



SOCIAL FACTS

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(SOFUOJOSA) Vol. 2 Issue 3&4 November 2021

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Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Faculty of Social Sciences
Federal University, Otuoke Bayelsa State Nigeria

**Social Facts: FUOtuke Journal of Sociology and Anthropology
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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, FACULTY OF
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NIGERIA**

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- Only papers with at least two positive assessment reports shall be considered for publication. Publication fee for an accepted paper is N20000 (Twenty Thousand Naira) or \$75 for international authors.
- SOFUOJOSA will be published biannually (June and November). However, there may be considerations for special editions as deemed fit by the Editorial Board.
- Each article should have a maximum of 15 pages length of A4 from title to the last reference entry with 1.5 spacing and 12 point font size in Times New Romans. Authors must stick to the current APA referencing format.
- Empirical articles should be arranged in the following order; title page [title of article, name(s) of author(s), address(s), & functional email(s)], abstract (a minimum of 150 and a maximum of 300 words with at least 5 keywords that describe the work), introduction, objectives, conceptual and or theoretical framework, methodology and/or experimental procedures, results and discussion, conclusion and recommendations, references.
- While all other guidelines may apply, theoretical articles, book reviews and other academic essays may not necessarily follow the order of arrangement described for empirical papers above. However, any format followed must show logical consistency with regard to structure, arguments and general ethic of scholarship.

Editor's Note

Social Facts: FUOtuke Journal of Sociology and Anthropology (SOFUOJOSA) emerged out of the need to stimulate as well as sustain a healthy intellectual platform for addressing the fundamental issue of order in human society. Its central purpose is to stand out as a medium to galvanize rigorous empirical and theoretical papers that address burning national, regional and international issues with a view to improving the well being of humanity.

SOFUOJOSA is a peer-reviewed journal established by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Nigeria, to promote research and scholarship based on rational deductive and inductive analysis with indigenous (Nigerian) and international outlook to enable scholars publish their research and other findings that address critical societal issues. SOFUOJOSA provides a platform to contribute towards the growth and development of Nigeria through healthy research findings.

SOFUOJOSA's policy rests on the following:

- Provide high quality outlet for the publication of indigenous and foreign research, book review and other manuscripts
- Encourage Nigerian and other African scholars to publish locally
- Provide a forum for Intellectual debate and dialogue
- Make research findings available to scholars, students and the general public
- Resuscitate intellectual debate in Sociology and Anthropology as well as other social sciences and humanities
- Serve as an outlet to provide practical solutions to social problems in Nigeria through research.

This maiden edition (Vol. 1, Issue 1 & 2) of SOFUOJOSA was launched in 2020 and it proved to be a masterpiece as it hosted well researched papers from notable scholars from far and near. This tradition of attracting high quality articles is now reflected in the second volume (Vol. 2, Issue 3 & 4) owing to the outstanding peer review process of SOFUOJOSA.

On behalf of the Editor-In-Chief and the members of the Editorial Board, I wish to thank, the Journal Committee, all the scholars who contributed articles to SOFUOJOSA, our peer reviewers and colleagues at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. We look forward to a resourceful, productive and sustainable intellectual journey with SOFUOJOSA in the coming years.

Michael-Olomu, Oyintonyo Ph.D.

Associate Editor-in-Chief

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Academics (NAWACS) which is a platform for women academics to address and agitate for their interests. But they turned themselves to social group for feasting, and dining rather than engage and interrogate relevant authorities of issues that border on fair treatment to women and the interest of the university in general". In another development, a female Head of Department recounted her experience thus: "... you recall when we had a woman as one time Vice Chancellor in this university, the vehement opposition that greeted her appointment was something else...because she is woman unfortunately her tenure was characterized with crisis..... during her tenure it also alleged that her husband who is also a senator in the university was de facto vice chancellor that was actually directing the affairs behind the scene" Another senator remarked also that when it comes to the issues of gender main streaming it is often trivialized in most cases, "... during my inaugural lecture I made a plea for the Institute of Gender studies a body that would address and manage gender main streaming and the university management promised to refer and discusses the matter with the relevant authority ... up till now that request have been abandoned".

