

## Review Article

Factors affecting the stability of marriages in Gombe North, Gombe State, Nigeria.

### **Abstract.**

*This review research is aim in studying causes of marital instability in society as it's continued to effect the growth and development of every societies in which development families and life-long commitment depend on the successful marriages because of its connection to the socialization, security and psychological well-being of an individual individual's as a member of society. The study concerns with contemporary issues that are directly or indirectly influencing marital relations with view to discuss and highlight their effect on the affected individuals and society in general.*

**Comment [MEL1]:** Does not read well. Please reformulate. Do you mean 'This review research is aimed in'?

**Comment [MEL2]:** ?

*It is important to seek solution for the collapse of marriages in our societies in order to address some of the problems facing the societies which include deviant behavior, immoralities, and criminalities among others. Some of the factors identified and discussed below include; attitude and commitment of the couples, cultural condition of the marriage, social media platforms and family and friends intervention.*

**Key words:** Marriage, marital stability, marital instability, couples.

### **Introduction**

The terms marriage is refer as a key social institution in any given human society. It involve relationship between two or more individuals recognized by the laws and customs of the society that fold up with certain rights and duties among them- (Westermack {1921). Marriage on the other hand is refer as an important institution that influencing an individual's social world by first regulating sexual activities of the members of the society as well as bearing and socialization of the children. The couples who became parents are assigned with the responsibilities of taking care of the children and also train them about the norms and values of the society in order to produce a responsible members of the society- Gunjan (2019).

**Formatted:** Highlight

**Comment [MEL3]:** Does not read well. Please reformulate.

**Comment [MEL4]:** Involves?

**Formatted:** Highlight

**Formatted:** Highlight

**Comment [MEL5]:** Does not read well. Please reformulate.

Social scientists attempted to define marriages differently for instance, Giddens (1997) defined marriage Marriage as a 'social recognized relationship and approved sexual union between adults (man and woman) that carry certain rights and obligation'. The definition emphasizes on the relationship between two or

more adults but this definition in some societies should not be applied because the issue of age at marriage is falling dramatically, adolescent marriages are on the rise for examples in developing countries, marriages are arrange not really considering the age of the couples—(Iknur and Banu (2014).

Comment [MEL6]: Arranged?

Formatted: Highlight

Ember and Ember (2010) defined marriage as 'a sanction union between people that establishes certain rights and obligation between them, their children and relatives'. They see marriage as an agreement between people who share certain responsibilities that include the right to property, labor, childbearing, and status among others.

Mazunda (1996) observes that; 'Marriage is a social union of male and female for the purpose of establishing household, sex relation, procreation and providing care for the offspring.' For him, marriage is a relationship that established sexual satisfaction and raising of children, but ~~But~~ this definition has been criticized by others definitions where others argued that marriage is not only an institution regulating sexual intercourse and kept by conjugal affection or an arrangement for bringing up children, it is a partnership between couples for economic and social cooperation and formation of family—(Murdock (1949).

Marital stability is a situation in which couples experiences healthy marital relationships and several factors are attributed to such relationships particularly when couples learn to sacrifice a lot to maintain their relationships which include trust, love, time, understanding, loyalty, sincerity, honesty, patience and companionship—(Okorodudu (2010). Marital stability today is affected by many factors and it is becoming worrisome and witnessing instability globally—(Maciver and Dimkpa (2012). As it continues ~~continue~~ affecting the cognitive, personality and socialization of the children which later effect the development of society—(Duke-Natrebo (2014). As such, Social scientists developed interest in studying factors influencing the stability of marriages in different societies. This study is also motivated to study factors that causes instability of marriages particularly in northern Gombe, Gombe state, Nigeria.

There are number of factors responsible for marital instability but couples who acknowledge define purposed of their marriage deriving more benefit from their marital relation (Jimoh (1999). Those whose attitudes toward their marriage are misperceived between them tend to be inconvenient in their marital relationship—, Virtually Women are influenced by expectations, motivations, sexual satisfactions, and needs satisfactions are being met by their husbands and when their expectations are not achieved ~~achieve~~, they tend to be disobedient, stubborn, not-cooperative to their partner—(Onoyase (2013). Therefore,

understanding the purpose of marriage and attitudes of a partner have positive impact in the stability of marriages. When a couple is familiar or clearly understand his/her responsibilities as a husband or wife i.e. knowing each other's like dislike, hope, dreams, roles help the marital relation (Gotman and Silver (1999)). But at times couples are just motivated by love, family and friends influences to get married not psychologically prepared for the marriage and this development is attributed to so many marital problems in our society today.

