

**GENDER SENSIBILITY ON CRISIS OF DELAY IN
MARRIAGE MATE SELECTION AMONG BAPTIST YOUTHS OF OGBOMOSO**

**A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO
THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELLING**

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ABSTRACT

The title of this study is "Gender Sensibility on Crisis of Delay in Marriage Mate Selection Among Baptist Youths of Ogbomoso." The purpose was to examine the magnitude, causes and effects of delay in marriage mate selection among youths of Baptist churches of Ogbomoso on the basis of gender. The theoretical framework which formed the anchor for the study is the Crisis Intervention Theory (CIT) postulated by Pavelsky. The theory presents crisis as homeostatic imbalance which requires intervention in order to stabilize the affected individuals. The population of this study was 8,175 youths in the Ogbomoso North-East, North-West, South-East and South-West Baptist Associations where a sample of 874 youths was randomly selected. The instrument used for data collection was a self-designed Questionnaire validated by the researcher's supervisor and other members of supervision committee as well as other experts externally. To ensure reliability, the instrument was first trial-tested through a pilot study, then a test and retest method was used and it led to a correlation co-efficient of 0.84.

Findings from analyzed data are as follows:

On hypothesis 1, it was found that there was significant difference between the level of awareness of male and female on crisis of delay in mate selection. Female youths have higher level of awareness than male. The hypothesis was rejected on the basis of the calculated t-test which was equal to 3.30 and significant at $p < 0.00$. On hypothesis 2, the calculated t-test for

the difference in ages at which male and female consider delay in mate selection as crisis was 1.95 which was not significant at $p = 0.05$. This showed no significant disparity between male and female on the time that delay in mate selection becomes a crisis. The hypothesis was accepted. On hypothesis 3, it was also discovered that both male and female youths did not significantly differ in their rating of nearness, similarity, complimentary needs and social exchange as factors that influence mate selection.

As regards hypothesis 4, on the causes of delay in mate choice (financial, personal, religious, family, social and intellectual) calculated t-test on the differences in the ratings of male and female is 1.67 significant at $p < 0.05$. Finance received highest rating by the youths as a cause of delay in mate selection. The hypothesis was upheld. On the last hypothesis, which tested the level of effect of delayed marriage between male and female, it was discovered that the calculated t-test was 2.07 and was significant at 0.04, $p > 0.05$. It was found that the level of effect of delay in marriage mate selection on female youths was significantly higher than it was on the male.

Based on these findings, it was recommended that pastoral counsellors should take note of gender differences on the issue of delay in mate selection in order to respond to the problem properly. Multi-staff ministry which may include more female ministers was recommended to be practised in Baptist churches as an urgent matter. This was because the number of youths affected and are in need of pastoral care and counselling is on the high side and they cut across both sexes. Lastly, it was suggested that studies on the

same topic be carried out in other denominational churches and cultures to compare for further generalization of the findings.

Conclusion

Baptist youths are aware that delay in marriage mate selection is a crisis and female youths are more acquainted about it because they make themselves more available to learn. Majority of male and female youths are affected by the crisis because marital affair cuts across gender. Crisis of delay throws its weight most on the youths who are in the age range of 26-30 years. This is based on the fact that most of the youths would have attained a satisfactory educational level or learned a trade and are ready to settle down maritally at that age. Also, residential proximity, similar religious background and complimentarity of needs do influence proposal and response in mate selection. Female youths are affected more than the male because they cannot express their interest in men due to the cultural milieu where they

operate. This is a culture that discourages a woman from indicating her interest in a man verbally in order not to be treated as a harlot.

Pastoral counselling on the crisis of delay in mate choice needs to be handled with a sense of concern. The basic functions of pastoral care is needed as tools for helping the youths concerned. This is because it is wholistic in approach. The youths concerned, the family, the church and the society are affected. Therefore, the healing/reconciling, educating, sustaining and guiding functions are capable of making the crisis less traumatic for the affected people. Pastoral care and counselling is also effective in reducing the magnitude of delay in marriage mate selection as counsellors empathically guide the youths on matters of choice making early enough.

Recommendations

On the basis of the results of this research the following recommendations are made in order to reduce the extent and effect of crisis of delay in marriage mate selection:

1. Pastoral counsellorss need to take cognizance of the gender sensibility in mate selection in order to be able to respond adequately. For instance, a proper understanding of the characteristic nature of clients will provide a better approach to crisis intervention. Hence, pastors should equip themselves more in the areas of similarities and differences between male and femae on matters of marriage mate choice as found in many of the churches with particular reference to Baptist churches in Ogbomoso.

2. As regards male youths who have low level of awareness, pastoral counsellors should utilize avenues like recreational programmes where more of the male youths might be in attendance to create awareness on delay in marriage mate selection.
3. Due to the impact on church, it is strongly recommended that multi-staff ministry be utilized in the Baptist churches as a matter of urgency. This should include female ministers to cater for female youths. Besides, the number of youths who have the problem and are in need of pastoral care and counselling is on the high side. More hands are needed either to handle some other responsibility as the pastor takes up the care and counselling of the youths concerned. Some of the other members of staff may also assist in helping the affected youths if they have the needed basic training or orientation.
4. It is also recommended that the church should form a functional marriage committee that will be under the supervision of the church pastor. Membership of such a committee should comprise mature and reputable Christians with proven marital background and/or training in counselling. The committee will be saddled with the responsibility of taking note of how the youths in the church are faring in relation to marriage. However, this is not a committee of match-makers, rather it is to give necessary guidance to the youths on marital issues so that their decisions will be guided.
5. Also, it is the opinion of the researcher that those with proper education in the field of pastoral counselling should take it upon