Discussion of Findings

It is evidently clear from the data that senior management positions in Ambrose Alli University are dominated by males. While it is not unexpected that males would dominate key positions in the university but the disparity between the male and female occupants of these positions is alarming as it doesn't reflect the composition of women in the university. Respondents' responses to the different factors limiting women from holding key positions show that male hegemony is a strong factor, followed by suspicion among males that women are not capable and committed in handling senior management positions. The study also reveals that the numerical strength of males against the females is a strong militating factor while absence of gender main streaming policy was also identified by a sizeable number of the respondents.

It is also the view of most female respondents that too much emphasis on meritocracy and strict observance to extant rules without recourse to gender consideration have adverse effect on the females in terms of recruitment, promotion and occupation of senior management position. It is also reported by the female respondents that the cultural definition and perception of women from their domestic environment as the subordinated group is similarly reflected on women in the work place so that when women occupy key positions it is seen as an aberration. Generally, most male respondents identified the psychology of women such as domineering tendency when they occupy positions, quarrelsomeness, non-commitment to official responsibilities, seeing men as not always predictable and reliable, suspiciousness among others, are believed to be the psychological characters of women. Even though these could be stereotypes without much empirical basis.

Conclusion and Recommendations

For about three decades now the issue of gender equality has been in the front burner of most gender fora. It is arguably believed that not much have been done. Therefore, the need to change the narratives of gender equality has become imperative. It is in this view, that this study recommends the need for **gender equity** as first instance. Gender equity will help to appreciate the disadvantaged position of women from their domestic domain to public life. Some of the contents that should be accommodated in this advocacy for

Peer Pressure and Attitude to Premarital Sex among Youths: A Study of Students in University of Ilorin, Ilorin

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Abstract

Youths are an integral part of the society. Contributions being made towards development all over the world involve youths in one manner or another. However, the period of youthfulness is quite problematic. It is a time stage in which people are just discovering various elements of themselves. As such, the youths often fall prey to peer pressure. Peer pressure can be quite harmful to youths, eroding their sense of self-confidence and independence. As such, the study sought to determine the nature of the association between peer pressure and attitude towards premarital sex. The study made use of the Social Bond Theory in order to facilitate better understanding of peer pressure. The study adopted a qualitative design, using a quantitative method of data collection and analysis. Using a multistage sampling technique, 400 respondents were selected for the study. The obtained data were analyzed using spear man rank correlation. The analyzed data reveal a significant association between peer pressure and youths' attitude to premarital sex. Based on this, the study recommends that seminars be organized to enlighten youths on self-confidence.

Keywords: Peer Pressure, Attitude, Premarital Sex, Youths

Introduction

In the period of youth, people naturally break away from their families, taking part in varying roles and scenarios in a bid to discover themselves and their place in the scheme of things. Youths spend more time in presence of peers and less time with members of the family. This is a typical and healthy period of development. However, the ensuing gap between youths and their parents, accumulative standing of peers can be a basis for anger and conflict within in the family. The longing to be accepted is one of the sturdiest forces in youths; which can result in youths engaging in acts they know to be hazardous, wrong, or risky. On a positive note, the burden to fit in with the peer group can as well motivate youths to realize goals they might never seek by themselves. Youths desire to be with other youths, who provide shared support as against their parents, who they believe to be authoritarian in nature. Perhaps this is why the issue of peer pressure is of great interest to various researchers. In Erikson's theory of Identity vs. Identity Confusion, youth is seen to be a stage of development in which people are more vulnerable to peer pressure as a result of the alteration in emotional dependence from parents to peers (Wall, Power & Arbona, 1993; Berk, 2004).

