

**MATE SELECTION AND FERTILITY PREFERENCE S  
AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY  
OYE EKITI, NIGERIA (FOUYE)**

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**SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that FAGBULU OMOSHALEWA ADEDOYIN of the Department of Demography and Social Statistics, Faculty of Social Sciences, carried out a Research on the Topic "MATE SELECTION AND FERTILITY PREFERENCES AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE EKITI, NIGERIA, (FUOYE)" in partial fulfillment of the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria under my Supervision

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**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is humbly dedicated to the glory of Almighty God, the Giver of wisdom and knowledge, my strength and my helper you are worthy to be praised.

Also, to my parents CHIEF MR AND MRS BAYO FAGBULU for their care, understanding and sacrifices they made for me to acquire this certificate despite the challenges.

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## ABSTRACT

The paper looks into the factors that necessitate the choice of mates among adolescents. A simple random technique was used in the study to select a sample of 200 students drawn from Federal university Oye-Ekiti. A structured Questionnaire schedule was utilized to elicit information from the respondents. The questionnaire contains three sections: Section "A include personal data, Section "B include information on characteristics people consider most in their mate selection and Section c was on fertility preferences i.e. the respondent will be asked the number of children they will like to have in their lifetime if they had a choice. The data from the questionnaire were analyzed statistically in two levels, the first and second research question was analyzed using uni-variate analysis which will be frequency distribution, and the third research question will be analyzed using bi-variate analysis chi-square, the main finding of the study indicated that students consider physical qualification more important in their mate selection choice 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

Key Words: - Mate Selection, Marriage, physical Qualification, Fertility preference, Sexual selection, parental influence



## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Choosing a mate is a problem that humans share with most other animals because successful reproduction is central to natural selection. Mate choice refers to both conscious and unconscious processes that may be either psychological, physiological, or both. Peahens choose among the most attractive peacocks, female elephant seals pick males who have already attracted large harems, and even promiscuous chimpanzees exercise choice about the other chimps with which they will be promiscuous. Among mammals, however, selecting a mate is one of the most important decisions people make during their lifetime and it goes a long way to determine their fertility preferences and behavior (Houston 2001), To a very large extent one's cultural values influence one's mate choice, there is a wide cross-cultural variation in the social rules that govern the selection of mate partners, In some communities, partner selection is an individual decision, while in others, it is a collective decision made by the partners' kin groups. Among different cultures, there is also variation in the rules regulating whom individuals can choose to marry, many factors are put into consideration before mating occurs. Many African societies have undergone some changes, but there are some cultural traits that have remained unyielding in the face of social changes. Some cultural factors are given preference in making choice of partner. People of one's ethnic origin are usually preferred. In some societies, mate is regulated by some strong cultural considerations.

In the South-eastern part of Nigeria for instance, there are some societies there that their culture stipulates who to marry and who not to, not as in incest, but some are considered as unclean. It is considered a taboo for a 'freeborn' to mate with a person from the 'Osu' or 'Ohu' caste. Chinua Achebe in his 'No Longer at Ease' highlighted this very cultural practice. In the

West, dating is a vital medium for mate selection. It affords the would-be couples the opportunity to know themselves better so as to determine if they can co-habit or live as husband and wife. In the process of agreeing to be joined together as husband and wife, the parties take a lot of factors into considerations. Such factors include psychological, physical, economic, and sociological factors. Today in many African societies, young people are having greater say in who they marry because many people are now living outside their places of origin. This affords people opportunity of meeting people from different parts of the country and the world (thanks to internet). In some other places in Nigeria, mate too could follow a long learning period during which people engage in more informal and often multi-partner relationships; i.e., dating themselves. Today, human mate-choice criteria are thought to vary mostly between women and men.

There are also methods by which mate-selection is done in different society by parents, and these has to do with the ways of life of the people, for instance In South-western Nigeria, in those days, parents and families played a significant role in mate-selection for their children. The parents and families go as far as negotiating for a wife whom they believe would be compatible with their own children in order to bring about what we know as mating compatibility. (Ogunjuyigbe and Adeyemi, 2003). There are also some factors that necessitate such choice of mate made by parents. And these factors range from the family history of the intended mate; to the intended mate social standing such that issues like health, socio-economic and moral factors. The partner themselves also make choices or decisions based on ascribed status such as religion, ethnicity, age. And also achieved status such as educational attainment and occupation etc. It is generally believed that the success of a home depends on the mating compatibility between the two of them, when mate choice is similar, fertility choice will be similar. Sexual selection refers

to the traits that arise from competition among individuals for access to mates, and Mate selection also confers social status and provides varying opportunities for advancement. It also represents a direct or indirect expression of one's value system (Newman and Newman, 1995).

According to Bee (1994) when an individual gets to meets someone new, the individual applies the following filters listed below:

- A. **Attitudes and beliefs:** Is there a match with our ideas in basic area, such as sex, religion, or politics?
- B. **External characteristics:** Does this person match me in quality of appearance, apparent social class or manners?

