

INFLUENCE OF FAMILY BACKGROUND AND SCHOOL FACTORS ON SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS PRE-MARITAL SEX IN NIGERIA

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Abstract: *This study examines family background and school factors on attitudes towards pre-marital sex among secondary school students in Lagos, Nigeria. A sample of two hundred (200) students (100 male students and 100 female students) were randomly selected from all four (4) senior secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State using stratified random sampling. A self-designed questionnaire was used to collect the data from the respondents. The data were analyzed using a frequency table, percentages, mean, standard deviation, and chi-square. The findings of the study revealed that certain family background factors influence secondary students to participate in pre-marital sex, consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in engaging in premarital sex, and social factors that also contribute to getting involved in pre-marital sex. Also, there is a significant influence of parental education on pre-marital sex among secondary school students, there is no significant influence of socio-economic status on pre-marital sex and there is no significant influence of students-teacher relationship on pre-marital sex. It is recommended that parents should be aware of several family factors that influence their adolescents' involvement in pre-marital sex in order to avoid challenges in the students' abilities to concentrate on their studies.*

Keywords: Adolescents, Peer pressure, Family Background, School Factors, Attitude, Pre-Marital Sex,

1. Introduction

Sexual activities among adolescent students have been reported to be on the increase worldwide. Several studies in sub-Saharan Africa have also documented high and increasing premarital sexual activities among secondary school students (World Health Organization, 2004). Mehmet (2006) concluded that among the background variables considered, the mother's education, age, ethnicity, and employment status were among the most important predictors of attitudes towards young women's premarital activities. Allen (2003) had earlier reported that several polls have indicated peer pressure as a significant sexual activity predictor, while on the contrary, sexually inducing drugs and alcohol have been identified as factors that may encourage unintended sexual activities (UNICEF, 2001). In southwestern Nigeria, sex before now was regarded as sacred and limited only to adult males and females within the marriage union but today, many adolescents engage in various delinquent behaviours such as drinking alcohol, smoking drug use and drug abuse leading to premarital sexual activities (Alo, 2008). It has also been noticed that most behavioural responses of young people habitually revolve around sexual activities (Inyang, 2007).

Sexual activities among adolescents recently have been reported to have increased worldwide. Until the 1950s, "premarital sex" referred to sexual relations between two people prior to marrying each other. During that period, a number of adolescents in south east Nigeria do not see the consequences of premarital sex as serious problems because of misconceptions about sexuality. They initiate early sexual debut and continued to seek abortion with unqualified physicians where unsafe methods are used (Ojong& Samson-Akpan, 2011). It was the norm in south west Nigeria, for men and women to marry by the age of 21 or 22. The term, 'premarital sex' was used instead of fornication, which had negative connotations, and was closely related to the concept and approval of virginity, which is sexual abstinence until marriage. Owing to these problems generated from premarital sex in Nigeria, several measures have been adopted to avert these by health care providers, government and non-governmental organizations.

In spite of these, there is still clear evidence that sensitization does not achieve the desired impact. This informed the need to carry out this study. According to (Alo 2008), alternative terms for premarital sex have been suggested, including non-marital sex (which overlaps with adultery), youthful sex, adolescent sex, and young-adult sex and it has always been disapproved by most people in Nigeria. These terms also suffer from a degree of ambiguity, as the definition of *having sex* differs from one person

to another. A child learns through the mass media and from their peers mostly unguided. Children learn the important topic of sex education from informal settings due to religious and cultural orientation towards matters of sexuality. The schools system and the home appeared to have failed to give the proper sex socialization to the children citing moral and religious reasons, thus leaving the children to discover their sexuality on their own.

In modern culture, According to Asuzu (2005), social value of sexual abstinence before marriage has declined of testing a girl's fertility before marriage. Historically, a significant portion of people had engaged in premarital sex and it is common among secondary school in Nigeria, although the number of young people willing to admit to this has not always been very high.

According to a 2001 UNICEF survey, in 10 out of 12 developed nations with available data, more than two-thirds of young people have had sexual intercourse while still in their teens. In Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the proportion is over 80%. In Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, approximately 25% of 15-year-olds and 50% of 17-year-old (Manzini, 2001).

