

Social Values Orientation And Marital Stability Among Heads Of Departments In Higher Institutions Of Learning In Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study was carried out to examine the influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of department (HODs) in higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study relied on the Role Theory on Marital Adjustment by William G. Dyer (1998) and Hill's family stress theory (1949). The problem this study sought

Published/ publié in *Res Militaris* (resmilitaris.net), vol.13, n°3, March Spring 2023

to solve was marital instability among heads of departments in higher institutions of learning. Based on this, a research question and a hypothesis were formulated to guide the study. The study adopted the ex-post factor research design. The purposive and accidental sampling techniques were employed to select a sample of 400 HODs for the study from a population of 1562. A self-developed questionnaire titled "Social Values Orientation and Marital Stability Questionnaire (SVOMSQ)" was used in collecting data on variables involved in the study. The One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypothesis at a .05 level of significance and 2 and 397 degrees of freedom. Results of the statistical analysis from the hypothesis showed that social values orientation significantly influences marital instability among heads of department in higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria. It was recommended among others that counselling services be given to heads of departments on the need to inculcate social values orientation to remain in the marriage. Government and non-governmental organizations should create awareness of the need for social values orientation to foster marriages together. School administrators should organize seminars on perseverance values to discourage divorce among academic heads of departments.

Keywords: Social, values, orientation, marital and stability

Introduction

Attaining marital stability connotes the accommodation of spouses to each other. It denotes the process by which married couples attain mutual gratification and achieve common goals while maintaining an appropriate degree of individuality. Especially important to marital stability are the sharing of experiences, interests, and values; respect for the partner's individual needs, aims, and temperament; maintenance of open lines of communication and expression of feeling; clarification of roles and responsibilities; cooperation in decision making, problem-solving, and rearing of children; and attainment of mutual sexual gratification. According to Esuabana (2019) marital stability, therefore, calls for a maturity that accepts and understands the growth and development of the spouse. If this growth is not experienced and realized fully, a dearth in a marital relationship is inevitable. Marital stability is interpreted as whether a couple in a marriage remains together, instead of separating or getting divorced.

Marital instability is possible, especially for the fact that the two individuals are from different backgrounds but live together. Two individuals, or in some cases one of them, can face adjustment problems. This is more common in urban settings than in rural settings. Well-adjusted marriages are expected to be stable and last for a long time while poorly-adjusted marriages end up with divorce and separation. Marital instability is the situation whereby the person cannot adjust with the partner (husband and wife) due to problems that lead to inappropriate coping and marital problems.

A disturbing trend in marriage is seen in the rising divorce rate in the United States, with approximately 50% of all marriages today expected to see this fate. In Nigeria, marriage is viewed as the central institution and cornerstone of a generation and is considered indestructible. Unfortunately, Nigerian couples are separating more and more. Separation rates in 2018 saw a 14% increase across the whole population (Ola, Oni & Akande, 2017; Eneyo, Ushie, Akeh, Udonwa, Esuabana, Idika, Itu & Antai, 2022).

According to Adelman (2019), the incidence of divorce has gone up exponentially, and not even the wearisome process and expensive cost of filing for divorce, which depends on factors like a court, location, lawyers' charges, and sometimes the reason for divorce, has been able to stop the high rate. One of the new and challenging developments in modern

family life is the increasing rate of marital instability characterized by divorce, separation, and cohabitation. In the commercial city of Lagos, it was reported that at two customary courts, 354 applications for divorce were filed. Ninety-three applications were granted, thirty were withdrawn and 231 were pending in the two courts. The trend has not changed. For example, in the capital city of Nigeria, about 4000 divorce applications had been filed in the first eight months of 2020. This trend of divorce is worrisome.

It is quite alarming that some of these marriages are less than a year. This data suggests that by the end of the remaining 315 days in 2021, the divorce rate might have risen to the nth degree. If divorce applications in other 36 states of the country are considered and added to the list, coupled with the lists of separated partners/broken homes that have not filed for divorce yet and might never even file for one, it is apparent that the rate will be outrageously high (Lange, 2010; Inah, Eneyo, Odey, Ushie, Udonwa, Esuabana, Ekpo, Akintoye & Ajake, 2022).

