



COHABITATION SYNDROME AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS OF ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY, AKUNGBA-AKOKO, NIGERIA

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Abstract:

This study examined the relationship between cohabitation and academic performance of students of Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria (AAUA). The study adopted the descriptive research design of the survey type. Sample of four hundred and sixteen students (416) were randomly selected from all the eight (8) Departments in the Faculty. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed questionnaire titled “Cohabitation and academic performance of Tertiary Institutions Students (CTIS). The results of the analysis showed that cohabitation among students in the Faculty of Education, AAUA was high and that there was a significant relationship between cohabitation and academic performance. Also, age does not have significant influence on cohabitation. The study concluded that cohabitation was in existence among students of the faculty of Education and very high in AAUA. It was also concluded that the menace of cohabitation among students significantly imparted on their academic performance, similarly, age of students does not have significant influence on cohabitation. Government and school administrators should provide adequate and affordable hostel accommodations for all categories of students. Lecturers and other members of staff should work hand in hand to disabuse the minds of the students from the menace of cohabitation and that parents/guardians should supervise and monitor their children/wards closely.

Keywords: Cohabitation, marriage, academic performance, students.

Introduction

In the past, virginity was held in high esteem. Gradually, the introduction of western education brought about liberty to the youth. Many taboos about sexual relationship were distorted,

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destroyed and cancelled. This made young people to be free from fear of gods that might likely kill them if they misbehave. Sexual revolution gives room to freedom about sexual matter. This and many other reasons help the youth to exercise their sexual desire as they like. Cohabitation becomes easier for the youth with the indices of not fearing untimely death, money making rituals, kidnapping or whatsoever. It is now a common trend for the youth to cohabit, act and behave like husband and wife within and outside the campus of universities.

This study was therefore examined how cohabitation relate with the academic performance of undergraduates.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to find out the relationship of cohabitation with academic performance of students in the Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko.

Hypotheses

For this study, the following hypotheses were postulated

1. There is no significant impact of cohabitation on academic performance of students.
2. Age of the cohabitants will not significantly influence the academic performance of the students.

Methodology

The design adopted for this study was a descriptive research of the survey type. The research design used was considered appropriate because it focuses on the observations and the perception of the existing situation. The population for this study comprised all the students in the Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko. The sample for the study consisted of 416 selected respondents from all the Departments within the Faculty. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select the study sample. A self-structured questionnaire titled “Cohabitation and Tertiary Institution Students (CTIS)” was used to collect relevant data for this study. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: Part 1 was on background information while Part 2 elicited information on factors of cohabitation and its impacts on academic performance.

Likert-rating scale format was used to elicit information from the respondents. The scale was based on SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), SD (Strongly Disagree), and D (Disagree). While two null hypotheses of no significance were postulated and tested at 0.05 significance level. The questionnaire was validated by experts using face, content and construct’s validities and a split-half reliability method was used and it yielded a co-efficient of 0.82. This co-efficient represented a relatively high degree of reliability. The questionnaire was administered by the researchers with the assistance of two trained research assistants. Data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Results

In order to test the null hypothesis of no significant impact of cohabitation on academic performance, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis was used at 0.05 significant level.

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Impact of Cohabitation on Academic performance of students.

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Variables	N	X	SD	r-cal	r-tab
Cohabitation	410	1.20	0.403	0.446	0.235
Academic Performance	410	1.16	0.404		

P < 0.05 Significant level.

The result in table 1 showed that r-cal (0.446) is greater than r-tab (0.235). Hence, the null hypothesis of no significant impact was rejected. This implies that there was a significant impacts of cohabitation on academic performance of students of the Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin Akungba- Akoko. This finding was in line with Oluyede (2014) who submitted that most of the students who cohabit find it difficult to graduate and they make lower grades because they do not have enough time to read as majority of them often withdraw from school, while some spend longer time than necessary as a result of carry overs. .

Hypothesis 2; Age of the cohabitants will not significantly influence the academic performance of the students.

Table 2 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on age of students and cohabitation.

Source	SS	Df	MS	F-cal	F-table
Between Groups	374.42	9	187.21	0.533	0.631
Within Groups	56071.32	399	296.67		
Total	56445.75	408			

* P<0.05 (Significant Result)