In this study, we examine changes and differentials in premarital sexual activity in Nigerian cities. Premarital sexual behaviour is important in this setting for at least two reasons. Nigerian societies have traditionally placed a strong emphasis on the importance of premarital sexual abstinence for women, as discussed below. Thus, the incidence of sexual activity before marriage indicates the lack of adherence to traditional practices by young people and in family control of young woman's behaviour in urban areas. Underlying this concern is the observation that girls and women who become pregnant outside of a socially recognized marriage are much more likely to seek or attempt induced abortion and, if they give birth, may be more likely to abandon their children or to be unable to provide basic care.

Several studies in Sub-Saharan Africa have also documented high and increasing premarital sexual activities among adolescents (World Health Organization, 2001). However, viewing youth as a specific group with their own needs is a relatively recent practice, especially in developing countries (Judith, 1999). Cultural taboos hinder young people in many developing countries to discuss sexual matters explicitly with their parents. It is considered taboo in Nepalese culture and prohibited in Hindu religion. Despite this fact, an increasing number of sexual activities are being reported by Nepalese students. In the context of a global decline in the age of sexual maturation and delaying age of marriage, the opportunity for young people to engage in pre-marital sexual relations becomes more apparent. The proportion of never married young men and women aged 15-19 is steadily increasing and this leads to more unmarried adolescents, particularly young men becoming sexually active outside of marriage. Public opinion polls have consistently shown that pre-marital sex is wrong and dangerous to health resulting in abortions, teenage mothers and sexually transmitted infections (Finer, 2007). Pre-marital sex is sex before marriage and it is generally found among the youths. It takes the form of casual sex, sexual activity without proper consent of the other person, rape, defilement, and incest. The causes behind it have been established including curiosity among the youths, proof of manhood, lust, pornography, and its adverse effects, insanity, and sexual promiscuity as well as moral decadence among the youths (Choe, 2004).

Researchers have observed that there is a prevalence of premarital sexual activities among secondary school students in contemporary society, which leads to a high incidence of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Most adults and school authorities do not condone students' indulgence in premarital sex. To the extent that certain communities carry out disciplinary actions against youths who indulge in this behaviour. The federal health management board engages in a series of campaigns to create public awareness of the danger and circulation of sexually transmitted diseases. However, in this study, the influence of premarital sexual practice among students is fast emerging as a serial social and public health problem. Why do secondary school students get involved actively in premarital sex? Are students aware of the consequences of premarital sex?

The teachers blame the government for poor salaries hence they are poorly motivated, parents also accuse the government of not equipping the schools with learning materials, the government blames parents for not doing enough at home and the students are blamed for lack of discipline and dedication to their studies.

Premarital sex among adolescents and young people seems to have occupied much of their attention. In the four decades, that have passed since the world witnessed the onset of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, it has grown into a pandemic that has devastated families, communities, and nations worldwide. Globally, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV and AIDS) epidemic remains a major public health, social, economic, and development challenge. These problems can be aggravated among low-income families, the lack of awareness about sexual and

reproductive health issues, and certain harmful traditional practices. Current statistics on HIV/AIDS indicate that one-half of all new HIV infections worldwide occur among young people ages 15 to 24. Every minute, five young people worldwide become infected with HIV/AIDS due to unsafe and unprotected sexual activities, hence the need for the study to examine the influence of family background and school factors on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students.

2. Research Questions

1. What are the family background factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards premarital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?
2. What are the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?
3. What are the school factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

3. Hypotheses

The following research hypothesis will guide the study;

1. There is no significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.
2. There is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.
3. There is no significant influence of student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

4. Methodology

4.1. Population and Sampling

The researchers used a descriptive research survey design in building up this project work the choice of this research design was considered appropriate because of its advantages of identifying attributes of a large population from a group of individuals. The design was suitable for the study as the study sought to determine the influence of family background and school factors on attitudes towards premarital sex among senior secondary school students in Lagos State. A sample of two hundred (200) students (100 Male Student and 100 Female Student) were randomly selected from all the four (4) senior secondary schools in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State using stratified random sampling was adopted in achieving this. In each school the research selected fifty (50) respondents; twenty-five (25) males and twenty-five (25) females, making the total of two hundred (200) respondents used for the study in the four selected senior secondary schools in the study area.