Children are always at the receiving end of the negative impact of broken homes. Right from the point of decision-making on divorce, the issue of child custody is always at the forefront of the brawl. Children are left devastated and resort to using of drugs/substances, sexual practices, crime, suicide, and other negative behaviours to fill the void. Some become victims of sexual abuse, domestic abuse, and maltreatment at the hands of step-parents. Some are presented with the option of teenage marriage while some become school dropouts. The impact of divorce on our society at large is colossal and not a constructive one (Eneji, Petters, Esuabana, Onnoghen, Udumo, Ambe, Essien, Unimna, Alawa & Ikutal, 2022).

For any intervention or programme to be successful in enhancing marital instability among couples, there is a need to understand the role of social values orientation in facilitating or inhibiting marital stability. The study by Eccles (2005) attempted to assess how personality trait predicts marital stability. Other factors that have been researched in the past include work-life balance, socio-economic background, domestic violence, and role conflict. This study is concerned with the investigation of the influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Values orientation is the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group. Values orientations are a subsystem of consciousness in which values are recognized by a person as strategic goals in life and general worldview attitudes. In other words, the system of value orientations includes the principles of behaviours in society, as well as the principles of understanding their behaviours and the behaviours of other people. Value orientation translates to everyone striving to do things the right way. According to Denwigwe (2015), fallouts from the acceptance of good values by all citizens especially youths will include a reduction if not total eradication of corruption, robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, poverty, and indiscipline as well as other social vices. Of course, poor marital adjustment is part of the social vices. Succinctly, social value orientation is a person's preference about how to allocate resources (e.g. money) between the self and another person. It corresponds to how much weight a person attaches to the welfare of others about theirs. Social value orientation is a key interpersonal orientation that drives individuals' modes of social interaction. This sought to find out the possible role of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Literature Review/Theoretical Framework

Role Theory on Marital Adjustment by William G. Dyer (1998)

The role theory on marital adjustment was propounded by Dyer in 1998. Marriage in this theory is considered to be a social task, that a male and a female accept spontaneously to work it out together and progressively. Their way of cooperating is such that there will be neither superior nor inferior status. Rather there will be two courageous partners with different functions, working in a holistic environment of mutual affection and service (love), mutual sincerity and trust (truth), equality (justice), and responsibility (freedom), so that the action of each one yields mutual satisfaction and leads to a degree of closeness and congeniality such that neither partner can easily be replaced.

The relevance of this theory to the present study is premised on the fact that the simultaneous presence of social values orientation such as love, truth, justice and freedom in marital interaction enables husband and wife to perceive their marriage as the most meaningful life for them, as the highest manner of expressing their mutual worthiness, and as the sum mum bunkum of their lives. These convictions being mutually understood, both partners strive to make their marriage an ongoing and maturing experience. The simultaneous action of the four factors canalizes the inner capacities for social involvement, identification, empathy, and cooperation, that adjusted males and females can develop their good and that of their community.

Hill's family stress theory (1949)

Family stress theory was propounded by Hill in 1949. The investigation of marital adjustment in the early years as a normative life cycle transition is guided by family stress theory and the family crisis frameworks of the ABCX Model and the Double ABCX Model. The model describes the stress and adjustment process. The frameworks also provide a conceptualization of family stress theory which is useful in understanding definitions of and responses to marriage in its initial stage, the basic coping strategies which are helpful to persons experiencing early marriage, and the adaptation and adjustment process within the initial stage of marriage. The ABCX family crisis framework has served as a foundation for family stress theory and consists of a description of the stress and adjustment process. The stressor A interacts with B, the family's crisis meeting resources, which interacts with C, the definition of the stressor event according to the family, to finally produce X, the crisis. Family adjustment to this stress and crisis is said to involve a period of disorganization, followed by recovery and a new level of organization. It was further clarified that the theory postulated the concepts of vulnerability, the immobilization or loss of family resources, regenerative power, and the ability to recover from the stressor.

