



GSJ: Volume 8, Issue 2, February 2020, Online: ISSN 2320-9186
www.globalscientificjournal.com

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF SOME SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT CAUSE
LATE MARRIAGE AMONG MEN IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**

**BABALOLA B.T.^{1*} OLUBIYI A.O. ²ADIGUN K.A.²IBRAHIM O.²ADEWUSI
O.A.²AKINDUTIRE O.R.³FADUGBA S.E.⁴**

^{1,2}Department of Statistics, Ekiti State University, Nigeria.

³Department of Actuarial Science, Ekiti State University, Nigeria.

⁴Department of Mathematics, Ekiti State University, Nigeria

teniola.babalola@eksu.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

The study was designed to investigate the factors influencing late marriage among men in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Emphasis was laid on establishing the relationship between age at marriage and socio-economic factors among men. Questionnaire was used to collect data from 300 married men in Rural and Urban areas in Ekiti State. Chi-Square test was used to establish the relationship between age at marriage and educational level, religious activities, peer group influence, poor economic status, family responsibilities, family age specification, Inter-culture discouragement among men in Ekiti State. These form the basis of the analysis, conclusion and recommendations. The results revealed that peer group influence, religious activities, family responsibilities, inter-culture discouragement do not affect the age at which men get married. But, educational level and poor economic status affect the age at which men get married in Ekiti State.

Keywords: Marriage, Men, Statistics, Hypothesis

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family. As this social practice entered through a public act, religion or traditional ceremony, it reflects the purpose, character and custom of the society in which it is found. Many societies have norms that limit the age at which men enter into marriages. We say marriage is late for a man who has attained age 35 and above. In today's time, late marriages have become common. Marriage is no longer a priority for youngsters. Marrying late in life is a very modern trend in countries like China, Europe, Japan, and United States. These countries measure getting married at a later age as a matter of economic and educational advancement. So, by international standards, it's logical that the average age of marriage is higher than it was 10 to 20 years ago. Reasons why late marriage is supported in those countries is that in those countries, studies point out that young people are almost three times as likely to divorce if they marry before the age of 27. Like family, marriage is another important social institution.

Marriage is one of the most ancient, important, universal and indispensable social institution which has been in existence since the inception of human civilization. As an institution, marriage is designed to satisfy the biological needs especially the sexual needs of the individual in a legal, customary, and culturally defined way. It also admits men and women to family life and fixes certain rights and duties in respect of children born of their union. Although, the definition of marriage has changed now, marriage equally refers to a political status in which same sex marriage and opposite sex marriage are considered legally equal. As a stable social institution it binds two opposite sexes and allows them to live as husband and wife. It also confers on them social legitimation to have sexual relationship and have children. The institutionalized form of sex relationships is called marriage. In some society it is considered as a religious sacrament whereas in other society it is a social contract. In Nigeria, the case issue is not in any way different.

METHODOLOGY

The data was collected from 300 married men in different towns in Ekiti State, Nigeria by means of a questionnaire. Statistics is concerned with the scientific method by which information is

collected, organized, analyzed, and interpreted for the purpose of description and decision making. There are two subdivisions of statistical method which we are going to use in this study:

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The method that was used is the Chi-Square Test.

The Chi-Square Test

Chi-square is a statistical test used to examine the significance of relationship between two or more nominal-level variables. The chi-square (χ^2) test helps to measure the extent to which the observed frequencies differ from the expected frequencies. It compares the observed frequencies with the corresponding expected frequencies under null hypothesis (H_0).

The formula for calculating Chi-square is given as

$$\chi^2 = \sum \left[\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} \right]$$

Where

χ^2 is the chi-square statistics

O_{ij} is the observed frequencies (sample frequencies)

E_{ij} is the expected frequencies i.e frequencies expected on the basis of null hypothesis.

To find the expected frequency

Result and Discussion

From the analysis, 34(11.3%) of respondents married between (20-24) age group, 154(51.3%) of the respondents married between (25-29) age group, 87(29.0%) of the respondents married between (30-34) age group, also 21(7.0%) of the total respondents married between (35-39) age, 3(1.0%) of the respondents married between (40-44) age group, 1(0.3 %) of the total respondents married between 45 years and above age.

The analysis of the data shows that 1(3.0%) of respondents were in between (20-24) age group, 37(12.3%) of the respondents were in between (25-29) age, 102(34.0%) of the respondents were in between (30-34) age, also 93(31.0%) of the total respondents were in between (35-39) age, 51(17.0%) of the respondents were in between (40-44) age, 16(5.3 %) of the total respondents were between 45 years and above age group.