Role fit: Does this person's idea about relationships match my own? Do we have similar ideas about appropriate sex roles? Are we compatible sexually? One of the major tasks of young people, particularly university students is to achieve a state of identity. During this time of life, peoples' identity may be fulfilled through the living validation of the person with whom one has dared to be intimate, Youngsters in the universities may not have a firm sense of identity; they are in the process of identity seeking and may experience identity crisis. And once identity crisis has occurred between them, it will affect their fertility preferences. Fertility preference is said to be the desired number of children an individual wishes to have, Fertility preference are known to reflect subsequent fertility behavior, Nigerians current fertility rate is 5.5 therefore understanding their preference could help in planning strategies to modify fertility behavior, Fertility varies considerably by region of residence, with lower rates in the south and higher rates in the north. Therefore, to provide insight into fertility of Nigerians in the near future, this study will examine mate selection preferences of university student and their preferred family size, using final year student of Federal University Oye-Ekiti as case study

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Youngsters make choices hastily and come to regret them, the issue of mate selection amongst the youth cannot be over-emphasized, in the process of mate selection by university students various qualities attract an individual to a partner which might be temporal but looks permanent to them, the cases of wrong identity has led to women not achieving their desired number of children but the achieved number of children, Considering the fact that majority choose mate so as to gain identity, most of the youngsters have a problem of identity, they are not always sure of who they are, they therefore look for certain facilitating factors for their mate selection, Some factors are well-defined, while some are not, but the fact that there is a facilitating factor which is the determinants of their selection of mates which can either be good or bad has the problem. Today, undergraduates give little or no room to their parents to play the traditional role of negotiating on whom their children marry and this has brought about a drastic change in the family structure (Fasoranti and Owagbemi, 2012). Undergraduates tend to choose mates for wrong reasons which need to be paid attention to. University undergraduates are the ones who are just entering maturity, and have the tendency to deviate from social norms as a result of search of identity. If the factors for the selections are not well noted by parents and guardians, the future of such young person is blur because attitudes engaged by young ones tend to define them and their future.

Research has also shown that one of the strong drivers of high total fertility rate in Nigeria is fertility preference, which indicates that Nigeria is a high pronatalist country; as long as there is high fertility preference definitely there will be high fertility, which will render the country overpopulated. It is therefore necessary to know what necessitate the choice of mate among the university undergraduate.

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the mate selection preferences (achieved and ascribed) of final year undergraduates in Fuoye?
2. What are the ideal family size preferences of final year undergraduates in Fuoye?
3. Is there any association between the mate selection preference of final year undergraduates in Fuoye and their ideal family size preference?

### **1.4 GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The broad objective is to investigate if fertility preference is affected by mate selection preferences.

### **1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To investigate the mate selection preferences (achieved and ascribed) of final year undergraduates in Fuoye.
2. To investigate the ideal family size preference of final year undergraduates in Fuoye.
3. To examine if there is any association between the mate selection preference of final year undergraduates in Fuoye and their ideal family size

### **1.6 HYPOTHESIS**

$H_0$ : There is no relationship between mate selection preference and ideal family size.

### **1.7 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

The relevance of mate selection and fertility preference is to know if mate selection actually affects their fertility preferences, mate selection will be measured with achieved and ascribed status, these two will give a clearer picture if choosing a mate partner is primarily hinged on the individuals physical characteristics like (sexual attraction, physical behavior, intelligence, light/dark complexioned, etc.) ,age, religion, ethnicity, behavior/character,

educational-attainment, etc., then we can relate these factors with their fertility preferences, if their choices actually affects their desired number of children, these study will also improve policy maker's understanding and then help them know the kind of policy to be postulated based on the future fertility preference. Mate selection also improve students understanding about the factors that influence their mate selections which directly influences their fertility behavior, mate selection and fertility preference will also help us to know if those that choose a mate based on achieved status has a high or low fertility preference than those that choose a mate based on ascribed status, I will also like to find out if the fertility preference of Fuoye students will be lower or even higher than the current fertility behaviors in Nigeria, if the students are interested in having high number of children, It is therefore necessary to know what necessitate the choice of mate among the university undergraduate, and these will then help me see if what necessitate the mating choice can affect their fertility preferences.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

This article provides a review of evolutionary theory and empirical research on mate Selection and fertility preference among undergraduate's in Nigeria, it's a frame for understanding the how and why behind human mate choices, Having looked at the past researches, I was able to come up with the following literature review

### 2.1 MATE SELECTION

Several theories of mate selection have focused on the psychological responses of the individual to potential mates. An influential early theory focused on reinforcement, emphasizing the observer's affective response to potential mates (Byrne and Clore 2000). The assumption was that a person is attracted to potential mates who make that person feel good. Researchers in this tradition focused on overt characteristics such as physical appearance and the expression of similar attitudes and values (Byrne 1971). People indeed tend to mate with others who have similar characteristics, including political attitudes, lifestyle values, personality, appearance, or ethnicity (Thiessen, and Young 2006). It was found that people do find it pleasant to interact with similar others. There are exceptions to the similarity-attraction principle, however. ladies at all ages tend to be attracted to guys who are slightly older than themselves, and guys shift their preferences throughout the lifespan, they are also attracted to ladies younger than them (Kenrick et al.1993). Besides this, ladies tend to emphasize status-linked characteristics in a partner, whereas guys do not (Sadalla, Kenrick, and Vershure 2009). Guys, on the other hand, place more emphasis on physical attractiveness (Townsend and Wasserman 1995). The cues for attractiveness are also slightly different for the two sexes. Although symmetry is attractive in both guys and ladies, small noses and relatively smaller jaws are relatively more attractive in

ladies, and medium noses and large jaws are attractive in guys (Cunningham, Druen, and Barbee 1986). A small waist-to-hip ratio is attractive in a lay, but not in a guy (Singh 1999). Another set of factors that affects mate choice involves personality traits. One line of research examined differences between those adopting an unrestricted versus restricted approach to relationships (Simpson and Gangestad 2000). There is also evidence that people of both sexes are attracted to others with personal characteristics that make them easy to get along with in long-term relationships (Jensen-Campbell 2007).