Peer pressure can be depicted to be the influence exerted by a peer group in swaying an individual to alter his or her values, actions, or attitude to obey the group dynamics. An

individual influenced by peer pressure could or could not desire to fit into these groups. They might as well identify dissociative sets of people that they do not desire to fit in, and consequently take on beliefs in antagonism to those of the group (Adams, 1996). In a similar vein, Harris (1998) stated that peer pressure lead individuals to engage in acts they would not customarily do, e.g., drug use, premarital sex, purchase of costly items, etc. Research has indicated that over the last 50 years, peer pressure has appeared to be the chief source of values and behavioural stimulus for youths, supplanting the power of adults. However, in line with this novel is severe antisocial actions (Neufeld & Mate, 2005). Though, the extent of deviance is different between peer groups, the adverse actions of a group member will escalate the possibility of other people partaking in comparable actions. (Gifford-Smith, Dodge, Dishion & McCord, 2005).

In numerous African countries, youths have different desires, strategies and motivations for partaking or believing in premarital sexual associations, such as the belief that it enhances prospects for marriage, as a proof of fertility to future spouses, and for financial remunerations (Meekers, 1994). Youths as well partake in premarital sex to satiate sexual curiosity and satisfaction. The practice of holding multiple partners is habitually regarded as a means for youths to obtain respect amongst peers (Aderibigbe & Araoye, 2008). Early sexual activity typically exposes youths to pregnancy and infectious diseases. In Nigeria, youths in the age range of 10- 19 are 31.7% of the total populace numbering 151.87 million in 2009, with closely identical proportion of females and males (49.9% females versus 50.1% males) (Olokor, 2012). In the year 2003, youths were only 18% of the populace of 126 million, (FMOH, 2003). As much as 50% of these youths, particularly those in school have had their sexual debut around the age of 14-18years across Nigeria, (FMOH, 2003).

Humans are naturally gregarious in nature. The need to find comfort, acceptance, recognition or to maintain any other form of association with another is natural to humans. Among youths, this need is naturally more as they are still in a process of self-discovery. This is where peers come in. Naturally, peers often provide that comfort youths require in going through daily activities. Under graff (2001) stated that youths spend more than half of their time amongst peers, and is not consequently astounding that peers occupy a huge role in the lives of youths. He further stressed that the power, authority, standing and the influence of peers are higher during youthfulness than any other period in one's existence. Omoegun (1995) also cited that youths are drawn towards associating with their peers. As a consequence of this, actions taken or beliefs held by members sway the behaviour of others belonging to the group. Youths go through certain psychological and physical alterations during puberty that exposes them to risks. The desire for peer approval is indicated in the manner in which they speak, dress, walk and in their overall interests so that they can fit in with the group. Consequently, peers are often cited to be the causative factor for a barrage of youth behaviour, ranging from substance use to attitude towards premarital sex, etc. (Oetting & Beauvais, 1987). Research has made it known that over the last 50 years, peer pressure has emerged to be the chief source of values and behavioural sway in youths, replacing the influence of adults. Along with this new trend has come a surge in antisocial actions. Research works have reinforced and protracted this position,

indicating that peers occupy a critical role in causing harmful activities (Gifford-Smith, Dodge, Dishion & McCord, 2005), and that peer pressure inclines youths to numerous kinds of deviance, comprising of alcoholism, gangsterism, theft, etc. This suggests that, though youths obtain information concerning behaviours from teachers, parents and the media, peers occupy a vital role in a youth's growth by influencing their normative views and understandings of information regarding activities, such as premarital sex. Peer norms now decide if an action is desirable or not. Peer pressure lead to a youth's loss of confidence, resulting in low levels of self-esteem. This dip in self-esteem and a reduction in self-confidence could thus affect the youth's well-being. This study will be concerned with the influence of peer pressure on attitude towards premarital sex.