246 (82.0%) of the total respondents resided in urban as place of residence while, 54 (18.0%) of the total respondents resided in rural as place of residence.36(12.0%) of the total respondents were unemployed while, 264(88.0%) of the total respondents were employed.

The result shows that 6(2.0%) of the respondents were not educated, 13(4.3%) of the respondents were primary school holders, 34(11.3%) of the respondents were secondary school holders, 163(54.3%) of the respondents were B.Sc holders, 36(12.0%) were M.Sc holders, 7(2.3%) were Ph.D holders, and 41(13.7%) were of other educational levels or qualifications. It was also discovered that 205(64.3%) of the respondents were Christians, 78(26.0%) of the respondents were practicing Islamic religion, 5(1.7%) of the respondents were practicing Traditional religion, and 12(4.0%) of the total respondents were Atheist.

The age distribution of the respondents reveals that 130(43%) of the total respondents are 1-5 years in their marriage, 82(27.3%) are 6-10 years in their marriage, 42(14%) are 11-15 years in their marriage, 27(9%) are 16-20 years in their marriage, 11(3.7%) are 21-25 years in their marriage, 6(2.0%) are 26-30 years in their marriage and 2(0.7%) are 31 and above years in their marriage.

We also observed that 242(80.7%) of the total respondents agreed that they got married at that age because they were pursuing higher degrees. While, 58(19.3%) disagreed. In item 2, shows that 242(80.7%) of respondents agreed that most men prefer completing their education before getting married earlier while, 58(19.3%) disagreed. Also in item 3, it shows that 174(58.0%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that some men make education their priority over marriage while, 126(42.0%) disagreed. Furthermore, result shows that 179(59.0%) of the total respondents agreed that they got married at that age because they were too busy with religious activities. While, 123(41.0%) disagreed. In item 2, shows that 242(80.7%) of respondents agreed that some religions have specific age for marriage while, 58(19.4%) disagreed. Also in item 3, it shows that 203(67.7%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that most religions forbid

marrying outside their religion while, 97(32.3%)disagreed. About culture, it was discovered that 256(85.4%) of the total respondents agreed their families discouraged inter-cultural marriage and that is why they married at that age while 44(14.6%) disagreed. Likewise, 239(79.7%) of respondents agreed that some parents discourage inter-culture marriage while, 61(20.3%) disagreed. Also 219(73.0%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that some cultures allow inter-culture marriage while, 81(27.0%) disagreed.

175(58.3%) of the total respondents agreed that they got married at that age because their friend(s) got married around that age while, 125(41.7%) disagreed. In item 2, shows that 236(78.7%) of respondents agreed that some families have specific age in which their male children must get married while, 64(21.3%) disagreed. Also in item 3, it shows that 248(84.7%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that most men believe in flexing around than getting married, 52(17.4%) disagreed. At the same time 237(79.0%) of the total respondents agreed that the poor economic situation of their country made them married at that age while 64(21.0%) disagreed. In item 2, shows that 250(83.3%) of respondents agreed that some male who are of age get it easier into marriage with income while, 50(16.6%) disagreed. Also in item 3, it shows that 231(73.7%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that poor economic status discourages most men from getting married earlier, 79(26.4%) disagreed.

Lastly, result shows that 238(79.3%) of the total respondents agreed that they decided to get married at that age because they had some responsibilities to perform to their families. While, 62(20.7%) disagreed. In item 2, shows that 241(80.3%) of respondents agreed that poor family background influences late marriage among men while, 59(19.7%) disagreed. Also in item 3, it shows that 200(66.6%) of the total respondents agreed with the opinion that having too many responsibilities to attend to may cause late marriage while, 100(33.3%) disagreed.

Hypothesis testing and interpretation of results: The following are the hypotheses that were tested during the course of the research.

Hypothesis 1

H₀: Age at marriage does not depend on educational level

H₁: Age at marriage depends on educational level.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 55.905$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value =0.000.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION: Reject H_0 since the p-value is less than 0.05. The interpretation of this is that the level of education among men affects the age at which they get married. This means that age at marriage depends on educational level.

Hypothesis 2

H_0 : Age at marriage does not depend on religious activities.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on religious activities.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 14.480$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value = 0.489.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION: Fail to reject H_0 since the p-value is more than 0.05. Commitment in religious activities among men does not affect age at which they get married. This means that age at marriage does not depend on religious activities.