## **2.2 FERTILITY PREFERENCES**

Fertility preference studies have looked at peoples' preferences using different terminologies and definitions. Desired family size, ideal number of children, fertility preference, desire for additional children and fertility intentions are some of the measures that have been used to describe and/or estimate the number of children that people actually want to have. For example, Monnier (2007) used intended additional births to refer to fertility intention; McCarthy and Oni (2000) used non-numeric responses while Nii-Amoo Doodoo (2001) used preference for no more kids.

The meaning and validity of these measures have been a source of controversy for quite some time (Coombs, 2000). For example, desired family size 0411802R 15 refers to the number of children the respondent would have liked to have in his/her whole life irrespective of the number he/she already has. This is said to be prone to rationalization (upward adjustment in stated desired family size so that it is close or equal to actual number of children) and non-numeric bias (under reporting of average family size because some women are unable or unwilling to respond to the question on desired family size). Fertility preference in this study refers to the desired number of children, which is a response to the question "If you could choose



the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?" Fertility preference studies in the Sub-Sahara region have shown high rate of disagreement among couples (Westoff & Bankole, 2002). The story is the same among the Yoruba of Nigeria where 24% of the wives compared to 18% of the husbands wanted no more births (Kritz, Gurak & Fapohunda, 1992).

Other Relevant literatures reviewed; they include:

- A. Educational background
- B. Parental influence
- C. Religion
- D. Occupation
- E. Physical attractiveness and good genes
- F. Personal and behavioral attributes
- G. Physical attributes and fertility
- H. Female's mate preference
- I. Male's mate preferences

## **1. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

O'Neil (2006) explained that education is an important factor in mate choice in many societies. Buss and Schmitt (1993) posited that in mate choice surveys, ladies consistently express a preference for mate partners who are of high educational background and of the same educational qualification as themselves. Also Kalmijn (2001) revealed that college graduates prefer to marry college graduates like themselves. However, female graduates also like to marry men that are educationally advanced than them. Corroborating Kalmijin (2001), Torr (2005) in his study of undergraduates' mate choice indicated that they prefer college graduates with good

earning capacity. Similarly, Lyng and Hancock (2002) posited that undergraduates prefer partners of similar educational qualification and background. A study conducted by Arancic (2003) revealed that respondents prefer potential partners that are educated and those with interesting professions. Koehler (2005) predicted that female undergraduates may have a stronger preference for partners who are college graduates to non-college graduates while male undergraduates indicated that it is not too important that their partners should be college graduates.

## **2. PARENTAL INFLUENCE**

Historically, parents play a major role in choosing mate partners for their children and the custom continues in the world's developing countries today. Parental influence is greatest when the parents have a large stake in which their child chooses, parents could be so keen about who they end up choosing because it could enhance their wealth, or acquire royal titles through a child's marriage. In some cities some parents go to the extent of making choices in which the bride and groom have no say at all. For instance, some bride and groom meet for the first time on their wedding day. In some cases, children are betrothed at a very young age and have no choice in the decision, parents may do the match making, but the young people can veto the choice. Some small cultures scattered around the world have what social scientists call preferential choices, In this system, the bride or groom is supposed to marry a particular kind of person for example, a cousin on the mother's or father's side of the family (Encarta, 2006).

In the traditional Yoruba society in Nigeria, most marriages are arranged by the parents on both sides (Bolaji, 1984). Basically, three forms of mate were common among the Yoruba's. One was the betrothal of a girl before she was born and the second, chosen by the families of the young ones concerned. The third category of mate partner selection now prevalent among the

Yoruba's is the one in which individuals concerned personally chose their own partners. This may not be unconnected with the increased pace of modernization whereby emphasis is shifting from extended family ties, which formally existed in most of the rural areas (Orubuloye, 1987). Ogunjuyigbe and Adeyemi (2003) revealed in their study that most Yoruba men would prefer arranged matting for their children for security purpose. This is to ensure a peaceful, successful and comfortable married life for their children.

### **3. RELIGION**

Levi-Strauss (2006) posited that the young are so particular about the demographic characteristics of their prospective partner. College students surveyed indicated that they will not choose from another religious group that is not theirs but from the same religious group.

### **4. OCCUPATION**

In mate choice surveys, ladies consistently express a preference for partners who have high status profession (Buss and Schmitt, 1993). Ladies place high value on men who possess a promising career orientation, industriousness and ambition. Ladies are significantly more likely to discontinue relationships with males who become unemployed, lack career motivation or show laziness (Betzig, 2000). Townsend and Levy (1990) looked at the effects of occupation status as embodied by clothing and attractiveness on female willingness to engage in romantic relationships. Male targets were pre-rated for physical attraction and divided into two categories: handsome and homely. The targets were one of these three costumes: Blazer, shirt, designer tie, and conspicuous Rolex watch. They were described as being doctors (high status). Plain white shirt: They were described as being teachers, Females stated their willingness to engage in relationships with the men at six levels of romantic involvement, the high status males were

preferred over the low status males' at all six levels and status were more important than attractiveness.