Every society has its own unique way of organizing and celebrating marriages pattern (Scott (2003)). In Northern Gombe of Nigeria for instance, marriages are arranged in form of Islamic culture and the first condition in organizing marriage is proposal by the groom family and acceptance by the bride family as "offer and acceptance" (Ahmad (2009)), while during wedding ceremony there is a need for representatives of the families as witness to meet and arrange the marriage based on dowry, physical fitness, psychological health as well as maturity of the newly-married spouse (Ahmad (2009)).

Other minor cultural conditions were introduced recently with its relevance on the status of the family, and these include provision of textiles, make-up materials, jewelries, perfumes, shoes and bags and others needed for the bride from the groom as "LEFE" as well as provision of other cultural materials from the groom family to the bride family. On the other hand, the bride family provides furniture, electronics, and kitchen-wires among others. The contemporary culture introduced, cause lot of financial spending for both families which resulted in debts not only for the families but even for the newly married couples particularly the groom, who suffer a lot and find it difficult to start his marital life and this significantly affect the stability of their marriage.

More so, Social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, among others are introducing people with new forms of cultures by creating sites in which people with different background and culture are interacting with one another (Shabnoor and et al (2016)). As we are all aware social media has enormous impact on our society (Neelamalar and Chitra (2009)). Some social media sites have transformed the way people communicate and relate with others by rendering the opportunity for people to connect with new and old friends, colleagues, mates, and celebrities through helping them to share content, pictures, audios, videos, among others as well as changing their life style (Shabnoor and et al (2016)). This development that emerged, in connecting different people does not only affect societies but rather different forms of

Comment [MEL7]: ?

individual's relationships include marital relationship by not only influencing the behaviors of couples but exposing them to outsiders and making them to be addicted which they spend a lot of time in social networking sites that may divert their concentration to their partner. However, the advent of social media increased the public interest in celebrities even developed into "culture of celebrities" (Chikezie (2017)). Couples are also affected by the celebrity's culture through the social media, (O'Rorke (2006)). In an attempts to emulate their role model in different aspect of life, the marital life ~~becomes become expensive~~ ~~expanses~~ and difficult to sustain between couples which resulted in misunderstanding, worries, and stress that may cause marital instability.

Marital decision ~~making are is~~ made only for the married-partners thus the relevancy of their families will not be ignored but involvement of the family members and friends into marital affairs may cause tension, confusion, pressure on couples and their marital relations, (Katherine (2018)). However, family and friends' involvement into marital decision is not only affecting the marital relation but also the psychological mind of the couples, (Bradley and et al (2016)). Couples are expected to be loyal and obedient to one another but when one lacks ability to make strong decision in their relationship rather reporting his/her partner to the parents, friends or other people will frustrated his/her partner and make him/her disobedient, ~~and challenges,~~ (Billingsley and et al (2005)). It has become good that many couples believe that, it is the best means to settle issues between them without a third party, (Gotman and Silver (1999)).

Marriage life should be with mercy, compassion, tranquility but if the ~~opposite reverse~~ is ~~the~~ case, couples should ~~persue per sue~~ all remedies to rebuilding relationship, (Bradley (2016)). They need to seek for amicable settlement of their differences for peace to reign and not all their issues should be thrown at the doorsteps of friends, families and other external influences however, they should try to keep their marital vows in order to guide against unwarranted marriage break-up, (Roloff and Ifert (2000)). —The stability in marriages is not only affected by the external forces but the financial status of the couples particularly the husband, who is responsible to take care of the family, (Shahina (2009)). When a man is unable to meet up his financial obligation due to the poverty, it will significantly affects the stability of marriage ~~thereof therefore,~~ ~~and~~ it would be good in attempting to address marital instability in society, to create employment opportunities for people such as vocational skills for them to generate incomes in order to take care of the family's needs thus, the society

should ensure or make it mandatory for every one that intend to get married, ~~marry~~ and should have source income either from his occupation or business. however, the society should encourage counselling programmes ~~programs~~ that would enlighten newly married couples about the marital life and how to discharge their duties as couples in order to make them familiar with marital life, this will help in enhances the stability of marriage in our society, Maciver and Dimkpa (2012).

**Comment [MEL8]:** Does not read well. Please reformulate.

The rate of divorce in our societies is increasing all times and it becoming worrisome. Societies or Government need to intervene in the marital life and reconciles aggressive couple for instance, marital cases that are in courts, Judges should intervene by always giving room for reconciliation among affected couples for possible settlement. This will go a long way to reduce the rate of collapsed marriages in our society.