Studies have been carried out on peer pressure and attitude towards premarital sex among youths. However, a large proportion of these studies fail to address the varying dimensions of peer pressure in association to attitude towards premarital sex. The few studies that have addressed some dimensions of peer pressure in association towards attitude to premarital sex have their study setting outside Nigeria. Herein lies the void that this study will seek to fill. By having Ilorin as the study setting and being attuned to the varying dimensions of peer pressure and pornography, this study would prove to be a worthy contribution to available literature.

Objectives of the Study

The study has the overall objective of investigating the association between peer pressure and attitude to premarital sex among youth students in University of Ilorin, Ilorin. In order to achieve this, the study has the following specific objectives:

- i. To find out the association between direct peer pressure (DPP) and youths' attitude to premarital sex in the study area.
- ii. To determine if indirect peer pressure (IPP) is a factor that can affect youths' attitude towards premarital sex in the study area.

Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is the immediate impact on individuals by friends, or the impact on a person who gets urged to copy their buddies by altering their attitude, cherished qualities or practices to adjust to those of the peers (Jang, Park, & Song, 2016). This can bring about either a positive or negative impact, or both. Social gatherings influenced consist of both membership groups, in which people are "officially" members, (for example, trade unions and political parties), and factions, in which enrollment is not plainly characterized. Notwithstanding, an individual does not need to be a part or be looking for enrollment in a gathering to be influenced by peer pressure. Peer pressure can diminish one's self confidence. It can influence the lives of people radically.

There have been significant researches with respect to peer pressure's impact on youths and kids, and in prevalent talk, the term is for the most part utilized with regards to those categorizations. For kids, the normal topics for study entail their capacities for decision making, free of encroaching influences from peers; for youths, peer pressure's association with sex and substance misuse have been altogether looked into. Peer pressure can influence people of all ethnic groups, ages and genders, notwithstanding. Peer pressure has moved from basic physical interaction to computerized ones as well. Social media

open doors for grown-ups and youths to ingrain as well as experience peer pressure (Jang, Park, & Song, 2016). Research findings indicate that people as well as companies, for example, enormous corporations, can be swayed by peer pressure, for example, pressures from different companies in their headquarter city or similar industrial line/trade line (Marquis & Tilcsik, 2016).

Classifying Peer Pressure

Prabhakar (2019) classified peer pressure into the following:

- i. **Direct Peer Pressure (DPP):** A circumstance wherein a peer encourages another not to take part in a specific demonstration is a case of DPP. The friends speak with the individual, looking to influence his/her psyche in a straightforward manner to veer off a specific path. DPP is stronger than the indirect as the peer is not allowed adequate time to contemplate and when swayed by more than one peer, at that point the opportunity of impact is stronger.
- ii. **Indirect Peer Pressure (IPP):** A circumstance wherein peers veer away from a person so as to impact him/her is called IPP. Here, the person will not be directly conversed to by the companions yet expelled from participating in ensuing activities/talks. The individual would consequently feel left out and contemplate joining the peers.

Peer Pressure in Youthfulness

Youthfulness is the period an individual is most vulnerable to peer pressure as companions become a significant influence on conducts throughout youthfulness, and peer pressure has been known as a sign of youth experience (Brown, 2004). Individuals entering this stage in life become mindful of different individuals around them and understand the significance of recognition in their midst. Conformity to peers in youths is most articulated in terms of taste, style, appearance, belief system, and other qualities (Durkin, 1996). Peer pressure is normally depicted with scenes of youths taking risks in light of the fact that these exercises typically happen in the presence of peers (Steinberg & Monahan, 2007). Alliance with peers who participate in risky acts has been demonstrated to be a solid indicator of a youth's very own conduct (Spear & Kublok, 2001). Peer pressure can likewise have beneficial outcomes when youths are compelled by their friends toward positive conduct, for example, volunteering for philanthropy or exceeding expectations in academics. However, the significance of peer pressure decreases after reaching adulthood (Steinberg & Monahan, 2007).