Women who have high status themselves also prefer males of high status, preferably of even higher status than themselves. Similarly, in a survey of medical students, Townscend (2003) reported that the females become more selective in their criteria in entering a relationship, while the males were convinced that their increasing status would enable them to engage in a relationship.

## **5. PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVENESS AND GOOD GENES**

In classical literature and in romance novels, the male protagonist is almost always socially dominant, wealthy, and handsome (Whissell, 1996). Indeed, a preference for an attractive mate makes biological sense (Fink & Penton- Voak, 2002; Gangestad, 1993; Gangestad & Buss, 1993)). Not only are handsome guys more likely to sire children who are attractive, but these guys and their children also appear to be physically healthier than other guys and their children (Gangestad, Thornhill 2002). In other words, the physical attributes that ladies find attractive in guys are indicators of the guy's physical and genetic health (Gangestad & Simpson, 2000, Gangestad, Thornhill, & Yeo, 1994; Grammer & Thornhill, 1994; Singh, 1995a; Thornhill & Gangestad, 1993, 1994), ladies prefer men who are somewhat taller than average, and have an athletic (but not too muscular) and symmetric body shape, including a 0.9 waist-to-hip ratio (WHR), and shoulders that are somewhat wider than their hips (Barber, 2002; Beck, Ward-Hull, & McClear, 2003).

The facial features that women rate as attractive include somewhat larger than average eyes, a large smile area, and prominent cheek bones and chin (Barber, 1995; Beck, Ward-Hull, & McClear, 1976; Cunningham, Barbee, & Pike, 1990; Gangestad et al., 1994; Hatfield &

Sprecher, 1995; Oda, 2001; Pierce, 1996; Singh, 1995a).). These physical traits appear to be good indicators of genetic variability (which is important for disease resistance), a lack of illness during development, and current physical health. For instance, the development of prominent cheek bones and a masculine chin is related to androgen levels and androgen/estrogen ratios during puberty (Fink & Penton-Voak, 2002; Tanner, 1990;). Chronic illness during this time can suppress androgen secretion, which would result in the development of less prominent cheekbones, a more feminine-looking chin, and, as a result, lower rated physical attractiveness. Shackelford and Larsen (1997) found that guys with less symmetric facial features were less physically active, manifested more symptoms of depression and anxiety, and reported more minor physical problems (e.g., colds, headaches) than their peers with more symmetric faces. guys with asymmetric faces and body features also have higher basal metabolic rates, somewhat lower IQs, and fewer sexual partners than their more symmetric peer. Confirming that ladies' stated preferences are often put into practice, Phillips et al. (2001) found that physically smaller and less-robust guys are less likely to be chosen as marriage partners than are taller and more robust guys.

There is also evidence that ladies' mate choices are influenced by guy's immune-system genes (Wedekind, Seebeck, Bettens, & Paepke, 1995), just as the mate choices of females of at least some other species are influenced by indicators of the males' immune competence. Ladies, of course, are not directly aware of these genetic differences. Immune-system genes are signaled through pheromones and ladies are sensitive to and respond to these scents, especially during the second week of their menstrual cycle when they are most fertile (Gangestad & Thornhill, 1998). Furthermore, females show a preference for the scents of guys with the above-noted features (such as facial symmetry), suggesting that high-quality guys exhibit a variety of

correlated physical and phenomenal traits that distinguish them from other guys and that serve as cues that influence female choice (Thornhill & Gangestad,1998).

It is not simply the quality (i.e., presumed resistance to disease) of the guy's immune-system genes but also how these genes match up with those of the ladies that influence ladies' mate preferences, The evidence supports the view that undergraduate's mate choices are influenced by indicators of the physical and perhaps genetic health of men, as reflected, in part, in the guy's physical attractiveness and scent.

## **6. PERSONAL AND BEHAVIORAL ATTRIBUTES**

In addition, undergraduates prefer intelligent mate partners and partners with whom a compatible and cooperative relationship can be developed (Buss, 1994; Li et al., 2002). Kenrick et al. 2000), for instance, found that guys rated the personality, friendliness, and sense of humor of a potential mate partner very highly, and just as highly or more highly than her physical attractiveness ( Kenrick, Groth, Trost, & Sadalla, 1993). Across cultures, Buss found that guys rated the intelligence, kindness, and understanding of a prospective mate as important attributes, and for many guys these traits were more important than her physical attractiveness.

## **7. PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND FERTILITY**

Both ladies and guys prefer sexually attractive partners, but this preference is consistently found to be more important---a necessity and not a luxury---for guys than for ladies ( Hatfield & Sprecher, 2007; Li et al., 2002; Oda, 2001). Guy's ratings of ladies' physical attractiveness are related to several specific physical traits, including a waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) of 0.7, facial features that signal a combination of sexual maturity but relative youth, body and facial symmetry, and age (Cunningham,2009). Body mass index (BMI), a measure of leanness to obesity independent of height, is also associated with rated attractiveness. Hume and

Montgomerie (2001) found a negative relation between BMI and the rated attractiveness of ladies (but not guys), such that leaner ladies were rated more attractive than heavier ladies.

