

Measuring Factors Affecting Marital Dissatisfaction Among Nigerian Immigrants in North America

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Purpose of Study

- To design a culturally sensitive tool to measure marital dissatisfaction among Nigerians living in North America (NINA)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Conflicts have increased among Nigerian immigrants as they become adjusted to living in the U. S.
- There are clashes of the traditional family structures and American culture.
- External issues have led to arguments, violence, and other disruptions.

Project Plan

- Mixed method design
- Factors causing marital disruption – Qualitative approach - Personal Interviews – 11 subjects
- Initial tool (IMDQ) development from qualitative data, literature review
- Pilot testing and factor analysis
- Tool refinement
- Questionnaire Revision
- Tool validation

Inclusion Criteria

- A Nigerian by birth
- Married to a Nigerian
- Still married, divorced, separated or widowed.
- Living in North America for a period of one year or more.

Exclusion Criteria

- Married less than one year
- Living in North America for less than one year

Data Analysis

- ❖ Descriptive statistics for demographics
- ❖ Thematic analysis of qualitative Data.
- ❖ Factor Analysis for the developed questionnaire - . Immigrant Marital Dissatisfaction Questionnaire (IMDQ)

Demographics (n=169)

- ❖ Females were 51%,
- ❖ Over one third (36.7%) of respondents were between ages 41 and 50.
- ❖ 76% were married and living with their spouses
- ❖ Average years of marriage was 16.3 years (SD = 10.6)
- ❖ One third (33.3%) of the participants were married for more than 20 years.
- ❖ Over half (58.1%) were married in Nigeria
- ❖ 30% migrated to the US before their spouse.
- ❖ Primary reason for immigration was education (41.3%)

Results – Thematic Analysis

- Identified factors causing marital disruption
- ❖ Male verse female role issues
 - ❖ Cultural issues and Disparities in cultural expectations
 - ❖ Financial instability
 - ❖ Job pressure
 - ❖ Unresolved conflicts (suffering in silence)
 - ❖ Domestic violence (emotional and/or physical pain)
 - ❖ In-laws

Results - Factor Analysis

Construct	Items	Factor loadings
Financial Stressors	Inability to find employment in the field of qualification	.872
	Financial instability	.502
	Financial demands from Nigeria	.480
Marital Relationship Deficiencies	Domestic violence (physical and/or emotional torture)	.812
	Keeping unresolved marital conflicts secret	.646
	Infidelity	.608
	In-law issues	.484
Intercultural Conflicts	Disparities between Nigerian culture expectations and American lifestyle	.885
	Male verse female role issues in America compared to Nigeria	.787
	Women embracing American women's liberation ideas	.682
Spiritual systems	A non-religious environment	.818
	Lack of personal spirituality	.784
	Buying into the American Dream	.567
Other items	Healthy respect between husband and wife	.692
	Job pressure (working too much or not at all)	.537

Cultural Explanations

- Patriarchal Beliefs
- Traditional Gender role expectations
- Extended Family Influences
- Spiritual Beliefs

Strengths and Limitation

Strengths

- Mixed method design
- Culturally sensitive questionnaire

Limitation

- Convenience sampling

Significance

- Improve Nigerian Immigrant family orientation
- Support & empower Nigerian communities in prevention and management of marital dissatisfaction
- Social Services professionals gaining a working understanding of the peculiarities with Nigerian family dynamics.
- Support culturally relevant mental health, Immigration and Legal Services

Future Research

- Continue to refine and validate questionnaire through research.
- More studies on improving marital satisfaction among Nigerians Living in North America

Selected References

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