4.2. Instrumentation

The instrument for the study was a self-constructed questionnaire titled "Influence of Family Background and School Factors on Attitude towards Pre-Marital Sex Among Senior Secondary School Students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The questionnaire consists of two sections. Section A consist of items which was used to elicit information on the demographic data of the participants. Section B was used to elicit the respondents' opinions on the influence of family background and school factors on attitudes towards pre-marital sex among senior secondary school students in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The questionnaire has adopted the Likert four-point rating scale format of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD) respectively. The questionnaire was tested for reliability using Cronbach's Alpha method. Twenty (20) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to a group of twenty (20) secondary schools students in Surulere Local Government Area, Lagos State who are not part of the sample to be used for the study. The Cronbach's Alpha method was used to calculate for reliability coefficients, and the following was the result: for factor that bring about premarital sex (0.695); for consequences of premarital sex (0.721); for students' attitude towards premarital sex (0.847), and for the influence of premarital sex (0.715). However, the foregoing coefficients show the instrument is reliable. A total of 200 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the selected schools. The questionnaire was collected back on the spot after being filled by the respondents to avoid misplacement.

4.3. Data Analysis

The data gotten from the instrument were analyzed using a frequency table, percentages, mean, standard deviation, and Chi-square. Frequency tables and percentages will be used to present the demographic information of the respondents while mean and standard deviation will specifically be used for answering the research questions and Chi-square will be used for analyzing the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. This is because Chi-square intends to examine the differences between categorical variables in the same population used in the study.

5. Results

Table 1: Distribution of Participants by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	100	50.0
Female	100	50.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 1 show that 50% of the respondents are female students and also 50% of the respondents are male. This implies that the female and male students participated equally in the study.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Class

Class	Frequency	Percentage (%)
SSS1	68	34.0
SSS2	90	45.0
SSS3	42	21.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 2 show 68 (34%) of the respondents are SSS1 student years; 90 (45%) of the respondents are SSS2 students and 42(21%) of them are SSS3 students. The respondents' age distribution shows that respondents in SS2 dominated the study.

6. Responses to the Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the family background factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

To answer this research question, secondary school students respond to the items on the questionnaire that address the family background factors that influence secondary students on pre-marital sex and 2.5 is used as the cut-off because of Likert scale format used. The output of the analysis reveals thus:

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on the family background factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex.

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sustained pressure from peers and friends for sexual practices	200	2.54	1.099
Inadequate knowledge on the consequences of unprotected premarital sex	200	2.58	1.089
Desire to satisfy emotional, psychological and sexual need/urge	200	2.64	1.152
Total		2.59	

From table 3, the family background factors such as the type of neighbourhood they reside in, how many rooms the family occupies, if there are separate rooms for the adolescents, and whether there's a family vehicle, influence secondary students on pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This assertion is justified by the mean value of all items in the table above less than 2.5. The weighted mean value of 2.59 also indicated that students contributed to the family background factors that influence secondary students on pre-marital sex. Based on the average means of each of the above research questions that is greater than the average level of the items which is 2.5, it can be concluded the respondents agreed to the family background factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Research Question 2: What are the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

In order to answer this research question, secondary students respond to the items on the questionnaire that address the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices and 2.5 is used as the cut-off because of the Likert scale format used. The output of the analysis reveals thus:

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics on the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
It can result in unwanted pregnancy and giving birth to unwanted baby	200	2.71	1.099
It may lead to unintended drop out and termination of schooling and career pursuits	200	2.53	1.089
It results in emotional and psychological trauma and breakdown	200	2.76	1.152
It may lead to sexually transmitted diseases and health complications	200	2.11	1.226
It can result in unplanned abortion which has health implications	200	2.82	1.021
It brings about shame to self and family name	200	2.85	1.086
Total		2.63	

It can be seen from table 4 that agreed to the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This assertion is justified with the mean value of all items in the table above less than 2.5. The weighted mean value of 2.59 also indicated that students contributed to the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices. Based on the average means of each of the each on the above research questions that is greater than the average level of the items which is 2.5, it can be concluded the respondents agreed to the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Research Question 3: What are the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

To answer this research question, secondary school students respond to the items on the questionnaire that address the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex and 2.5 is used as the cut-off because of the Likert scale format used. The output of the analysis reveals thus:

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics on the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards engaging in pre-marital sex.