The combination of all of these traits (e.g., WHR, age) provides cues to ladies fertility, As an example, ladies' fertility is low in the teen years, peaks at about age 25, and then gradually declines to near zero by age 45 (Menken, Trussell, 2006). Teenage mothers experience more complications during pregnancy (e.g., ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth) than do ladies in their 20s (Andersen, Wohlfahrt, Christens, Olsen, & Melbye, 2000). Risks begin to increase in the 30s and increase sharply after age 35. Spontaneous abortion is the most common cause of fetal loss, with the risk of loss at 9% for a 22-year-old lady, 20% for a 35-year-old, 40% for a 40-year-old, and 84% for a 48-year-old. Given this, guy's mate preferences would almost certainly evolve to be sensitive to indications of ladies' age, that's why across cultures, some guys preferred mate partners who were a little bit younger than themselves. Mate patterns in these cultures indicated that these preferences were put into practice: Brides were, on average, 3 years younger than their grooms

## **8. WOMEN'S MATING PREFERENCE**

Biologically, the costs associated with mating differ for each sex, but with greater costs attributed to females. Thus, female preference differ with regard to the types of benefits desired in a partner, some Females preference are seeking material benefit such as( money, clothes, gifts) etc., genetic, and fertility benefits in potential mates.

## **9. MALE'S MATE CHOICES**

Male's mate choices are predicted to vary depending on his background, or the way he was brought up, although all guys are attracted to beautiful ladies, but where the choice comes in is if he wants a light, dark, tall, short, medium height lady, beautifully shaped girl etc. The one

area in which guy's preferences may not change significantly is for fertility cues-that is, ladies' physical attractiveness. As with ladies, and males and females of other species, guy's choosiness is predicted to increase with increases in their level of parental investment (Trivers, 1972). Guy's mate choice criteria are thereby predicted to be similar to ladies criteria when choosing a marriage partner. Guys are so kin about physical attributes, men find these attributes attractive and also the ladies intellect.



## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

This study is carried out in EKITI STATE, NIGERIA. At the FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF OYE EKITI STATE, Ekiti is a state in western Nigeria, it was declared a state on 1 October 1996 alongside five others by the military under the dictatorship of General Sani Abacha. The state comprises the following towns and villages: Oye Ekiti, Ilupeju Ekiti, Ayegbaju Ekiti, Ire Ekiti, Itapa Ekiti, Osin Ekiti, Ayede Ekiti, Itaji Ekiti, Imojo Ekiti, Ilafon Ekiti, Isan Ekiti, Ilemeso Ekiti, Omu Ekiti, Ijelu Ekiti, Oloje Ekiti and a host of others. Local Government Areas Ekiti State is one of the thirty-six states (Federal Capital Territory (Nigeria)) that constitute Nigeria. Ekiti State is reputed to have produced the highest number of professors in Nigeria. Oye Local Government is bounded by Ilejemeje Local Government to the North, Irepodun/Ifelodun to the South, Ikole local Government to the East and Ido/Osi Local Government to the West.

Federal University Oye Ekiti is a government-owned and -operated Nigerian university. The university is in the ancient city of Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The university was founded in 2011 as the Federal University Oye Ekiti by the federal government of Nigeria, led by President Goodluck Jonathan. Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE) was one of the nine Federal Universities established by the Federal Government of Nigeria, pursuant to an executive order made by the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR. The Motto of the University is Innovation and Character for National Transformation. Federal University Oye-Ekiti, whose pioneer Vice Chancellor, was Professor Chinedu Ostadinma Nebo, OON, and the present Vice Chancellor Professor Kayode

Soremekun who was recently appointed by the current President, has two campuses at Oye-Ekiti and Ikole-Ekiti and 5 Faculties and 30 Departments, namely:

- The Faculty of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics and Extension, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Soil Science, Animal Science, Crop Production and Horticulture, Food Science Technology, Water Resources and Agrometerology)
- The Faculty of Engineering (Agricultural and Bio-Resources Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, Material and Metallurgical Engineering)
- The Faculty of Social Sciences (Demography and Social Statistics, Economics and Development Studies, Psychology, Sociology)
- The Faculty of Arts/Humanities (English and Literary Studies, Theatre and Media Arts)
- The Faculty of Science (Animal and Environmental Biology, Biochemistry, Geology, Computer Science, Geophysics, Industrial Chemistry, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Plant Science and Biotechnology). The Motto of the University is Innovation and Character for National Transformation. The strategic vision of the University is to become an academic giant, the pace—setter among universities in the Third World, in the quality of its scientific research, the level of its innovative teaching, and the robustness of its community service.

### **3.2 TARGET POPULATION**

This research was conducted in federal university oye ekiti, the research was done randomly using some of the final year students in all faculties per department, the main reason

for using final year students is because they are more mature than the 100, 200 or 300 level students, they are at the verge of marriage or identity, and basically what their preference is now will be same as the later years. So these give us a picture of what the fertility profile will look like in years to come.

### 3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The design used is a quantitative research design. This design emphasize objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques. Quantitative research focuses on gathering numerical data and generalizing it across groups of people or to explain a particular phenomenon. The objective of quantitative research is to develop and employ mathematical models, theories and/or hypotheses pertaining to phenomena. The process of measurement is central to quantitative research because it provides the fundamental connection between empirical observation and mathematical expression of quantitative relationships. Quantitative research design also tends to generate only proved or unproved results, with there being very little room for grey areas and uncertainty. For the social sciences, education, anthropology and psychology, human nature is a lot more complex than just a simple yes or no response.

