlessness resulting from infertility, to dig dip into new ways of dealing with the causes, effects and solutions proffered by other writers in the past so as to be able to discover new and better ways of handling infertility problem by the victims and the church so that victims can feel fulfilled in children reproduction and also experience marital stability. With marital bliss, married couples would be able to win souls for Christ thereby enlarging God's Kingdom.

In achieving this aims and objectives, questionnaire and interview methods were employed. The questionnaire and interview guide-questions were centered on finding out peoples' awareness of infertility, its causes, effects and how the general populace usually react to victims and the probable ways people used to handle the problem in the past.

In the course of this research work, it was discovered that infertility is a long term problem among married couples in Africa and it is generally an unacceptable condition that has caused many married people lots of physical and spiritual trauma such as marriage separation and divorce. And in extreme cases, some victims had resulted to suicide because of the stigma and reproach associated. Furthermore, in order to solve the problem, many victims had employed many methods ranging from consulting herbalists,

prayer houses to medical methods, and adoption of children while few married couples chose to remain happy together in marriage with or without children.

In addition, the research revealed that many churches contacted did not have any specific programme in aid of infertility victims. Many church members too were not equipped enough to be able to minister to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of victims. With the above findings, this writer will like to passionately appeal to the government of Nigeria and the church community to show more interest and concern to infertility victims by providing good medical fertility hospitals for infertile patients while church members should be more friendly with victims, and spiritually enriched programmes that would instill hope and strengthen the faith of victims should be organized by churches so that victims can utilize their time and resources for the kingdom of God.

## Conclusion

This study has revealed the presence of infertility among married couples all over the world and Nigeria inclusive. The subject matter carries with it a lot of stigma and reproaches. It is affecting many homes, lives and churches negatively, causing marriage separation, divorce, suicide and loss of membership by churches. This awareness should ginger up the church to improve on her aids to victims so that peace can reign in homes and the work of God can progress in the church. Victims need not be isolated from the society and they too need to open up whenever they experience infertility and they should avail themselves of the alternatives to procreation available in the society at the moment

instead of insisting on self procreation. Referrals by Pastors and churches to competent professionals should be considered where necessary and victims will do well too to follow the advice of professionals in aid better solution to the problem.

Finally, childlessness caused by infertility need not close the doors to every other good things in life. It should not result into divorce and suicide. Victims should engage their time and lives in other profitable ventures like working with children in church or being involved in children related charitable organizations.

### Recommendations

On the basis of the findings, the following are some recommendations for victims, the Church and her Pastors, and the government in aid of solving or coping with the problem.

1. Faith in God for procreation for as long as necessary is the all important factor in solving infertility problem. So therefore, victims should learn to wait on God patiently until childbearing is achieved.
2. Voluntary delay in child bearing by newly married couples should be avoided to prevent fertility complications in later life and also unnecessary extended family relations interference in marriage.
3. In case of irreparable infertility condition, victims should avail themselves with the available godly reproductive technologies in order to have children or remain together happily childless.
4. The church and her pastor should be more committed to helping infertile married couples through the use of money, time and protection of women infertility victims.
5. Church should organize “spiritual fertility clinic” programmes for special Bible ministration, spiritual deliverance from evil demonic activities, and efficacious prayer.

6. From the research findings, the Church alone cannot solve all of the problems of infertility. Therefore, this researcher is calling on the government and her agencies to participate more actively in the areas of wider campaigns on radio, television, seminars, and book publications on the subject matter.

7. Provision of more fertility hospitals by government and making available to victims many of the expensive drugs and equipments are inevitable to helping the undesirable plights of infertility victims.