From the family crisis framework, stress is described as a response to the stressor and the resultant unmanaged tension. The crisis is characterized by the disruption of established routines or change which requires new patterns of family interaction. Hansen and Johnson (1979) cautioned against a restrictive use of the term "crisis," arguing that it is difficult to distinguish between a change that is disruptive or dysfunctional and that which is potentially creative. In the consideration of the initial stage of marriage, the crisis is seen less as a particular moment or event in the transition and more as a process of development and change in relationship patterns of the dyad. The ABCX Model focuses on pre-crisis variables which influence a family's response to a stressor event and determine the outcome and degree to which the event is experienced as a crisis. In the consideration of the marital transition as stressor, the ABCX Model is limited because it does not include multiple factors which are

part of the transition, such as additional life circumstances, resources useful in undergoing the transition, and the dimension of time.

To further explain the family crisis, McCubbin and Patterson (1983) presented the Double ABCX Model of family behavior, which added post-crisis variables to the ABCX model. The pile-up of family demands is the aA factor. The family's existing and expanded resources combine to become the bB factor, adaptive resources. The c factor is the definition and meaning developed by the family to explain the predicament. Coping is a bridging element with cognitive and behavioral components featuring the interaction of resources, perceptions, and behaviors. The family's adaptation at the level of an individual member, at the system level, and as part of the community, is the xX factor, moving toward a new level of balance in family functioning. Among the stressors described in the new model are initial stressors, normative transitions, earlier strains, the consequences of coping efforts by the family, and social ambiguity (McCubbin and Patterson, 1982). The Double ABCX Model considers family resiliency over time in responding to the crisis to describe: (a) additional life stressors and changes that may influence the family's adaptation; (b) psychological and social factors utilized by the family in crises; (c) processes used by the family to reach a satisfactory resolution; and (d) the range of outcomes of the family's efforts. The model, as applied to the initial stage of marriage, therefore, offers the advantage of examining simultaneous factors which influence marital adjustment in this potentially stressful stage.

This theory implies that people who are satisfied with their marriages tend to have social values orientation in them such as is different from those seen by spouses who are not satisfied with their marriages. This implies that the happily married rated themselves and their mates more frequently as directional, adaptable, demonstratively affectionate, and sociable than did the divorced. The divorced persons perceived themselves and their spouses to be less responsible and decisive than those persons who were happily married. In addition, the divorced more frequently attributed to themselves the culturally disapproved traits of stubbornness, domination, and quick anger. It also implies that happily married couples are more generous in their ratings and view themselves more frequently as having the aptitudes considered important for marital success.

Empirical Review

Social value orientation has been found to affect cognitions and accounts for behavior across a range of interpersonal decision-making contexts, specifically in the domain of negotiation settings. Oluwagbohunmi (2017) studied social value re-orientation for youths: an imperative for national development. This study was conducted to examine the value of reorientation for youths as an imperative for national development. The study was carried out because of the observed growth rate of moral decadence among youths in Nigeria. The youths seem disoriented and this calls for social value reorientation. The study adopted a descriptive research design of the survey type. The population of the study consisted of all youths in Ekiti state between the age of 15 and 35 years. The sample consisted of 500 youths in Ado Ekiti selected through a simple random sampling technique. A self-designed questionnaire titled "Social Value Reorientation for Youths Questionnaire" (SVRYQ) was used for data collection. The instrument was validated while the reliability test conducted yielded 0.79 coefficients. The findings of the study revealed that self-discipline, humility, and hard work among others are the societal values required by youths. The study showed a lack of value-based leadership, parents' failure to inculcate values in children at an early stage, and impunity as factors militating against youths' development of societal values while a demonstration of positive habits by all citizens and value-based leadership were suggested as

means of re-orientating the youths. It was concluded that youths need reorientation to develop social values and attitudes that will make them contribute meaningfully to national development.