**Comment [MEL9]:** Please provide source.

**Formatted:** Indent: First line: 0 cm

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Societies are suffering from the consequences of marital instability, many children are affected by the marital problems of their parents which not only affecting their socialization but also their psychological well-being, education achievements, occupational performances among others. It also leads ~~lead~~ children to criminal behaviors such as drug abuse, alcoholism, prostitution, deviance and so on which to some extent impacted on the development of society. Therefore, addressing marital instability requires everyone ~~be to~~ partake in addressing this challenge for the success of society as whole.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

### Reference

1. Ahmad, B. D. (2009), Marriage and divorce in Islam. Paper presented at the NTA/FRCN; Annual lecture series 1430: MPRA; paper No. 23194.

2. Allgood, and et al (1997) Social support: Distinguishing clinical and volunteer Couple: The American Journal of family Therapy. Vol. 201 (25)  
PP: 111-119
3. Billingsley, S. and et al (2005), Historical overview of criteria for marital and Family success; Family Therapy: Journal of California Graduate School of Family Psychology. Vol. 32 (1) PP: 1-14
4. Bradley, R. V. (2016), Importance factors in marital success and satisfaction: Marriage counsellor's Perspectives retrieved from Sophia the St Catherine University.
5. Chikezie, E. U. (2017), between media and the youth: exploring the impact of Emerging celebrities' culture on lifestyle of young Nigeria: Journal Of African Studies. Vol. 6 (2), PP: 1-13
6. Duke-Natredo, N. C. (2014), the impact of marital stability in childhood Development in Nigeria: African Education Indices. Vol. 7 (1)  
PP: 1-8
7. Dr. Neelamalar, M. and Ms Chitra, P. (2009), a Study on the impact of social Networking sites on Indian youth: Estudos em comunicac.  
Vol. 6() PP: 125-145
8. Ember, C. M and Ember, M. R (2010) *Cultural Anthropology*, Pearson Education Canada, PN.o9
9. Giddens, A. (1996), *Sociology* 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Macmillan: London, PP:
10. Gotman, J. and Silver Nan (1999) the seven principles for making marriage Work: Crown publishers imprint; three rivers press. PP: 1-2
11. Gunjan, J. (2019), Significance of marriage as social institution in Indian English

- Writing: Journal of Social Values and Society Vol. 1 (1) PP: 17-22
12. Iknur, Y. K. and Banu, A. E. (2014), early marriage: Trends in Turkey, 1978-2008: Journal of Family Issues. Vol. 35 (12) PP 3-4.
  13. Iriogbe, L. (2015), Cultural factors and family background as correlation of Success in Warri metropolis: Abraka, Delta state university.
  14. Jimoh, K. T. (1999), Education, marital stability and productive adult life: A Paper Presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Workshop of Social Education, College of Education and Technical, Lafaigi, Nigeria
  15. Katherine, L. F. and et al (2018), "I love you, not your friends": links between Partners, early disapproval of friends and divorce across 16 years: Journal of Personal Relationships. Vol. 35 (9) PP: 10-13
  16. Maciver, J.E and Dimkpa D. I (2012), *Factors influencing marital stability*, Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, 3, (1)
  17. Mazundar, H.T (1996), *Grammar of Sociology*, Asia publishing House PN: 502
  18. Murdock, G. P. (1949), social structure: Macmillan, New York (USA)
  19. Okorodulu, R. I. (2010), fundamental of marriage and family counselling: Abraka, Delta State University Press
  20. O'Rorke, K. (2006), Social learning theory and mass communication: Abena Journal. Vol. 22 (2)
  21. Onoyase, D. (2013), Sociology of Education, Jony and Co. Wari, Nigeria.
  22. Roloff, M. E and Ifert, D. E (2000), "Conflict management through avoidance: Withholding complaints, suppressing argument and declaring Topics taboo" in balancing the secrets of private disclosures,

Edited by Sandra petronio PP: 63-151

23. Shabnoor, S. and et al (2016), Social media, its impact with positive and Negative aspect: International Journal of Computer Applications Technology and Research. Vol. 5 (2)
24. Shahina, F. (2009), the association of intimacy goals and marital satisfaction: PSPB, Vol. 27 (12) PP: 1567-1577
25. Simeon, E. and et al (2011), the history of social media and its impact on Business: The Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship. Vol. 16 (3) PP: 2-3
26. Scott, R. H. (2003) Marriage in culture: practice and meaning across diverse Cultures: <https://www.researchgate.net/pulication/275735255>.  
PP: 4-6
26. Westermack, E. (1921), the history of human marriage: fifth edition; The Allerton book company.
27. Wimalasena, N. A (2016), *An Analytical Study of Definition of the term; 'Marriage'* International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 6, (1) PP: 1 –9

**Comment [MEL10]:** Alphabetical order.

UNDER PEER REVIEW