Despite the fact that socially acknowledged youths regularly have the most pleasant encounters, studies indicate that social acknowledgment (being in the famous crowd) may boost the probability of participating in dangerous conduct, contingent upon the standards in the group. Gatherings of popular youths demonstrated an inclination to increased dangerous, drug-associated and reprobate conduct, when this conduct was probably going to get endorsement in their gatherings. Peer pressure was most prominent among popular youths since they were most sensitive to the decisions of their friends, making them increasingly helpless to peer pressure (Allen et al., 2005). Gender as well affects the measure of peer pressure a youth encounters: young ladies report essentially higher

weights to adjust to their groups through dress decisions or patterns of speech (Clasen & Brown, 1985). As well, ladies and young men revealed contrasting measures of pressures in various aspects of their lives, probably mirroring an alternate arrangement of priorities and values for every gender (Brown, 2004). Peer pressure creates a wide exhibit of outcomes perceived to be negative. Allen, Porter and McFarland (2006) demonstrated that vulnerability to peer pressure in 13-and 14-year-olds was prescient of future reaction to peer pressure, yet additionally a more extensive exhibit of functioning. For instance, depression symptomatology, diminishing popularity, increased sexual conduct, and other conveyed conducts were more noteworthy for susceptible youths. Substance use was additionally caused by susceptibility to peer pressure to such an extent that more noteworthy susceptibility was prescient of more prominent liquor and drug abuse.

Attitude

Attitude is a mental construct, a psychological and emotional element that inheres in, or portrays an individual (Allport, 2010). They are perplexing and a gained state through encounters. It is a person's inclined perspective with respect to a value and it is precipitated through a responsive articulation towards an individual, spot, thing, or occasion (the frame of mind object) which impacts the person's action and thought. All port (2010) portrayed this latent mental construct as the most unmistakable and crucial idea in contemporary social psychology. Attitude can be shaped from an individual's present and past. The components of attitude as given by Breckler (1984) are:

1. **Affective component:** The affective component of attitudes refers to your feelings or emotions linked to an attitude object. Affective responses influence attitudes in a number of ways. For example, many people are afraid/scared of spiders. So this negative affective response is likely to cause you to have a negative attitude towards spiders.
2. **Behavioral component:** The behavioral part attitude alludes to the manner in which the attitude we have impacts how we behave or act.
3. **Cognitive component:** The cognitive segment of attitude alludes to the convictions, attributes and musings that we connect with an object/event. Ordinarily an individual's attitude may be founded on the positive and negative attributes they partner with an object/event.

Attitude towards Premarital Sex

Before, Nigerians regarded sexual conduct with incredible respect. There was social preclusion of pre-marital sexual behaviour, however it has been seen that youths never again hold fast to the social guidelines in regards to sex. As per Bell and Chaskes (1970), Kaats and Davis (1970), Mosher and Cross (1971), attitude of present day youths towards pre-marital sexual exercises have turned out to be more liberal and lenient than what it was before. Youths' sexuality uncovers a moving kaleidoscope of brilliant sentiments and changes that can be energizing and startling, pleasurable and agonizing, happy and dismal, adoring and abhorring. Talking on the above perception, Conger (1961) expressed that of all the formative occasions of youthfulness, the most emotional is the expansion in sexual drive and the new and frequently baffling sentiments and musings that go with it. Because of the youths' sensational advancement in pre-marital sexual attitude, Wagner

(1980) was exceptionally stressed when he contrasted it and the standard conduct.

Additionally, Okieh (1981) stated that virginity as a part of growing up is presently something uncertain. Zelnik, Kanter and Ford (1981) cited that there is currently a liberal frame of mind towards premarital sex among youths and this is in a high increment. This, they cited is occurring worldwide. The circumstance is not different in Nigeria, as indicated by Salami (1981), the Nigerian culture is so soaked with moral laxities that premarital sex is regular at all levels of our educational system. They noted additionally that youths of pubertal stage in primary schools have sex as well. This disposition of the present day youths towards pre-marital sex has turned out to be progressively across the board for practically all age groupings (Phipps-Yonas, 1980). Onwuamanam (1988) in a review said that the customary qualities among Nigerians for sacredness of sex is nowhere to be found. He went further to state that, here and now can be portrayed as a time of "sex explosion" in which youths are getting a charge out of sexual intercourse. He additionally cited that there is proof of high pace of pre-marital sexual intercourse among Nigeria youths (Onwuamanam, 1983)