In another study titled 'promoting leadership and sustainable development through functional social value re-orientation in secondary school education' was carried out by Aja, Eze, Igba, and Ukaigwe (2017). The study investigated ways of promoting leadership, social value re-orientation, and sustainable development through functional Secondary School Education. Three research questions guided the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised 308 teachers in all 18 public secondary schools in the Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 100 respondents, 10 each from the 10 secondary schools used for the study. A researcher-structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Mean scores were used for data analysis. Results revealed that functional social value re-orientation in secondary school education helps to equip students with the necessary qualities, knowledge, and skills for effective leadership and promotion of sustainable national development. Based on the findings, it was recommended that government should make social value re-orientation in secondary school education more functional to live up to its mandate of developing future leaders who will contribute to societal values re-orientation and sustainable development.

Moon, Travaglino, and Uskul (2018) studied social Value orientation and endorsement of horizontal and vertical individualism and collectivism in North America and South Korea. Individuals' cultural tendencies of horizontal/vertical individualism and collectivism interact with their dispositional traits and contextual factors to shape social interactions. A key dispositional trait is social value orientation (SVO), a general tendency toward competition (pro-self) vs. cooperation (prosocial) in social exchanges. The study (N = 1032) explored the relationship between SVO and personal cultural tendencies of horizontal/vertical individualism and collectivism in two different cultural settings, the United States (a vertical individualist setting) and South Korea (a vertical collectivistic setting). It hypothesized that each social value orientation would be associated with the congruent personal cultural tendency across settings. It also hypothesized that this association would be specific to the context so that SVO would play a more relevant role where the cultural theme was less dominant. Results indicated that, across contexts, pro-self-individuals endorsed vertical individualistic values more strongly than prosocial individuals. Conversely, prosocial individuals endorsed horizontal collectivistic values more strongly than pro-self-individuals. In addition, the effect of SVO was different in the two cultural contexts. Compared to pro-self-individuals, prosocial individuals endorsed horizontal collectivism more strongly in the United States context, and horizontal individualism less strongly in the Korean context.

Social value orientations are often regarded as stable individual differences in other-regarding preferences - the concern for equality and joint outcomes - affecting the propensity to cooperate in experimental social dilemma situations. In another study, Bekkers (2019) investigated the stability, reliability, and validity of social value orientation. Despite the widespread use of measures of social value orientations in social dilemma experiments, little is known about their stability, reliability, and validity. Study 1 examined the longitudinal stability of social value orientations, showing that the stability coefficient of a linear measure of social value orientations in a panel survey over 19 months is only .22, correcting for measurement errors. Study 2 showed that the degree of altruism displayed in decomposed games and the classification of respondents in types of social value orientations depends on

the place of the measurement procedure in a questionnaire, threatening their validity. When social value orientations are measured in a survey after behavioural questions on charitable giving, the proportion of 'cooperators' increases from 41% to 57%. Priming effects may be the reason for the low stability of social value orientation. Study 3 showed that priming effects also disturb the relationship of social value orientation with behavioural criteria such as volunteering and donations to charitable causes. Social value orientations are correlated with giving and volunteering behaviours in the predicted pattern when social value orientations are measured before the behavioral questions. However, when social value orientations are measured after the behavioral questions, their predictive power declines.

Ogunlade (2015) studied social values and the performance of selected public and private universities in South West Nigeria. The study posited that the social-value system of a society influences the behaviours of organizational members. It, therefore, sought to investigate how social values from the social environment impact the performance of public organizations. The study adopted a comparative design to study the performance of some selected public and private organizations, specifically universities, in South West Nigeria. The main objective was to explore the values of the community and those of the organization to determine which of the social values are dominant both in the environment and in the culture of the universities, and in turn, impact the performance of the universities. Performance evaluation, in this study, adopted the Strategic Constituency model with public perception of the universities, the employers' evaluation of universities' products, and individual punctuality as specific measuring variables. The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative research designs. The cross-sectional survey and in-depth interviews were used for quantitative and qualitative data respectively. Three universities—Lagos State University (LASU a State-Owned Public University), University of Lagos (UNILAG, a Federal-Owned Public University), and Covenant University (CU, a privately owned university) were sampled for comparative analysis. The study locations were Lagos and Ota. Respondents drawn from the universities—LASU, UNILAG, and CU were 270 while 600 respondents were sampled from 11 LGAs which included the surrounding communities of these universities. Six hypotheses were formulated for the study based on the objectives. The statistical analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) programme. The findings of the study showed that religious values, monetary/material, family/marriage/children, education, and peaceful/easy life values were expressed most as life values.

