3-1-2019

Marital Satisfaction Amongst Nigerian Immigrants In North America (NINA): A Pilot Study

Jochebed B. Ade-Oshifogun  
*Andrews University, jochebed@andrews.edu*

Joan Aina  
*Andrews University, aina@andrews.edu*

Augusta Y. Olaore  
*Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs](https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs)  
Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs)

Recommended Citation  
Ade-Oshifogun, Jochebed B.; Aina, Joan; and Olaore, Augusta Y., "Marital Satisfaction Amongst Nigerian Immigrants In North America (NINA): A Pilot Study" (2019). *Faculty Publications*. 991.  
[https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/991](https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/991)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.
MARITAL SATISFACTION AMONGST NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NORTH AMERICA (NINA): A PILOT STUDY

Jochebed B. Ade-Oshifogun, PhD
Augusta Y. Olaore, PhD
Joan O. Aina, DNP
Background

- The black African immigrants population more than doubled in the U.S, from 574,000 to 1.6 million, between 2000 and 2016.
- The census data also indicated that 35% of African Immigrants originated from West Africa of which over a third (38.7%) are from Nigeria.
- The largest African Immigrant populations are found in California, New York, Texas, Maryland and Virginia. (Anderson and Lopez 2018)
Background Continued

- 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 (Akinsulure-Smith, Chu, Keatley & Rasmussen, 2013).
Study goal

- The goal of this study was to ascertain the level of marital satisfaction amongst NINA's in a faith based community.
- Faith based because of easy access and openness to respond to marital issues.
Description of Study/Methodology

- IRB approval for the study received from Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois.
- Approval received from the Nigerian Adventist in North America (NANA) group.
- Standardized survey tool to measure index of marital satisfaction was used (WALMYR Assessment Scales, 1977).
- Survey distributed during the annual NANA camp meeting.
- Implied consent attached to the survey tool.
- Data analyzed for descriptive and correlation with main variables by SPSS v.25 (2017).
Survey Tool and Scoring

- Questionnaire measures the degree of satisfaction with the present marriage
- 25 questions in Likert scale format – ‘none of the time’ to ‘all of the time’
- Questions touched on items like affection, trust, fear, fun, confidence, common interests, finances, future, excitement, arguments, and disagreements.
- Each question has a score of 1-7 with negative questions reversed scored.
- Scores below 30 indicate no clinically significant problem.
- Scores above 30 indicate clinically significant problems.
- Scores above 70 indicates severe distress in the marriage relationship.
Description of Study participants

55% Female
45% Male
Description of participants

- 77% were married and are living with their spouses
- 78% were married in Nigerian before immigration.
- Primary reasons for immigration are employment (43%) and education (33%)
- All participants were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.
Description of participants

- 7 years of marriage: 0-5 years
- 3 years of marriage: 5-10 years
- 21 years of marriage: 11-20 years
- 9 years of marriage: 20-30 years
- 7 years of marriage: >30 years

Years of marriage
Results

Frequency of IMS Scores

- Below 30: 71%
- 30-70: 25%
- Above 70: 4%
Results

- Overall, majority of respondents (71%) have no clinically significant problem with their marriage relationships.
- 29% had clinically significant problems.
- Only 4% were experiencing severe distress in their relationship at the time of the study.
Results - correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IMS Scores</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
<td>0.933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons for immigration</td>
<td>-0.238</td>
<td>0.111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.12</td>
<td>0.423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who immigrated first</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where was the marriage</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contracted</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No significant finding
Discussion

- There is a paucity of literature on the study of marital satisfaction of Nigerian immigrants in North America.
- Studies in literature address abuse, parenting practices, and identity issues.
- Qualitative data collected during the same period did not reflect the result presented here (data and result in future presentation).
- It is not unusual for Nigerians not to divulge their marital problems to another person. “you don’t wash your dirty linen in public”
- Survey tool may not be sensitive to Nigerian cultural practices.
- The high percent of satisfaction may be due to religious orientation.
Follow up Study

- Same study
- Use culturally sensitive questions
- Wider audience
- Mixed method approach
