



# Male Sexual Health Challenges and Marital Relationships among the Yoruba in Southwestern Nigeria

AMOO Emmanuel Olagunju

Demography & Social Statistics, School of Social Sciences,  
Covenant University, Canaanland, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

## Background

Marital intimacy has been on consistent checked by sexual health diseases, divorce, unceremonious-separations and violence between couples. While these concepts have been given individual attention in literature; little attention has been paid to male sexual health challenges as it affects marital relationships.

- ❖ Many wives have ditched their husbands because they lack sexual action
- ❖ Male sexual problems have been sources of marital discontent, has strong behavioral components within the family
- ❖ About 30% and 50 % cases of infertility are inadvertently caused by husbands and male's factor (Shaban, 2007).
- ❖ Some couples have been able to manage the situation while several have opted out .

## Objectives

- Exploring the underlying factors that link male's sexual health challenges to conjugal relationships.
- Identification of men sexual health diseases prevalence in southwestern geo-political zone of Nigeria and,
- To examine level of marital intimacy where the husbands have sexual health challenges.

## Research Questions

- These include, but not limited to, what are the common male sexual health challenges in the study areas?
- What is level of marital intimacy in marriages where the husband is experiencing any sexual health challenges.
- What would the wife do if faced with such situation?, etc

## Research Methods

Data were gathered using quantitative structure face-to-face interview and qualitative focus group discussion (FGD) organised among age groups of (15-34), (35-54) and (55-74) years. Only 110 couples were interviewed in the preliminary stage. Respondents were couples who have resided in the locations of study for over 6 years and were randomly selected from four enumeration areas (EAs) in Ado-Odo/Ota local government areas (LGA) of Ogun State that was picked for the pilot study.

## Results and discussion

- All respondents interviewed were from regular households living together under the same roof, in the same building or compound.
- The average children ever born (CEB) is 3 children
- 13.6 percent of wives have not had any child
- There exist a negative association between lower age groups and marital intimate relationship.
- 14.9 percent of wives are augmenting sexual relationship with other partners outside matrimonial homes
- Respondents with lower level of occupation (like artisan, unskilled labour) are about 0.3 times less likely to endure marriages without satisfying sexual relationship than those in higher occupational cadre.
- 

## Results (contd)

- Respondents without education and those with lower level are about 11.2 times and 45 times more likely to stay within their marriage despite husband's sexual problem that highly schooled respondents

Selected demographic variables					
Educational Attainment	Freq	%	Parity Level (Ever / Never had a child)	Freq	%
No Schooling	20	9.0	Ever had a child	81	36.7
Up to Primary School	49	22.2	Never had a child	30	13.6
Up to 2ndary School	87	39.4	Not Applicable (Men)	110	49.8
Up to University	65	29.4	Total	110	100.0
Total	221	100.0			

  

Awareness and experience of male sexual health challenges (Multiple responses )					
Spontaneous Awareness	Freq	%	Ever Experienced male sexual health challenge	Freq	%
Testicular Cancer	80	36.2	Testicular Cancer	5	4.5
Prostate	72	32.6	Prostate	7	6.4
Andropause	83	37.6	Andropause	6	5.5
Castration	2	0.9	Castration	-	-
Erectile dysfunction	130	58.8	Erectile dysfunction	27	24.5
Gonorrhea	127	57.5	Gonorrhea	41	37.3
No Sperm	12	5.4	No Sperm	-	-
Low Sperm Count	137	62	Low Sperm Count	21	19.1
HIV/AIDS	48	21.7	HIV/AIDS	-	-
			Other sexual diseases	3	2.7
Source: Field survey 2010			Total (men only)	110	100.0



## Policy implications & Recommendations

- That lower education is a positive enhancer of marital harmony vis-à-vis higher education.
- more than half of the male respondents were ignorant of the diseases they carried u
- The point of awareness is physical manifestation through infertility or sexual dysfunctions
- Many of sexual concerns, disorders and dysfunctions are rooted in a lack of information about sexuality. And watchful eyes should be placed on accurate provision of information on functioning of sexual organ
- Author recommends free male-reproductive-health-screening-services' (MARHESS))" that will include sperm, andropause and gonorrhea test should be provided free by the government in the same manner like the free HIV/AIDS test.
- Early discovery of these disease and quick intervention will transmit into enduring intimacy relationship between the couples and societal development.

Indicators of marital intimacy					
Husband living with wife	Freq	%	Feeling about marriage so far	Freq	%
Yes	184	83.3	Feel fulfilled	98	44.3
No	37	16.7	Feel disappointed	50	22.6
Total	221	100.0	Indifference	73	33.0
			Total	221	100.0

  

Frequency of intercourse	Freq		Rate of discussing sexual issues		
1-2 time per month	16.5	36	Often	121	54.8
3-4 times per month	29	64	Not often	52	23.5
5-6 times per month	11.8	26	Not at all	41	18.6
7 times per month	10.4	23	Not Applicable	7	3.2
Irregular	32.3	71			

  

Change in sexual behaviour	Freq	%	Specific change in sexual behaviour	Freq	%
Yes	33	14.9	Secured other partner	11	5.0
No	78	35.3	Others changes	22	10.0
No Applicable (men)	110	49.8	No change at all (wives)	78	35.3
			No Applicable (men)	110	49.8
Total	221	100.0	Total	221	100.0