The t-test analysis of the two samples for community and universities showed that the mean scores for the social values were very close indicating that the two populations from which they were drawn were significantly the same. Organizational culture comparison of the three universities indicated that the state public university manifested the least positive culture, the federal public had a more positive culture while the private university exhibited the most positive culture. When their performances were related to their organizational culture, the private university with the highest positive culture had the best public perception, the federal public university, with the more positive culture was rated better while the state public university with the least positive culture had the lowest public perception. Other measures of performance followed the same pattern. All six hypotheses were supported by the findings. The study recommends that organizations must develop an appropriate positive culture. The leadership of organizations should be given to those who have either developed or bought the values appropriate for the organizations. There is also the need for continuous orientation to inculcate values into staff members.

Social value deficiency and crime among the youths reflect the plethora of contemporary societal challenges that appear to inhibit social progress and national development. Ukachukwu and Nestor (2020) carried out a study on social value deficiency, employment generation, and crime among youths in Nigeria. The study examined the relationship between value deficiency and crime among youths in Nigeria despite several government efforts at employment generation. This paper argues that, although employment is a critical requirement for youths to realize their potentialities and release their contributory efforts to national development, the burden of value deficiency appears to vitiate such efforts and propel youth towards increasing crime. The study identified factors such as degradation and relegation of social values as the causes of value deficiency in Nigerian society. The study adopted the Social Impact Theory to emphasize its points. Secondary data collected from previous research and analysis of scholars to demonstrate the facts stated here were analyzed using the descriptive method. The study found that social value deficiency increases the incidence of crime among youths and vitiates the efforts at employment generation in Nigeria. It is recommended among others that youth development strategies must necessarily include value re-orientation and further re-orientation programmes and this requires the active support of the family, the community, and the government.

Oluwagbohunmi (2020) studied social values demonstrated by secondary school students in selected Local Government Areas of Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study focused on determining the social values displayed by secondary school students in selected local government areas of Ekiti State. The study examined the influence of gender and location on social values exhibited by the students. The descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted with a sample of 540 students selected through a multistage sampling procedure. This was done using simple and stratified random sampling techniques with one research question and two research hypotheses. A self-structured questionnaire tagged 'Questionnaire on Social Values' (QSV) was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument was validated and tested for reliability. A test-retest reliability coefficient of 0.77 was obtained and found appropriate for the study. The research question was analyzed descriptively using percentages, means, and standard deviation while the two hypotheses were tested using t-test statistical analysis at 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed that hard work and honesty were the most demonstrated values, while obedience and patience were the least social values demonstrated by the students. The study also showed a significant difference between social values demonstrated by male and female students and between students from rural and urban areas. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that parents should intensify efforts to give traditional value education to their children to help them develop into morally upright and responsible adult citizens.

Afolabi and Ademiluyi (2019) studied social self-concept on social dominance and prosocial behaviours among Some undergraduates in Ekiti State. Using a cross-sectional survey design with a purposive and accidental sampling technique, a total sample of 238 undergraduates consisting of 118 males (49.6%) and 120 females (50.4%) respondents with their ages ranging from 16 to 40 ($M = 1.95$; $SD = .78$) were selected. Two hypotheses were formulated and tested with 2X2 ANOVA. The result confirmed a significant effect of social self-concept on social dominance [$F(1, 234) = 9.30, P.01$], however, no significant effect was found for perceived similarity on social dominance [$F(1, 234) = .205, P.05$]. Also, perceived similarity and social self-concept did not have an interaction effect on social dominance [$F(1, 234) = .08, P.05$]. In addition, perceived similarity [$F(1, 234) = 15.01, P.01$] and social self-concept [$F(1, 234) = 534.53, P.01$] had a significant main effect on prosocial behaviours. Also, there was an interaction effect of similarity and social self-concept on prosocial behaviours [$F(1, 234) = 5.36, P.01$]. The study, therefore, recommends that

prosocial education should be embraced and taught in tertiary institutions as one of the courses as it will help students to form a positive attitude towards others thereby breeding oneness, progress, and wellness in society.