Table 2 showed that F-cal value of (0.533) was < F-tab of (0.631) at 0.05 significant level. This implies that hypothesis of no significant influence was accepted. Meaning that age does not have significant influence on cohabitation. This findings was in contrary to the findings of Brown (2020) who stressed that cohabitation has been on the rise among adults age as older adults are increasingly likely to experience cohabitation or living together unmarried in an intimate heterosexual union. The scholar found out that 40% of adolescents and children born to single mothers were likely than those born to married mothers to live in a cohabiting household. He further claimed that younger persons are most likely to cohabit as nearly 10% of those aged 51-59 are cohabiting, this decreases to about 7% of those 60-69 and early 2% of those 70 and older. Also, Guzzo (2020) supported these findings when the scholar reiterated that children living in cohabiting households are more likely to suffer from a variety of emotional and social problems, including drug use, depression and dropping out of high school as compared to those in married homes. Similarly, the findings was in line with Isiugo-Abanihe and Oyediran (2004) who revealed that cohabitation is now a culture in most Nigerian tertiary institutions, particularly state-owned universities where on-campus accommodations are almost non-existent as pre-marital sex (a prelude to cohabitation) has become a norm amongst many youths while abstinence is no longer regarded as a virtue. The scholars also claimed that, Nigerian youths reach sexual debut at age 16, in other words, they become sexually active at an earlier age and most of them especially the female youths

are vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhoea, syphilis and the much dreaded HIV/AIDS. This is aside the fact that the females drop-out of school because of unplanned motherhood while unplanned fatherhood does not usually terminate male's schooling.

Discussion of findings

This finding from hypothesis one was in line with Oluyede (2014) who submitted that most of the students who cohabit find it difficult to graduate and they make lower grades because they do not have enough time to read as majority of them often withdraw from school, while some spend longer time than necessary as a result of carry overs. The finding was also corroborated by Abdulahi (2013) who lamented that cohabitation of students in higher institutions of Nigeria is a major challenge of many students because they will procrastinate their studies. More so, the students involved always lose concentration and this inadvertently leads to mass failure of students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. In addition, Timothy (2014) supported the findings who reported that students that are involved in the menace of sexual relationship expose themselves to a lot of emotional and social problems. This may adversely affect their social as well as academic lives. This finding was also in line with Soboye (2013) that many students who cohabit are ignorant because they do not understand the repercussion of cohabitating with each other. However, this may mar their studies as they perform woefully and end their studies with low grades, unwanted pregnancy and lack of concentration, spread of diseases, anti-social behaviours and stay longer in school before graduating.

Hypothesis 2; Age of the cohabitants will not significantly influence the academic performance of the students. This finding was in contrary to the findings of Brown (2020) who stressed that cohabitation has been on the rise among adults age as older adults are increasingly likely to experience cohabitation or living together unmarried in an intimate heterosexual union. The scholar found out that 40% of adolescents and children born to single mothers were likely than those born to married mothers to live in a cohabiting household. He further claimed that younger persons are most likely to cohabit as nearly 10% of those aged 51-59 are cohabiting, this decreases to about 7% of those 60-69 and early 2% of those 70 and older. Also, Guzzo (2020) supported these findings when the scholar reiterated that children living in cohabiting households are more likely to suffer from a variety of emotional and social problems, including drug use, depression and dropping out of high school as compared to those in married homes. Similarly, the findings was in line with Isiugo-Abanihe and Oyediran (2004) who revealed that cohabitation is now a culture in most Nigerian tertiary institutions, particularly state-owned universities where on-campus accommodations are almost non-existent as pre-marital sex (a prelude to cohabitation) has become a norm amongst many youths while abstinence is no longer regarded as a virtue. The scholars also claimed that, Nigerian youths reach sexual debut at age 16, in other words, they become sexually active at an earlier age and most of them especially the female youths are vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhoea, syphilis and the much dreaded HIV/AIDS. This is aside the fact that the females drop-out of school because of unplanned motherhood while unplanned fatherhood does not usually terminate male's schooling.

Conclusion

This study investigated cohabitation syndrome and academic performance of students in the Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko. It was concluded that cohabitation was in existence among students of the Faculty of Education and very high in Adekunle Ajasin, Akungba-Akoko. It was also concluded that the menace of cohabitation among students significantly impacted on their academic performance and age does not have significant influence on cohabitation.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are made;

1. The ultimate aim of counselling is behavioural change. Counsellors are trained to modify behaviours.
2. Counselling is a helping relationship which is concerned with helping the clients who is confused or experiencing maladaptive behaviours to have positive change through an exercise, self-understanding and environmental awareness.
3. Guidance and counsellors should intensify efforts by increasing advocacy on the consequences of the menace of cohabitation and its harmful effects on the students' life, academic and society at large.
4. Counsellors should work hand in hand with the school administrators, co-lecturers and other members of staff to stamp out and disabuse the minds of students on cohabitation at different meetings and gatherings in the campus and lecture rooms.
5. State governments, Local Councils and spirited members of the society should come to the aid of the university and build more hostel accommodations to complement the existing structures at affordable prices.
6. Parents and guardians should monitor and pay adequate attentions to their children and wards.
7. Students should watch-out for the type of friends to associate with and should also stick to their religious beliefs and faith on campus.
8. Adequate up-keep and allowances should be provided for students by their parents and guidance.

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