Agbaje (1991), as cited from Atkinson, Atkinson and Hilgard's study on youths' sexual standard and conduct' found a practically progressive change attitude towards sexual intercourse. They went further to state that in studies with respect to pre-marital sex, homosexuality, extra-marital sex and explicit sexual acts are likely more open and lenient today than they have at any period in time. Additionally, they cited that, youths have access to stimulants of sex in magazines, TVs and the films to a more prominent degree than previously, decent contraception techniques and possibility of abortion has diminished the dread of pregnancy. These changes give the youths more opportunity today. They have progressively lenient disposition towards sex.

Empirical Review

Researchers have often revealed a association between peer pressure and premarital sex. Studies, such as that of Crockett (2019) related peer pressure with low self-regulation as the determinant factor influencing premarital sex. He discovered a connection between self-regulation and likelihood have sexual intercourse. The more problem a youth had with self-regulation and self-restraint while growing up, the more likely the probability of falling prey to peer pressure that would lead them to take part in sexual activities. In light of these findings, the study recommended the introduction of programs encouraging independent decision making (Crockett, 2019).

In another research, Shulz et al (1977) discovered that among college first year students and seniors, each extra peer perceived to be sexually active expanded the respondents' odds of being sexually active by 12 percent. Additionally, Shulz et al (1977) found just 20 percent of the students were sexually active among the individuals who saw none of their five closest peers as being sexually active. But, this figure expanded to 85 percent rate of sexual activity among students who saw every one of the five of their closest peers as being sexually active. Moreover, Delamater and Mac Corquodale (1979) found in their study that the sexual conduct of a youth's friends was the variable most profoundly related with the youth's own sexual conduct. Jessor and Jessor (1977) utilized longitudinal data to

record the change from virginity into non virginity, with the data uncovering that youths who are going about to become sexually active report an altogether higher number of peers who are engaged with sexual relations than do teenagers who remain virgins. It was also uncovered that one variable exceptionally prescient of becoming sexually active among youths was the sexual activity of the peer group that the youth relates with.

Other studies have discovered the connection between peer influence and attitude towards premarital sex among youths, such as the one by DiBlasio and Benda (1990), revealing that revealed that the fact that majority of the youths' peers were having sex influenced the attitude towards it. Research has reliably exhibited that peers' sexual conduct shapes and impacts the attractive perception and of pre-marital sexual intercourse for both females and males, but that peer influence is normally stronger for males than it is for females (Clayton, 1972; Miller and Simon, 1974; Libby et al., 1978). Wood roof (1986) made it known that peers can impact other youths to remain sexually inactive just as affecting them to take part in pre-marital coitus. Wood roof (1986) found that teenagers with explicitly sexually inactive friends are bound to be explicitly inactive themselves. Wood roof's outcomes plainly demonstrated the virgins in his investigation have explicitly sexually inactive peers, exerting an incredible impact on the choice to stay as virgins just as participating in pre-marital sexual intercourse.

Social Bond Theory

As stated by Bartol and Bartol (2011), Hirschi conveyed a theory of social bond, which is also referred to as the social control theory. Hirschi rejected the tenets of the strain and differential association theories, that behavior was either triggered or learned by incidents in one's surroundings (Pratt, Gau & Franklin, 2011). In the view of Bartol and Bartol (2011), social bond theory champions the idea that people act in certain ways as a result of their bond with the society or peer groups. The theory cites that everyone, from birth, typically develops these bonds with other societal members.