Research Objectives, Research Question And Hypotheses

The objective of this study was to examine the influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State Nigeria. Based on the objective of the study, a research question and a null hypothesis were formulated thus:

How does social values orientation influence marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria?

There is no significant influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research Methodology

The research design adopted in this study was an ex-post facto. A sample of 400 heads of departments was selected from higher institutions of learning that are in Cross River State, Nigeria through the purposive and accidental sampling method.

The instrument used for data collection was titled: the 'Social Values Orientation and Marital Stability Questionnaire' (SVOMSQ). The questionnaire is subdivided into two parts A and B. Part A is made up of the demographic data of the respondents while Part B comprised 10 items that measure the social values orientation. The social values orientation scale is a four-point modified Likert-type scale: Strongly Agree (SA) = 4 points, Agree (A) = 3 points, Disagree (D) = 2 points, and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point. Part C is made up of 10 items that measured marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Results And Discussion

Data analysis was done by the objective and hypothesis formulated to guide the study. Data gathered from the exercise were subjected to analysis using version 21.0 of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The descriptive statistic of the variable is presented in Table 1.

5.1 Description of research variables

Table 1: General description of variables

Variables	Category	n	X	SD	Percentage(%)
Social values orientation	Low	44	23.02	5.39	11
	Moderate	284	27.64	3.94	71
	High	72	30.94	6.40	18
	Total	400	27.73	5.08	100
Marital Stability		400	19.85	19.85	

(Source: Fieldwork, 2023).

The mean and standard deviations of the major variables are calculated and presented in Table 1. A total sample of four hundred HODs was used for the study. The result in Table 1 shows that 44 representing 11% of the total respondents fell into the category of low social values orientation, 284 (71%) were having moderate or average social values orientation, and 72 representing 18% were having high social values orientation. The total mean and standard deviations of marital stability are 19.85 and 1.49 respectively.

Test Of Hypothesis

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria. To test this hypothesis, social values orientation which was measured on a continuous scale using a 4-point Likert Scale was categorized into three: Low, Moderate, and High using the formulae: $X \pm 1 SD$. Thus, with the mean (X) of 28.48 and standard deviations (SD) of 4.85, HODs with social values orientation who scored 23 and below were categorized as low; those between 24 and 33 were categorized as moderate, while those with above 33 were categorized as high. With such categorization, the One-Way analysis of variance was used to compare how HODs of higher institutions of learning with low, moderate, and high social values orientation vary in their level of marital stability. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary data and One-Way ANOVA of the influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State. $n = 400$

Social values orientation		N	X	SD	
Low		44	23.02	5.39	
Moderate		284	27.64	3.94	
High		72	30.94	6.40	
Total		400	27.73	5.08	
Source of variance	SS	df	MS	F	p-value
Between groups	1721.004	2	860.502	39.928	.000
Within groups	8555.836	397	21.551		
Total	10276.84	399			

* $P < .05$, $df = 399$, Critical $f = 3.02$.

The information in Table 2 shows that there is a significant influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State ($F = 39.928$; $P = .000$). Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of department of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State is rejected at the .05 level of significance. To find out the difference amongst the three levels of social values orientation, a Post Hoc test using Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test was performed and is reported in Table 3.

