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Editorial Note

In this issue, we continue to engage in how social and economic dynamics influence the family. The irrefutable point that the family is the basic unit of every society is made with the fervent belief that it nurtures its members and releases them to society. The failure or success of a society is intricately connected to how the family grooms its members. The inevitable conclusion is that the stronger the family in contemporary society, the better for all. In this light, Ayantayo blazed the trail by arguing that the traditional roles played by members of the family in the past have been affected by the ever-changing socio-economic factors in contemporary society. This dynamic and forward-looking social reality immediately suggests that members of the family must assume new roles that align with the demand and expectations of society. However, he argued that we must holistically develop a family based on blending treasured traditional values with contemporary dynamic values.

Alawode and Aderele examine the causes, effects, and solutions to substance abuse by members of the family. According to them, the rate at which the youth use or abuse substances has become so alarming that it requires deft musicological intervention. They argued that musicologists must take it as a point of duty to engage and minister to youth involved in substance use to restore them to fellowship with their families and Christ. Asaolu argued that although conflict is natural, marital conflict is complex and has serious implications for the family and society. Since conflict is human-made, Asaolu identified natural and potential causes of conflict in marriage and suggested that there are irreducible ethical prescriptions whose adoption and application can help to minimize conflict in the family. Salifu and Hammans's empirical exploration of drug abuse among the youth in the Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria, clearly shows that it has assumed a dangerous trend that requires urgent intervention by government institutions and the family. They suggest that ethical principles are required to address this trend through socialisation as well as the spiritual exercise of

faith. Adeola's article centers on how flexibility is a virtue that couples should cultivate to navigate traditional impositions that might negatively affect the family. He adopts a theological standpoint that argues that consistent and mutual fellowship together in the family helps prevent external infiltration into the family.

Odeleye and Adeyanju examine the necessity of resolving conflict among young couples. As part of the mandate of pastoral care ministry, pastors should ensure that their ministry intentionally cares about the health of young people's marriages. As a result of the potential consequences of failure in early marriages, the moral burden to guide and guard against unnecessary conflict in young homes must be borne by pastors by deploying their spiritual and moral training and authority. Oyedele specifically examines the roles of pastoral care in infidelity in Christian homes. He argues that one of the causes of conflict in the family is sexual infidelity by a spouse. This, he argues, can lead to the breakdown of marriage if pastoral care is not given in such a way as to ensure forgiveness. Still, on pastoral care, Adeyanju unfurls the complexities that COVID-19 imposed on communal coexistence. Social distancing affected the communal setting in that members of the community had to deliberately keep some reasonable distance to be safe. At such a moment, Adeyanju thinks that pastoral care ministry is critical in mitigating the consequences of social distancing and keeping healthy by all.

Kelechi and Oderinus's interest is in unhealthy rivalry among siblings in the family. The adverse effects rivalry has on the family call for critical attention to be paid to it. They suggest that parents must conduct themselves do not suggest that they love one child more than the other. Ogundipe returns to the role of the pastoral care unit in fostering unity and resolving marital conflict. To correctly resolve conflict, each issue that causes conflict must be examined on its own rather than deploy one solution fits all approach. This is where the dexterity of pastoral care comes in. Oluwaronke believes that Christian parenting is a critical means of mitigating social vices that

have continued to plague contemporary society. Oluwaronke itemizes and also proffers solutions to the causes of social vices that require good parenting and counseling to resolve. Victor re-examines the concept of one flesh marital bond as a quintessential measure couples need to take to resolve their conflict. The one flesh approach argues that conflict inflicts self-pain on the couples, and they should see each other as one. And finally, Ayinde explores the impacts of social media on Christian youth couples. She argues that time is essential in developing relationships in marriage. Consequently, when more time is spent on social media to neglect the spouse, conflict is bound to arise. Christian principles are thus recommended to ensure a balanced use of social media for the family's health.

I, therefore, welcome you to explore in detail the arguments and issues raised in this issue.

Prof. Benson Ohihon Igboin
Editor in Chief

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARITAL CONFLICTS OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN COUPLES

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Abstract

The study looked into how social media affected the marital disputes of young Christian couples in Ekiti State. It was decided to use a descriptive research design of the survey type. The entire married population of Ekiti state makes up the study's population. Techniques for simple random sampling were employed for the analysis. 150 couples, each with 150 men and 150 women, made up the study's sample. For the study, pertinent information was gathered using the instrument tag Social Media Contributions to Marital Conflicts of Young Couples (ISMCMCYC). The test-retest procedure produced a reliability coefficient of 0.75. To test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance, the data were analyzed using inferential statistics that included Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The study's findings showed that young Christian couples frequently experience difficulty at home due to what they encounter on social media. On the other hand, social media significantly increased the marital dispute between young Christian couples in Ekiti State and contributed to their marital problems. The study's conclusions led to the recommendation that couples should spend more time together than they do on social media. Couples should avoid anything that might lead to arguments. Additionally, they should set a time limit for themselves and refrain from using social media to spend time with anyone or anything other than their spouse. The couple needs to use social media carefully.