### 3.4 SAMPLE SIZE

The total number of fuoye graduating students is 312, the sample size used is 200, *The formula that was used to calculate the sample size is;*

$$s = \frac{X^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2 P(1-P)}$$

*Where*

*s* = required sample size.

$\chi^2$  = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

$N$  = the population size.

$P$  = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum Sample size).

$d$  = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

### **3.5 SOURCES OF DATA**

Data collection is conducted through a quantitative approach using questionnaire. The questionnaire will contain three sections, where Section A include personal data while section B include information on characteristics people consider most in their mate Selection and section C will be on fertility preferences i.e. the respondent will be asked the number of children they will like to have in their whole lifetime if they had a choice.

### **3.6 VARIABLES AND MEASURES**

The dependent variable is fertility preferences indicated by ideal number of children and this will be categorized into two

1. 1 or 2
2. 3 or 4
3. 5 above

The independent variable is mate selection preferences. The preferences were categorized into ascribed and achieved characteristics, Achieved was the level of education and ascribed were ethnic origin, religion, age and physical features. Mate selection preference is matched with the respondent's characteristics in order to generate indications of similarity (homogamy) and the dissimilarities (heterogamy) in the mate selection preferences.

### **Control variables**

Fertility preference is not only influenced mate selection preference, it can be affected by some other factors, and therefore this study will add the following as its control variables

1. Exposure to media
2. Number of siblings
3. father/mother's level of education
4. Age

### **3.7 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS**

Data analysis will be conducted in two levels {Uni-variate and bivariate}. The first and second research questions will be analyzed by Uni-variate analysis which will be frequency distribution using percentages, the third research question will be analyzed using bi-variate analysis using chi-square. The physical characteristics in mate selection preferences of the respondent will not be used in bivariate analysis but only in the descriptive (uni variate) analysis.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

Having distributed 200 questionnaire's to some Fuoye graduating students on the topic mate select and fertility preference among undergraduates in fuoye, I then ran a uni-variate analysis using frequency distribution and percentages, and a bi-variate analysis using chi-square.

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Age</b>		
15-19	12	40.0
20-24	148	74.0
25-29	38	19.0
30-34	2	1.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Place of Residence</b>		
Rural	80	40.0
Urban	120	60.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	90	45.0
Female	110	55.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Religion</b>		
Christianity	148	74.5
Islam	46	23.0
Traditional	4	2.0
Others	1	0.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Relationship Status</b>		
Married	7	3.5
Single	118	59.0
Dating	75	37.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>		

Yoruba	123	61.5
Igbo	32	16.0
Hausa	23	11.5
Others	22	11.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Faculty</b>		
Sciences	102	51.0
Social Sciences	70	35.0
Humanities	28	13.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Family Type</b>		
Monogamous	109	54.5
Polygamous	54	27.0
Single Parent	35	17.5
Others	2	1.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Father's Occupation</b>		
Working	187	93.5
Not Working	13	6.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Father's Educational Level</b>		
No Education	11	5.5
Primary	1	0.5
Secondary	27	13.5
Tertiary	106	53.0
Msc	35	17.0
Phd	20	10.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		
Working	192	96.0
Not Working	8	4.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Mother's Educational Level</b>		
No Education	10	5.0
Primary	6	3.0
Secondary	37	18.5
Tertiary	116	58.0
Msc	25	12.5

Phd	6	3.0
Total	200	100.0

The percentage distribution of respondents as shown in table 1 disclosed that (40%) of the respondents are from the ages of 15-19, (74.0%) of the respondents are from the ages of 20-24, (19.0%) of the respondents are between the ages of 25-29, while the remaining 1.0% are from the ages of 30-34.

40% of the respondents as shown in the table above live in rural areas while 60% of the respondents live in urban areas. 45% of the respondents are males while 55% of the respondents are females. More than half (74.5%) of the respondents practice Christianity as their religion, 23% practice Islam as their religion, 2% of the respondents practice traditional religion while the 0.5 percent are from the other religious groups not listed. In terms relationship status 3.5% of the respondents are married, 59% of the respondents are single while the remaining 37.5% of the respondents are currently in a relationship but not married. Under ethnicity, more than half (61.5%) of the respondents are Yoruba, 16% of the respondents are igbo, 11.5% of the respondents are Hausa while the remaining 11% of the respondents are from other religions not listed. Departmentally 51% of the respondents are from Science faculty, 35% are from Social sciences, while the remaining 13% are from the Faculty of humanities. More than half (54.5%) of the respondents are from monogamous family, 27% of the respondents are from Polygamous family, 17.5% of the respondents are from Single parent family while the remaining 1% of the respondents are from other family type not listed.

Occupationally, 93.5% of the respondents indicated that their fathers are currently working while the remaining 6.5% of the respondent indicated that their fathers are not currently



working. The fathers of 60% of the respondents have bsc as their highest level of education, 5.5% of the respondents' fathers have no education, 0.5% of the respondents' fathers have Primary education as their highest level of education, 13.5% of the respondents' fathers have Secondary education as their highest level of education, 53% of the respondents' fathers have tertiary education as their highest level of education, 17% of the respondents fathers have masters as their highest level of education while the remaining 10% of the respondents' fathers have Phd as their highest level of education. With regards to the mothers' occupation 96% of the respondent's mothers are currently working, while the remaining 4% of the respondents' mothers are not currently working. Educationally, 5.0% of the respondents mothers have have no education, 3% of the respondents' mothers have Primary education as their highest level of education, 18.5% of the respondents' mothers have Secondary education as their highest level of education, 58% of the respondents' mothers have Tertiary education as their highest level of education, 12.5% of the respondents' mothers have masters as their highest level of education, while the remaining 3% of the respondents' mothers have Phd as their highest level of education.

