

**THE COMBINED AND RELATIVE EFFECT OF ECONOMIC, YOUTH NATURE AND SOCIETY ON PREMARITAL SEXUAL ACTIVITIES AMONG YOUTH IN IKENNE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OGUN STATE.NIGERIA.**

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**Abstract**

*The study examines the combined and relative effects of Economic, Nature and Society on Premarital sex. It made use of simple random technique in selecting 250 youths within Ikenne local government in Ogun State, Nigerian. The age range of the respondents was between 15 to 35 years with the mean age of 24.5 and standard deviation of 3.291. The ex-post-facto research design was employed. A 35 item; Youth Attitude towards Sexual Practices (YATSP) developed by the Researcher was used to generate data for the study. All the hypotheses data were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Data analysis involved the use of multiple regressions (backward), ANOVA and Pearson product moment Correlation. The result indicated in model 3, that the predictors' variables accounted for 56.4% percent of the variation in premarital sexual activities. Each of the independent variables contributes significantly to the Premarital Sexual activities and a perfect positive correlation existed between Premarital Sexual activities and the three independent variables. Suggestions were made based on the outcome.*

**Key words:** *Economic, Youth nature, Society and Premarital sexual activities*

## **Introduction**

Egbochukwu & Imo (2007) asserted that the Nigerian society today has to grapple with many behavioural problems of its youth. Such problems include truancy, disobedience, drug offences, assault, insult, stealing, violent demonstrations, vandalism, examination malpractices, robbery and secret cult activities (Nnachi, 2003). Apart from these widely publicized behavioural problems, premarital activities are also listed among types of behavioural problems prevalent within Nigeria youth. These are variously named in the literature as sex abuse, sex offences, sexual misconduct, sexual immorality, sexual promiscuity, and sexual maladjustment (Odoemelam, 1996; Adedipe, 2000; Ndu, 2000, Nnachi, 2003).

Nnachi (2003) observed that in terms of behavioural problems, sex abuse appeared to be one of the most serious offences committed by children and adolescents. Obiekezie-Ali (2003) supported this instance with a United Nation's (2000) information on reproductive health, which shows that many Nigerian girls are known to start involvement in active sex at the early age of thirteen years. The age of initial sexual experience and involvement thus becomes younger than fifteen years as found by Esen (1974). Okonkwo & Eze (2000) observed that today's situation shows a sharp contrast to the traditional Nigerian societal context in which girls avoided premarital sexual experiences for fear of social punishments usually meted out to girls who lost their virginity before marriage. There appears to be an agreement among Nigerian researchers and observers that many values are changing rapidly (Naswen, 2001; Ezeh, 2001; Arumala, 2005; Eruesegbefe, 2005). One area of life in which the decline of traditional values is obvious is in the area of sexuality. One major change has been the acceptance of pre-marital sex in a loving relationship.

Current knowledge about premarital sex in Europe suggest that younger individuals are more likely than their elders to view sex before marriage (particularly with a future spouse) as acceptable. The first study, which was based on a survey of adolescents and young adults from six diverse Vietnamese provinces estimated that by age 22, 29% of Bachelors and 16% of Spinster have had sex (Mensch, Clark & Anh, 2003). As the authors noted, the proportion of women in their sample who were sexually active by age 20 is much lower than the proportions. Thailand and all 32 countries in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa in which demographic and health surveys have been conducted found that among never-married respondents aged 22–25, about 33% of men and 4% of women in urban areas, and 26% of men and 3% of women in rural areas, reported ever having had premarital sex (Dare & Cleland, 1994).

Due to sensitivity of this issue, adolescents receive inadequate education, guidance and services on reproductive health (Smith, Kippax & Aggleton, 2000). With their limited knowledge about their bodies and their sexuality, adolescents find themselves vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and infections, including HIV/AIDS, unplanned early childbearing and unsafe abortions. Grunbaum, Kann & Kinchen (2002) opined that in USA, sexual behaviour differed by ethnicity, age, and urban/rural location. In Thailand and the Philippines, family structure was associated with premarital sex: youths living with one parent have higher rate of sexual activity than those living with both parents (French & Dishion, 2003). For many adolescents, experimenting with tobacco, alcohol, sex, and drugs are rites of passage. Associations between sexual activity and substance use have been a consistent research finding. In Kenya, the single most important predictor of sexual activity among adolescent women was the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco (Kiragu & Zabin, 1993) Studies from the USA also

reported similar findings (Coker, Richter & Valois,1994;Richter , Valois, McKeown& Vincent,1993)