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Desire to get financial and other materials help from sex-partner(s).	200	2.67	1.55
Curiosity and social information at the disposal of young people.	200	2.97	1.12
Poor parental and guardians' upbringing.	200	2.35	1.53
Total		2.66	

It can be seen from table 5 above that agreed to the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This assertion is justified by the mean value of all items in the table above less than 2.5. The weighted mean value of 2.59 also indicated that students contributed to the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex. Based on the average means on the above research questions that is greater than the average level of the items which is 2.5, it can be concluded that respondents agreed to the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

7. Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

There is no significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

Table 6: Analysis of chi-square on influences of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	X ² -Cal	X ² -Tab	DF	Decision
Parental Education	200	21.98	1.85	137.44	0.000	15	Rejected
Premarital Sex	200	23.67	1.44				

p<0.05

In testing the hypothesis, from table 6, the X²-Tab is 0.000 is less than 0.05 with a chi-square of 137.44, 15 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance, hence we reject the null hypothesis that there

is no significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This, in effect, is an indication that there is a significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

Table 7: Analysis of chi-square on influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area in Lagos State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	X ² -Cal	X ² -Tab	DF	Decision
Socio-economic Status	200	22.82	1.23	173.49	0.21	16	Accepted
Premarital Sex	200	23.75	1.49				

p<0.05

From table 7, the X²-Tab0.21 is greater than 0.05 with chi-square of 173.49, 16 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance, hence we accept the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This, in effect, is an indication that there is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

Hypothesis Three

There is no significant influence of students-teacher relationship on premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

Table 8: Analysis of chi-square on significant influence of students-teacher relationship on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	X ² -Cal	X ² -Tab	DF	Decision
Student-teacher relationship	200	28.15	1.71	127.98	0.073	16	Accepted
Premarital Sex	200	21.53	1.35				

p<0.05

In table 8, the X²-Tab0.073 is greater than 0.05 with a chi-square of 127.98, 16 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance, hence we accept the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This, in effect, is an indication that there is no significant influence of student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State.

8. Discussion

Research question one considers the various family background factors that may influence secondary students' attitudes to engage in pre-marital sex in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. Through the analysis, respondents agreed to the family background factors that most likely influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This finding affirms the findings that children coming from different family backgrounds are affected differently by such family conditions, Eke (1999) noted that with some families, the background way varies from time to time for the same individuals. Formal education, therefore, remains the vehicle for human development which must start from the family. There are different categories of families. The major categories of families according to Anderson and Taylor (2000) include traditional families – where the father is the major breadwinner, and the stay-at-home mother raises the children; divorced families–families that have been reconstituted following the break-up of marriage; single-parent families–likely headed by women; stepfamilies–with new siblings and new parents as a result of re-marriage.

Research question two. What are the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Through the analysis, respondents agreed to the consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex

practices within Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This finding affirms the findings of Asuzu (2005), social value of sexual abstinence before marriage has declined and led to the recent cases where young woman's fertility came under scrutiny as to be tested a condition for marriage. Historically, a significant portion of people had engaged in premarital sex and it is common among secondary school students in Nigeria, although the number of those willing to admit to this has not been realistic. This has been attributed to numerous causes, including the increasing median age at marriage and the widespread availability of efficient contraceptives, pornography, music, and social media.

Research question three states: what are the social factors that influence secondary students on pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Through the analysis, respondents agreed to the social factors that influence secondary students' attitudes towards pre-marital sex in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This finding affirms that sexual activities among adolescents have been reported to be increasing worldwide. Until the 1950s, "premarital sex" referred to sexual relations between two people prior to marrying each other. During that period, a number of adolescents in South East Nigeria do not see the consequences of premarital sex as serious problems because of misconceptions about sexuality. They initiate early sexual debut and continued to seek abortion with unqualified physicians where unsafe methods are used (Ojong & Samson-Akpan, 2011). It was the norm in southwest Nigeria, for men and women to marry by the age of 21 or 22, and there were no considerations that one who had sex would not marry. The term was used instead of engaging in casual sexual activities, which had negative connotations, and was closely related to the concept and approval of virginity, which is sexual abstinence until marriage. Owing to these problems generated from premarital sex in Nigeria, several measures have been adopted to avert these by health care providers, government and non-governmental organizations. In spite of these, and the statistics that indicates increase in STIs and HIV/AIDS among young people age 15 – 24, there is still clear evidence that sensitization has not achieved the desired impact.