Table 3: Fisher's LSD test of the influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State. $n = 400$

Social values(I)	orientation(J)	Mean difference(I - J)	Standard error	P-value
Low	Moderate	-4.6216*	.75212	.000
	High	-7.9217*	.88833	.000
Moderate	Low	4.62164*	.6893	.002
	High	-3.30008	.61254	.000
High	Low	7.92172*	.88833	.000
	Moderate	3.30008	.61254	.000

* $P < .05$, Critical $t = 1.96$, $df = 398$

From Table 3, marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State with low social values orientation is significantly lower than that of HODs with moderate social values orientation; and significantly lower than those with a high level of social values orientation. Also, the marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State with a moderate level of social values orientation is significantly lower than that of HODs with a high level of social values orientation.

Discussion

The finding obtained from the analysis and testing of the hypothesis revealed that the null hypothesis was rejected. The finding on the aspect of the study revealed that there is a significant influence of social values orientation on marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria. This could be a result of the fact that social values orientation has a consistent guiding orientation toward an individual's moral cognition and behaviours. The finding is in line with Ogunlade (2015) on social values and the performance of selected public and private universities in Southwest Nigeria. The findings of the study showed that social values, monetary/material, family/marriage/ children, education, and peaceful/easy life values were expressed most as life values. Ukachukwu and Naetor's (2020) align with the present study. The study identified factors such as degradation and relegation of social values as the causes of value deficiency in Nigerian society. The study found that social value deficiency increases the incidence of crime among youths and vitiates the efforts at employment generation in Nigeria as well as marital instability.

The study of Moon, Travaglino, and Uskul (2018) on social value orientation and endorsement of horizontal and vertical individualism and collectivism in North America and South Korea agrees with the present study. It was found that prosocial individuals endorsed horizontal collectivistic values more strongly than pro-self-individuals. The study agrees with Bekkers (2019) on the stability, reliability, and validity of social value orientation. It was found that social value orientations are correlated with giving and volunteering behaviours in the predicted pattern when social value orientations are measured before the behavioural questions. However, when social value orientations are measured after the behavioural questions, their predictive power declines. This goes a long way to determining marital stability among spouses.

Oluwagbohunmi's (2017) study on social value re-orientation for youths: an imperative for national development supported the present study. The findings of the study revealed that self-discipline, humility, and hard work among others are the societal values required by youths. The study showed a lack of value-based leadership, parents' failure to

inculcate values in children at an early stage, and impunity as factors militating against youths' development of societal values while a demonstration of positive habits by all citizens and value-based leadership were suggested as means of re-orientating the youths.

The study of Aja, Eze, Igba, and Ukaigwe (2017) on promoting leadership, social value re-orientation, and sustainable development through functional secondary school education supported the present study. Results revealed that functional secondary school education helps to equip students with the necessary qualities, knowledge, and skills for effective leadership, social value re-orientation, and promotion of sustainable national development. The finding of Edet (2021) who examined the relationship between values orientation and marital adjustment among Universities lecturers in Cross River State, Nigeria supported the present study. Results of the statistical analysis of the hypotheses showed that moral, academic, social, perseverance, self-motivation and cultural values orientation significantly relates to marital adjustment among lecturers of universities in Cross River State, Nigeria. Also, results showed that there is a significant composite influence of values orientation on marital adjustment among university lecturers in Cross River State.

Conclusion And Recommendations For Policy Directions

Based on the results and findings of the study, it was concluded that social values orientation significantly influences marital stability among heads of departments of higher institutions of learning in Cross River State, Nigeria. Values orientation is those attributes that may enhance the social and marital adjustment of an individual. Some HODs and lecturers in the study area have the attribute of values orientation to some extent. Marital stability on the other hand is a behaviour pattern that enables someone to relate well with his or her spouse and cope with the values, norms, and standards of the spouse. Based on the findings discussed these recommendations were made:

1. Counselling services should be given to heads of departments on the need to inculcate social values orientation to remain in the marriage.
2. Government and non-governmental organizations should create awareness of the need for social values orientation to foster marriages together.
3. School administrators should organize seminars on perseverance values to discourage divorce among academic heads of departments.
4. Heads of departments should from time to time seek guidance from successful older families on how to maintain and manage their families.
5. Conscious effort should be made towards counselling and reorientation of newly married lecturers and HODs who are victims of unresolved marital discord for proper readjustment.

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