#### **Distribution of respondents by their spouse selection preferences**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Who would you like to marry</b>		
Your Age Mate	47	23.5
Someone Older	88	44.0
Someone Younger	65	32.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Marry Someone who has</b>		

Same level of Education	54	27.0
Higher Level of education	84	42.0
Lesser Level of Education	62	31.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Marry from same ethnic group</b>		
Yes	156	78.0
No	44	22.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Marry From Same Religion</b>		
Yes	177	88.5
No	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Marry Someone with same view about things of life</b>		
Yes	176	88.0
NO	24	12.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Physical Qualities for Marriage mate</b>		
Sexually Attractive	53	26.5
Physical Beauty	24	12.0
Well Behaved	77	38.5
Intelligent	46	23.0

Total	200	100.0
<b>Physical Qualities for Marriage mate 2</b>		
Average Height	101	50.5
Short	30	15.0
Tall	69	34.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Physical Qualities for Marriage mate 3</b>		
Light Skinned	111	55.5
Dark Skinned	89	44.5
Total	200	100.0
<b>Physical Qualities for Marriage mate 4</b>		
Fat	25	12.5
Slim	113	56.5
Chubby	62	31.0
Total	200	100.0
<b>Number of Children desired lifetime</b>		
1-2	59	29.5
3-4	94	47.0
5+	46	23.0
Total	200	100.0

The percentage distribution of respondents by their criteria for the choice of spouse shows that 23.5% of the respondents will like to marry spouse of their same age, 44% will like to

marry spouse that are older than they are, while 32.5% of the respondents would like to marry spouse that are younger than they are. 27% of the respondents would like to marry spouse with whom they are of the same educational level, 42% of the respondents will like to marry spouse whose educational level is higher than theirs, while the remaining 31% of the respondents will like to marry spouse whose educational level is lower than theirs. Ethnically, 78% of the respondents revealed that they would like to marry spouse who are of the same ethnic group with them while 22% of the respondents revealed that they would not like to marry spouse from the same ethnic group with them but from other ethnic groups.

In terms of religion 88.5% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse that are of the same religious background with them while the remaining 11.5 of the respondents indicated that they will not like to marry spouse from the same religious background with them. 88% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse who share the same view about things of life with them, while the remaining 12% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse who has a different view about things of life. 29.5% of the respondents will like to have 1 or 2 children if they have the chance, 47% of the respondents will like to have 3 or 4 children if they have the chance, while the other 23% of respondents will like to have 5+ if they have the chance.

respondents and marital aspirations

<i>Variables</i>	Number of children desired in lifetime				$\chi^2$	p - value
	1-2r <i>n = 235r</i> <i>(%)r</i>	3-4 <i>n =15 (%)</i>	5+	Total <i>N = 250 (%)</i>		
<b>Physical Qualification for marriage mate</b>	R					
Sexually Attractive	1r3 (22.0)	18 (18.9)	22 (47.8)	53 (26.5)	16.563	0.011
Physical Beauty	8 r(13.6)	11 (11.6)	5 (10.9)	24 (12.0)		
Well Behaved	27r (45.8)	40 (42.1)	10(21.7)	77(38.5)		
Intelligent	11(r18.6)	26(27.4)	9(19.6)	46(23.0)		
<b>Physical Qualification for marriage mate 2</b>	R					
Average Height	3r4(57.6)	48(50.5)	19(41.3)	101(50.5)	7.017	0.135
Short	5(8.5)	13 (13.7)	12(26.1)	30(15.0)		
Tall	20r(33.9)	34(35.8)	15(32.6)	69(34.5)		
<b>Physical Qualification for marriage mate 3</b>	R					
Light Skinned	33(55.9)	53(55.8)	25(54.3)	111(55.5)	3.560	0.469
Dark Skinned	2r6(44.1)	42(43.2)	19(41.3)	86(44.5)		
<b>Physical Qualification for marriage mate 4</b>						
Fat	8(13.6)	12(12.6)	5(10.9)	25(12.5)	3.284	0.512

<b>Slim</b>	28(47.5)	58(61.1)	27(58.7)	113(56.5)		
Chubby	23(39.0)	25(26.3)	14(30.4)	62(31.0)		
<b>Who will you like to marry?</b>						
Your age mate	15(25.4)	16(16.8)	16(34.8)	47(23.5)	5.958	0.202
Someone Older than you	24(40.7)	46(48.4)	18(39.1)	88(44.0)		
Someone you are older than	20(33.9)	33(34.7)	12(26.1)	65(32.5)		
<b>Someone who has</b>						
Same level of education	15(25.4)	31(32.6)	8(17.4)	54(27.0)	6.217	0.183
Higher educational level	26(44.1)	40(42.1)	18(39.1)	84(42.0)		
Lesser level of education	18(30.5)	24(25.3)	20(43.5)	62(31.0)		
<b>Marry from same ethnic group</b>						
Yes	40(67.8)	77(81.1)	39(84.8)	156(78.0)	5.329	0.070
No	19(32.2)	18(18.9)	7(15.2)	44(22.9)		
<b>Marry from same religion</b>						
Yes	50(84.7)	87(91.6)	40(87.0)	177(88.5)	1.810	0.405