The study tends to find out which factors influence the premarital sexual activities to what extent. The findings of the study will enhance the understanding of the premarital sexual activities in the location studied. This will then serve as a starting point for determining what interventions to carry out in order to help youth in their sexual adjustment. Hence the following hypotheses were raised:

1. There is no significant singly and combined contribution of Society, Economic, Youth Nature and premarital sex activities.
2. There is no significant difference between Society, Youth Nature And Economic influence on premarital sexual activities.
3. There is no significant relationship between Society, Economic, Youth Nature and Premarital Sex Activities

## **Method**

### **Design**

The study adopted as descriptive survey design of ex-post facto type. This is so because the researcher is only interested in determining the influence of the predictors' variables (Society, Economic, Youth nature) on the criterion variables (premarital sex)

### **Population, Sample and Sampling techniques**

The population for this study was made up of Youth in one of the public University in Nigeria. A sample of 250 students was randomly selected. The mean age of the respondent was 39.2 while the standard deviation was 3.291.

### **Instrumentation:**

The study made use of a structured questionnaire titled Youth Attitude towards Sexual Practices

(YATSP). This was constructed by the researchers and has three sections A, B and C. Section A contains information on personal data. Section B contains fifteen (15) statements testing sexual practice attitude divided into 3 scales; Society, Economic, Nature. Respondents were expected to tick the column which best described their opinion The measurement scale for this instrument is a 4-point Likert-type scale in which Strongly Agree scored (4 points), Agree (3 points), Disagree (2 points) and strongly disagree (1 point). Section C also has fifteen items assessing the factors influencing adolescents' attitude towards sexual practices. These items were drawn from various sources of literature that pointed out factors influencing adolescents' sexual practices.

### **Validity and Reliability**

The instrument was subjected to scrutiny by experts in guidance and counselling, educational psychology and measurement and evaluation, and was considered to be valid in terms of face and content validity. Some questions were reconstructed, while some were deleted. The instrument was administered to them and re-administered after a two-week interval. The Cronbach Alpha co-efficient of reliability was used to test the reliability. The reliability coefficients obtained was 0.76.

### **Results**

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant singly and combined contribution of Society, Economic, Nature and premarital sexual activities.

**Table 1: Multiple Regression (Backward), showing singly and combined contribution of Society, Economic, Nature and premarital sexual activities.**

Model	R	R square	Adjusted square	Std error at the estimate
1	.180 <sup>a</sup>	.424	.421	5.49852
2	.301 <sup>b</sup>	.549	.543	3.64986

3	.327 <sup>c</sup>	.572	.564	2.19875
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- a. predictors: (constant) Society
- b. predictors (constant) Society, Economic
- c. predictors (constant) Society, Economic, Nature

The result above indicated that economic, nature and society on activities taken together and singly contribute to premarital sex activities. In the Model summary above, Model 1, shows that  $R = .180$ ;  $R^2 = .424$  and adjusted  $R^2$  of .421, which implies society influence contributed 42.1% to premarital sexual activities. Model 2 shows that a combination of Society and Economic influence,  $R = .301$ ;  $R^2 = .549$  and  $R^2$  adjusted = .543 that is 54.3% is responsible for premarital sexual activities. Model 3; a combination of Society, Economic and Nature  $R = .327$ ;  $R^2 = .572$  and  $R^2$  adjusted = .564, hence 56.4% contributed to premarital sexual activities. The hypothesis of no combined contribution is discarded.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant difference between society, nature and economic influence on premarital sexual activities.