KEY WORDS: Social Media, Young Couples, Marital, Conflict, Boundaries

Introduction

When a man and woman unite to become one, it is always a happy event because they create a platform for God to bless and multiply them formally and legally. Marriage is an institution that God established to end a man's loneliness in life. According to the Bible, marriage is a remedy God gave man to address his loneliness on the journey through life. God was the one who noticed that man was alone and He noted that it was not suitable for a man to be alone in Genesis 1:28, the first chapter of the Bible. Therefore, marriage was the answer God provided to man's loneliness. God made someone who would look like him, bringing the emergence of women into the world. Therefore, marriage came into existence to meet man's need for loneliness.

Technology can be both a blessing and a curse. The internet and mobile phones are inanimate objects that, when used properly, can strengthen a marriage, but when misused, they can doom it. According to studies, people mostly use social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype, and others to connect with loved ones, make friends, stay up with their life, and update others on their status (Sokoya, 2018). Nevertheless, technology is meant to strengthen marriage. Still, if it leads to pornography and reconnecting with ex-lovers on social media, it can ruin any wedding, no matter how solid.

God's plan for marriage is to meet all his creatures' needs. Man did not come up with the concept of marriage, nor did he start it. God himself saw man's desire for a companion and provided for it (Dag Heward Mill, 2011). Unfortunately, human attitudes and bad behaviour have redesigned what God created to bring people comfort, joy, and serenity. In certain circles, marriage nowadays is seen as "pandemonium and a scorching fire" and a "thorn in the flesh" (Ogundipe, 2015).

On the other hand, social media's advent has turned the globe upside down and transformed it into "a global village." However, this influence has positive and negative repercussions on society, including the institution of marriage. Many young marriages have collapsed as a result of social media abuse. Some young couples merely share a home, but they don't interact with one another too often. Some marriages have ended as a result, while others have already separated. Today's overuse of social media is a monster that has resulted in particular marital strife and crises.

This study looked inside the homes of a few young couples in Ekiti State to explore the tensions brought on by young Christian couples' excessive usage of social media. Marriages typically develop tight bonds between partners. The closer a pair gets to the wedding, the stronger this cord becomes. As a result, a spouse serves as a stable foundation from which a partner can explore the outside world and a safe sanctuary where a pair can find love, acceptance, and comfort. Of course, it is comforting to be close to your partner. However, there is necessary to look for admirable ways of reuniting when physical or emotional separation occurs.

Couples who do not feel connected, safe, or secure in their relationship are more likely to become angry, critical, defensive, and have withdrawal symptoms. Even though marriage is a process that involves two different genders, constantly evolving individuals, it is still possible to find a helpful common ground that allows couples to cooperate to reach a satisfying level of adjustment, which is the fundamental building block for a fruitful and dynamic marriage.

The researcher found that excessive social media use can negatively impact marriage. However, going too far can have negative consequences. Belle (2019) revealed that using Facebook excessively led to online disagreement that might have resulted in infidelity, divorce, or separation from one's partner. According to

Gull, Iqbal, Al Qahtan, Alassaf, and Kamaleldin (2019), one of the main reasons social media can hurt a relationship is the amount of time spent using it. Gull et al. (2019) discovered that when people use social media more frequently, it affects their relationships negatively in several ways.

Statement of the Problem

Many families are in unstable situations, and many young relationships are ending. Social media has been identified as the primary cause of issues in many homes since many couples find it challenging to spend quality time together. Many couples have been seen to spend more time on social media than in actual physical touch with one another. Observations have shown that some young married women opt to be single mothers due to what they have learned through social media. Single motherhood is found to have been so prevalent in society nowadays. In some circles, marriage has become a source of "pandemonium and scorching fire" and a pain in the flesh.

Research Questions

1. What contribution does social media has to marital conflicts of young Christian couples
2. Will the excessiveness of social media cause marriage conflicts of young couples

Research Hypotheses

- 1) Social media will not significantly contribute to the conflicts of young Christian couples
- 2) An excessiveness of social media will not significantly influence marriage of young couples in Ekiti State.