No	9(15.3)	8(8.4)	6(13.0)	23(11.5)		
<b>Marry someone with same view about things of life</b>						
Yes	55(93.2)	80(84.2)	41(89.1)	176(88.0)	2.870	0.238
No	4(6.8)	15(15.8)	5(10.9)	24(12.0)		

In terms of physical qualities 26.5% of respondents would prefer their spouse to be sexually attractive, 12% of the respondents would prefer their spouse to possess physical beauty, 38.5% of respondents will prefer their spouse to be well behaved while the remaining 23% of the respondent indicated that will prefer their spouse to be intelligent. 50.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be of average height, 15% of respondents will prefer their spouse to be short, while the other 34.5% will prefer their spouse to be tall. 55.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be light skinned while the other 44.5% will prefer their spouse to be dark skinned. 12.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be fat, 56.5% of the respondents will like their spouse to be slim, while the other 31% of respondents will like their spouse to be chubby

The bivariate analysis to test the level of association between the mate selection preference and the ideal family size revealed that: who would you like to marry ( $\chi^2= 10.672$ ,  $P>0.05$ ), Marry from same ethnic group ( $\chi^2= 5.329$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) marry someone with the same view about things of life ( $\chi^2= 4.192$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) are not significantly related to ideal family size at 5% level of significance.

Only physical qualification for marriage 1 ( $\chi^2 = 16.563$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) is significantly related to ideal family size at 5% level of significance, that is **physical qualification for marriage 1** has a direct influence on number of children desired in a life time.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the summary, conclusion and recommendations drawn from the analysis of the research data.

### 5.1 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

According to the Univariate analysis the percentage distribution of respondents by their criteria for the choice of spouse shows that 23.5% of the respondents will like to marry spouse of their same age, 44% will like to marry spouse that are older than they are, while 32.5% of the respondents would like to marry spouse that are younger than they are. 27% of the respondents would like to marry spouse with whom they are of the same educational level, 42% of the respondents will like to marry spouse whose educational level is higher than theirs, while the remaining 31% of the respondents will like to marry spouse whose educational level is lower than theirs. Ethnically, 78% of the respondents revealed that they would like to marry spouse who are of the same ethnic group with them while 22% of the respondents revealed that they would not like to marry spouse from the same ethnic group with them but from other ethnic groups.

In terms of religion 88.5% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse that are of the same religious background with them while the remaining 11.5 of the respondents indicated that they will not like to marry spouse from the same religious background with them. 88% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse who share the same view about things of life with them, while the remaining 12% of the respondents indicated that they will like to marry spouse who has a different view about things of life. 29.5% of the respondents

will like to have 1 or 2 children if they have the chance, 47% of the respondents will like to have 3 or 4 children if they have the chance, while the other 23% of respondents will like to have 5+ if they have the chance.

In terms of physical qualities 26.5% of respondents would prefer their spouse to be sexually attractive, 12% of the respondents would prefer their spouse to possess physical beauty, 38.5% of respondents will prefer their spouse to be well behaved while the remaining 23% of the respondent indicated that will prefer their spouse to be intelligent. 50.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be of average height, 15% of respondents will prefer their spouse to be short, while the other 34.5% will prefer their spouse to be tall. 55.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be light skinned while the other 44.5% will prefer their spouse to be dark skinned. 12.5% of the respondents will prefer their spouse to be fat, 56.5% of the respondents will like their spouse to be slim, while the other 31% of respondents will like their spouse to be chubby.

The bivariate analysis to test the level of association between the mate selection preference and the ideal family size revealed that: who would you like to marry ( $\chi^2= 10.672$ ,  $P>0.05$ ), Marry from same ethnic group ( $\chi^2= 5.329$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) marry someone with the same view about things of life ( $\chi^2= 4.192$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) are not significantly related to ideal family size at 5% level of significance.

Only physical qualification for marriage ( $\chi^2= 16.563$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) is significantly related to ideal family size at 5% level of significance, that is **physical qualification for marriage mate** has a direct influence on number of children desired in a life time.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

From the study, physical qualities are the only significant determinant that has an influence among undergraduate in federal university Oye-ekiti.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the findings on this study, I thereby recommend that further studies on mate selection should be made, I recommend that parents most actively be involved in the lives of their children, to guide and lead them properly recognizing their choices, preferences and desires and helping them to arrive at decision that will not lead to regrets and pains later in life (Adesina & Rufus,2005, Odey,2005) also the new methods of doing things can only be better if contextualized within our cherished traditional and cultural values, to help preserve a generation who are not completely out of tune with our cherished traditional and cultural ways of doing things. Counsellors should educate and encourage undergraduates in their mate selection to be cautious because marrying as a teenager could be the highest risk factor for divorce than people who marry when they are in their twenties or older. I also recommend that counsellors should counsel undergraduates that if either partner has any concern about the behaviour of the other, they should not expect that this concern would simply dissolve over time. Counsellors should also assist undergraduates to realise that they could consider the advice of friends, family members, or well-meaning acquaintance. One of the problems of mate selection by undergraduates is that of haste; counsellors should be prepared to help undergraduates in their choice of mates through organizing of conferences, symposia, seminars, and workshops on preference in mate choice.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

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