According to Hirschi, four forms of bonds exist that people advance. The bonds comprise of attachment, commitment, involvement and belief. Attachment denotes the extent of mental warmth one has for certain institutions or others. Commitment cedes to the significance of the associations that people cherish, which is not to be endangered by engaging in deviance. Involvement relates to the opportunity costs related with how individuals fill their time. It refers to the common saying that "idle hands are the devil's workshop". Belief refers to the extent to which holds values that are in line with accepted behaviours. The belief bond emphasizes that the more vital people's values are, relative to a certain deviant act, the less likely the possibility of deviance taking place.

Application of the Social Bond Theory

In applying the social bond theory to this study, peer groups are brought under scrutiny. In line with this, attachment entails the level of affection youths have for their peer groups. In essence, the greater the sense of affection for their peer group, the more likely the possibility of succumbing to peer pressure. In terms of commitment, it entails the importance accorded to the peer groups. Youths succumb to peer pressure as importance is accorded to the established mores in their peer groups. Therefore, the more the sense of

commitment, the more likely the possibility of being pressured by peers. As to involvement, it spells for the severity in which youths are involved in day-to-day activities with their peers.

Consequently, people who are more involved in some form of activity, serving as a form of reinforcement of the beliefs in the group are more likely to succumb to peer pressure. Belief entails the thoughts held by people towards their peer groups. The more positive the belief, the more likely the possibility of being influenced by peers. With the combination of attachment, commitment, involvement and belief, the effect of peer pressure is depicted. Although the social bond theory has served in explaining the workings of peer pressure, it fails to capture the workings of pornography in this study. This is why rational choice theory comes into fray.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the University of Ilorin, which is a federal government-owned university in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. It was established by a Decree of the Federal Military Government in August, 1975. The establishment aimed to implement one of the educational directives of the Third National Development Plan which was aimed at providing more opportunities for Nigerians aspiring to acquire university education and to generate high-level manpower, so vital for the rapidly expanding economy. Compared to other higher institutions of learning in the country, the institution has one of the largest landmass covering approximately 5000 hectares of land. The University has fifteen Faculties and dozens of (over 60) Academic Departments. The Faculties existing in University of Ilorin now are: Arts, Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Management Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Communication and Information Sciences, Education, Engineering and Technology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Law, Basic Medical Sciences and Clinical Sciences (the last two faculties are operating under the University College of Health Sciences).

A quantitative design was employed in this study owing to its advantages. To a great extent, a quantitative design would serve in enhancing the credibility of research. The beauty of this design rises from the fact that it is highly empirical in nature, dealing with numbers, and as the saying goes, "numbers do not lie". The quantitative design entails the use of questionnaire in obtaining pre-empted responses. A quantitative design allows for a standardization of data and procedures. It gives no room for flexibility. Statistical analysis however serve in the provision of cherished facts from conducted researches. With the recognition of the strengths of this design, it is consequently resorted upon. The population of study consists of all youth students of University of Ilorin, Ilorin. The World Health Organization (2014) defines youths as persons between the ages of 15-24. In line with this, the population of study is the total number of students of University of Ilorin in the age range of 15-24. A sample size of 400 students was utilized for data collection using a multi-stage sampling technique. This involved the use of simple random sampling in the selection of ten faculties in the University of Ilorin. Following this, 40 respondents were purposively selected from each faculty within the age bracket of 15-24. The data used for the study was obtained through questionnaire distribution. The data obtained from the field was analyzed with the use of Spearman Rank Correlation, carried out through Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Results

The presented results are based on the 390 copies of questionnaire retrieved from the field and found to be valid. As such, the study recorded a response rate of 98%. According to Babbie and Moutun (2001), a response rate of at least 50% is adequate for a research, 60% is good and a return rate of 70% is excellent.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis One

H_0 : There is no significant association between Direct Peer Pressure (DPP) and youths' attitude to premarital sex.

H_1 : There is no significant association between Direct Peer Pressure (DPP) and youths' attitude to premarital sex.