**Table 2- Analysis of Variance (One-Way) between Society, Nature and Economic Influence on Premarital Sexual Activities.**

	Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2661.641	1	266.641		
	Residual	7500.264	248	30.243	8.803	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Total	10161.905				

2	Regression Residual Total	4061.770 3290.287 7352.057	2 247	2030.885 13.321	15.3452	.000 <sup>b</sup>
3	Regression Residual Total	4754.048 1189.41 5943.458	3 246	1584.683 4.835	32.76785	.000 <sup>c</sup>

a. p  
redi  
ctor

s: (constant) Society

- b. predictors (constant) Society, Economic
- c. predictors (constant) Society, Economic, Nature
- d. Dependent variable :- premarital sexual activities

Result above show the ANOVA (one-way) of Society, Economic, Nature and premarital sexual activities It is seen that in Model 1, Society ( $F_{1, 248} = 8.803$ ;  $p < 0.5$ ); Model 2, is a combination of Society and Economic ( $F_{2, 247} = 15.342$ ;  $p < 0.5$ ) and Model 3, Society, Economic, Nature ( $F_{3, 246} = 32.768$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Hence hypothesis of no significant difference is hereby discarded and the alternate is accepted.

**H<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between Society, Economic, Nature and premarital sexual activities.

**Table 3: Mean, Standard Deviation and Correlation Matrix between Society, Economic, Nature and Premarital Sexual Activities**

		Mean	Stand Dev.	Premarit al Sex Activitie s	Econom ic	Societ y	Youth Nature
SEX	Pearson Correlatio n	10.543 2	6.931	1	.621**	.720**	.598**

	N			250	250	250	250
Economic	Pearson Correlation N	6.852	3.891	.621** 250	1 250	.145 250	.200 250
Society	Pearson Correlation N	8.573	4.313	.720** 250	145 250	1 250	217 250
Youth Nature	Pearson Correlation N	6.145	3.754	.598** 250	.200 250	.217* 250	1 250

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Results indicated the mean, standard deviation and Pearson product moment correlation of the independent and dependent variables. It is seen that premarital sexual activities is positively correlated to society (  $r = .720$ ;  $P < .05$ ; and Economic reason (  $r = .621$ ;  $P < .05$ ; lastly to Youth nature (  $r = .598$ ;  $P < .05$ ; Also, Youth Nature is related to Society as (  $r = .217$ ;  $P < .05$ ; but Economy is not correlated to Society as (  $r = .316$ ;  $P > .05$ ; and Youth Nature (  $r = .200$ ;  $P > .05$ . Hence the hypothesis of no relationship is discarded.

### **Discussion**

The findings of this study as indicated in table1 revealed that single and combination of society influence, economic and nature of youth when taken together could be effective in predicting youth premarital sexual activities. The result showed that 42.4% 54.3% and 57.9% (Model 1- Model 3) of variance in the premarital sexual activities was accounted for by the independent variables. Although the relationship between the criterion and independent variables

taken together was not too high as shown by the co-efficient of multiple regression. This could not have happened by chance; notwithstanding that a large percentage of the variance of the premarital sexual behaviour could not be explained by the current data. The F-value in table 2 is an indication that the independent variables are true determinants and predictors of premarital sexual activities as they revealed a significant difference. Considering our society one would not have expected anything other than a significant difference. A good society had been said to be a place with high moral standard. Considered the state of our society where knowledge is on the increase, then moral decadence is also on the increase due to the fact that there is no respect for family institution. This view is line with the research finding of Ademola,2005;Afolabi,Filade&Adeoye,2009;White,2004). The unstable economic has been pointed out to be a gateway to antisocial behaviour. The youth are more into prostitution as a result to make end meet. That is, as economic tends to become hard, premarital sexual activities increases. Lastly youthful age one period experimenting with sex, youthful exuberant and other vices are display. It is however not surprising to see that youth nature is significant to premarital sexual activities.

Table 3, confirmed the result of in table 1 and table 2, there is a strong positive relationship between society influence, economic influence, nature of youth and premarital sexual activities. The implication of this finding is that a well balance economy, good society will have a positive influence on premarital activities.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the findings above, it can be summarized that a well discipline society, improved economy and right upbringing of youth will reduce premarital sexual activities.

## **Recommendation**

Based on the outcomes of this research exercise it is hereby recommended that:

- i. Government, Religious leaders and Counseling Psychologist should help in propagating good moral conduct as to create a conducive society
2. Economic of the country must be improved as to help the youth from going into prostitution.

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