Hypothesis 3

H_0 : Age at marriage does not depend on peer group influence.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on peer group influence.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 8.919$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value = 0.882.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION: Fail to reject H_0 since the p-value is more than 0.05. Peer group influence does not affect the age at which most men get married. This means that age at marriage does not depend on peer group influence.

Hypothesis 4

H_0 : Age at marriage does not depend on family age specification for marriage.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on family age specification for marriage.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 9.576$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value = 0.846.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION: Fail to reject H_0 since the p-value is more than 0.05. Age specification from the family does not affect the age at which most men get married. This means that age at marriage does not depend on family age specification for marriage.

Hypothesis 5

H_0 : Age at marriage does not depend on poor economic status.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on poor economic status.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 27.832$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p-value =0.023.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION:Reject H_0 since the p value is less than 0.05. Poor economic status affects the age at which most men get married. This means that age at marriage depends on poor economic status.

Hypothesis 6

H_0 : Age at marriage does not depend on family responsibilities.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on family responsibilities.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 14.146$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value =0.514.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION:Fail to reject H_0 since the p value is more than 0.05. Family responsibilities does not affect the age at which most men get married. This means that age at marriage does not depend on family responsibilities.

Hypothesis 7

H_0 : Age at marriage is independent on inter-culture discouragement.

H_1 : Age at marriage depends on inter-culture discouragement.

The test statistics $\chi^2 = 19.820$, with 15 degree of freedom and the p value =0.179.

The tabulated $\chi^2 = 25.00$. CONCLUSION:Fail to reject H_0 since the p value is more than 0.05. Inter-culture discouragement does not affect the age at which most men get married. This means that age at marriage does not depend on inter-culture discouragement.

SUMMARY

The basic purpose of this research work has been fully executed by analysis of some socio-economic factors that cause late marriage among men. Though there are numerous factors that affect the age at which most men get married, we could list some socio-economic factors that are likely to lead to late marriages, which are education, culture, religious activities, peer group influence, family responsibilities, and poor economic status.

As stated earlier, the data used in this research is a primary data gotten from married men in Ekiti State. Chi-square was applied on the data and some interesting facts were discovered. This has

helped achieving the objectives of the research, which is to test for independence. From the Chi-square test that was carried out on the administered questionnaires, we could see that statistics is a tool for analyzing causes of late marriage among men. The influence of statistics has been spread to all areas of life because of its usefulness and refuge in its operation.

Furthermore, we could see that the chi-square enabled us to test for independence because it was used to examine the significance of relationship between age at marriage and some factors that lead to late marriage. The Chi-square test was applied to detect the factors that really lead to late marriage among men. However, with the result of the Chi-square test, out of all the 6 (six) factors only 2 (two) are actually significant, which are educational level and poor economic status. It was discovered that the average age at marriage is 28.8 years.

CONCLUSION

In this research work, we discovered that the level of education among men affects the age at which they get married, while, commitment in religious activities among men does not affect age at which they get married. It was also discovered that poor economic status affects the age at which most men get married, while, family responsibilities does not affect the age at which most men get married. We recommend and suggest that government should look strictly into the factor like poor economic status that leads to late marriages by providing jobs for the citizens to eradicate poverty in the country to stop our youths from having delayed marriages, as it is been discussed that delayed marriage leads to delayed childbearing, which can affect the population growth of the country. It will also reduce the crime rate of the country. As we know that most crime committed in the country are most by the unmarried youths.

REFERENCES

Carter, B., & McGoldrick, M. (2005). *The expanded life cycle: Individual, family, and social perspectives*. Third Edition. ISBN 0-205-40981-4

Cleary P.D. & Angel R. (1984). The analysis of relationship involving dichotomous dependent variable. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Sep;25(3):334-48.

Diaz, A.L. (2003). Personal, family and academic factors affecting late marriage. *Electronic Journal of Research in Educational Psychology and Psychopedagogy*. Vol. 1. No 1, pp. 43-66. April 2003.

Dills, K.A. (2006). Trends in the relationship between socioeconomic status and academic achievement. http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=886110.

Ryan T. Anderson, "Marriage: What It Is, Why It Matters, and the Consequences of Redefining It," *Heritage Foundation Backgrounder* No. 2775, March 11, 2013, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/03/marriage-what-it-is-why-it-matters-and-the-consequences-of-redefining-it>.