Hypothesis one states that there is no significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. The hypothesis was rejected in the study as the result shows that there is a significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This finding disagrees with the findings made by Yoloye (1989) who conducted a study to see if the family background variables might be useful in explaining the students' academic achievement. Some aspects of family background variables examined in the study include family size and parents' educational status, the type of neighbourhood the family resides in, and whether adolescents have separate rooms. His findings were that the polygamous family sizes which were naturally large reduce the chances of children going to school in the first instance. In addition, children from such backgrounds who are in schools have reduced chances of achieving their goals. Thirdly, parents from such families are mostly illiterate and incapable of providing adequate motivation for their children to strive to do well in school as compared with the literate nuclear families. The economic implication of large family size is better explained in Okuniyi (2004) who observed from his study that as families get larger, parents cannot give their children the adequate amount of individual attention. They could not afford to provide them with so many of the things which will help them to make the best possible use of their years at school such as educational aids, and quiet comfortable rooms in which to do homework undisturbed by the television, outings to places of interest, leisure time pursuits, and opportunities for traveling.

Hypothesis two states that there is no significant influence of socio-economic status on premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This hypothesis was accepted as the result shows that there is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This finding is in line with the findings of Okwulanya (2003) which opines that motivation from educated parents strengthens the academic aspiration and language development of their children to perform better in their academic work. According to the scholar, some children may come from homes where academic achievements are valued, where there are books around them and they see their parents reading regularly. They encourage them to read many books and to take advantage of the public or state library. The author went further to emphasize that some children may come from homes, where no importance is attached to reading or education.

Hypothesis three states that there is no significant influence of the student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This hypothesis was accepted as the result shows that there is no significant influence of

student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State. This finding is in line with the findings of Braekan & Cardinal, (2008) who opined that educating young people about reproductive health and teaching them skills in negotiating, conflict resolution, critical thinking, decision making and communication improves their ability to make informed and responsible choices. Schools are the ideal places where adequate and accurate information can be provided along with the formal education. Moreover, pressure from peer groups in school play a great role in information dissemination and help students internalize the facts that lead to behavioural change. This needs the integrated effort of students, schoolteachers, the family, and other relevant bodies. Despite a few local studies conducted in different parts of the country, there is no sufficient study that has tried to identify the prevalence of premarital sex and associated factors in the study area. Hence there is a need to carry out more studies to show the correlations and more pieces of evidence.

9. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research work, it was recommended that; Parents should be aware of several family background factors that influence their adolescents' involvement in premarital sex and take steps to reduce the effect of such negative influence. Similarly programs and seminars can be organized regularly to train and educated them on life topics such as how to deal with peer pressure, how to be assertive and respect other people's boundaries, adolescent health and reproductive health rights issues, personal hygiene, and explaining some of the consequences of engaging in Premarital sex. Also students should be aware of the influence of various family backgrounds of their peers and school factors that lead them to engage in premarital sex, with consequences for disruption of their academics leading to poor performance. In addition school management should provide appropriate facilities in the school while focusing on ways to productively engage the students so their time is used up efficiently, Furthermore, school counsellors collaborating with non-governmental organizations should create a vast awareness of the consequences of premarital sex on the health of the students in secondary schools by providing them with the necessary tips on how to resist peer pressures to engage in premarital sex.

10. Conclusion

This study intends to establish the influence of family background and school factors on attitudes towards pre-marital sex among secondary school students in Alimosho local government area of Lagos state. Furthermore, the findings show respondents agreed that certain family background factors influence secondary students' attitudes towards engaging in pre-marital sex, consequences of secondary school students' indulgence in premarital sex practices, and social factors that influence secondary students' involvement in pre-marital sex. Also, there is a significant influence of parental education on attitudes towards premarital sex among secondary school students. There is no significant influence of socio-economic status on attitudes towards premarital sex and there is no significant influence of student-teacher relationships on attitudes towards premarital sex. Therefore, there must be measures that can control the rate of premarital sex among secondary school students by establishing the necessary policies that can help students, parents, teachers, and other members of the public to control factors that can lead to premarital sex among students.

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