Table 1. Correlation of Direct Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex against Likelihood of Engaging in Premarital Sex

			Direct Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex	Likelihood of Engaging in Premarital Sex
Spearman's rho	Direct Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.652**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	390	390
	Likelihood of Engaging in Premarital Sex	Correlation Coefficient	.652**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	390	390

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork

A Spearman's correlation was run to assess the association between DPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex, with the analysis based on 390 respondents. There is a strong positive correlation between DPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex, which is statistically significant, $r(390) = .652, p < 0.01$

Hypothesis Two

H_0 : There is no significant association between IPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex.

H_1 : There is no significant association between IPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex.

Table 2. Correlation of Indirect Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex against Positive Opinions

			Indirect Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex	Positive Conceptions about Premarital Sex
Spearman's rho	Indirect Peer Pressure Experienced on Premarital Sex	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.628**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	390	390
	Positive Conceptions about Premarital Sex	Correlation Coefficient	.628**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	390	390

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork

A Spearman's correlation was run to assess the association between IPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex, with the analysis based on 390 respondents. There is a strong positive correlation between IPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex, which is statistically significant, $r(390) = .628, p < 0.01$

Discussion

Two hypotheses were subjected to test in this study. Hypothesis one revealed a strong positive correlation between DPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex. In essence, the higher the rate of DPP experienced by the youths on matters relating to premarital sex, the higher the possibility of engaging in premarital sex. This supports the findings of Selikow et al. (2009) in a study carried out in Cape Town, South Africa, in which students at selected secondary schools in the locale were examined. They found various practices practiced by students as a consequence of peer pressure: condoms are criticized, dangers of derision for abstinence, and having sexual intercourse with numerous partners was seen as a symbol of high status (particularly for males). The students casually call other people who abstain from sex as "umqwayito", which means dried meat/fruit. Research by Clayton (1972) also showed that peers' sexual conduct affects thoughts about pre-marital sexual intercourse for both genders, but that peer pressure is typically stronger for males than it is for females.

Hypothesis two revealed a strong positive association between IPP and youths' attitude to premarital sex. This is in line with the findings of a research led by Bongardt et al. (2015), which characterized three sorts of peer standards that prompted an individual's attitude to pre-marital sex: descriptive standards, injunctive standards, and outright peer pressure. Descriptive standards and injunctive standards are both observed practices and are in this manner indirect types of peer pressure, however contrast in one key angle: descriptive

standards portray peers' sexual practices, but injunctive standards depict peers' attitude toward those practices (for example endorsement or dissatisfaction). The last standard characterized by the research is called peer pressure, and is utilized to portray direct support or pressure by an individual's peers to take part in sexual conduct. The study also discovered that indirect standards had stronger influences on a youth's choice to take part in sexual intercourse than DPP. Between the two indirect standards, descriptive standards had a more grounded impact: individuals were probably going to attempt what they thought their companions were taking part in as opposed to what they thought had endorsement in their peer group (Bongardt et al., 2015). Miller and Simon (1974), Libby et al. (1978) are researchers who have also discovered a positive association between peer pressure and attitude towards premarital sex in their studies. Essentially, their study revealed that peer pressure, being a dominant force in youths' lives affects the thoughts they have about sexual intercourse.

Conclusion

The study concludes that peer pressure affects youths' attitude towards premarital sex. Peer pressure can be harmful to the individual as it damages self-confidence and an ability to make independent choices. As such, when peer pressure gets out of hand, it becomes dysfunctional. The study revealed DPP to be more powerful than IPP. This is due to its interpersonal nature, involving direct and personal communication.

Recommendation

Based on these findings, the study recommends that seminars should be organized to enlighten youths on self-confidence. Youths ought to be capable of making their own decisions, free of extraneous forces such as peer pressure. Self-confidence is an attribute that builds character and will prove to be valuable. Youths should be taught how to handle peer pressure. This will serve in reducing its onslaught. This can be done by parents, teachers, or any concerned individual. Boundaries should be set up by youths when they feel pressured into doing something they are not sure about.

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