Concept of Marriage

Omojola (1993) asserts that marriage is the union of a man and a woman who is dedicated to a lifelong marital relationship to expand on the idea of marriage. Commitment is the primary feature of this partnership. It is the complete and unconditional dedication of one's entire self-body, money, emotion, property, intellect, ability, etc. to a lifetime connection from a biblical perspective. Ayo-Obiremi Mike states that, in his opinion, marriage is God's plan for companionship, procreation, protection against sexual immorality, and the maintenance of human social order.

A good marriage is one where "two persons have dedicated themselves to accept individual responsibility to work together for the fulfilment of each other," according to David (1986). Two people must be deeply committed to and interested in each other for a marriage to work. In Genesis 2:18, the Lord said it was not good for the man to be left alone and that he would make a suitable helper.

God understood from this verse that it is not a good idea for a man to be alone. Additionally, if a man is alone, his better qualities won't come out. The man was created to be social and have relationships with his wife and God. Marriage was God's design to help man fulfil his purpose on earth. Thus it will always be a blessing. However, even if God's desire for marriage is excellent, many things need to come together for it to happen. The marriage suffers if any of these elements are absent:

1. Time together
2. Spiritual emphasis
3. Negotiating ability
4. Maturity
5. Play and humor
6. Intimacy
7. Commitment

GENERAL ROLES OF A MAN TO THE SAFETY OF HIS MARRIAGE

1. Give leadership

Man as the head figure in the institution of marriage has been positioned to provide leadership role. He gives instructions and directives to the family in the right ways to go and right things to do. Marriage is likened to Jesus in Ephesians 5:28.

2. Express love

Man has responsibility to love his wife just as Christ loves the church and gave Himself to him. This type of love is “Agape”, unconditional love. The love that gives and keeps giving without expecting back. It is a love that is ready to die for his wife or family. According to (Greek Word Study) Agape is unconditional and sacrificial love. Agape love is the love of choice, the love of helping with humbleness, the highest kind of love, and the love of will (intentional) a choice, not motivated by superficial appearance, emotional attraction or sentimental relationship. Agape is volitional, not phileo that is emotional (1 John 4:8, 16). Husbands are enjoined to display this kind of (Agape) love towards their wife.

3. Make provision

A man is meant to provide for his household. God has given man this responsibility to provide financially for his family. Just as Christ the head of the church, a man must provide for his house. This is corroborated by the word of God in 1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 5:25. It is the responsibility of the husband to provide spiritually, physically and emotionally for his family. In short, a man must be strong for his family

GENERAL ROLES OF A WOMAN IN THE SAFETY OF HIS MARRIAGE

1. Support

The Bible places a special emphasis in a wife being a helper to her husband (Gen. 2:18). The Hebrew meaning of the word, "helper" in this verse refers only to God as He helps us. God has invested upon wives every help needed by her husband to be good and become what God wants him to become.

2. Respect (Eph. 5:33).

To respect means to reference, notice, regard, honour, prefer, esteem. That is, wife must respect and value his husband's opinion, appreciates him and consider the needs of her husband. A wife must be behind her husband, believe in him and cheer him.

3. Love

According to Francis Ewherido (2020) the wife must be a lover of the husband. This is the foundation of marriage. After a couple has been joined as husband and wife, the marriage is still not complete until it is consummated". Consummation of marriage means "Full sexual intercourse between married persons after their marriage by ejaculation. Her body does not belong to her alone but her to her husband".

Concept of Conflicts

Conflict happens when multiple things attempt to occupy the same space simultaneously. The word conflict is derived from the Latin word "fligere," which means to strike together (Wilmon 1994, P. 187). The "space" refers to the interrelatedness of the "objects," where their intentions or aims interact. The "objects" could be individuals, groups, or organizations (Lewis, 1981, p. 5).

The conflict was once described as a process, a way to achieve a goal, by certain authors. It relates the upheaval (chaos) of the established and old to the peace (resolution) of the new and unreconciled (Mickey & Wilson, 1973). Marriage will inevitably experience conflict, but the couple should know how to handle it well to prevent it from negatively affecting their union. Young couples are expected to try to work things out before they worsen and become out of control.

Social Media

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, social media are websites and computer programs that enable users to share information and connect online via a computer or mobile device. Social media is an online medium for communication that allows users to engage in discourse, disseminate knowledge, and produce content. Examples of social media platforms are blogs, microblogs, wikis, social networking sites, photo and video sharing platforms, instant messaging, podcasts, widgets, virtual worlds, and more. These days, social media has many advantages for young couples, including the ability to communicate with people in other countries and with friends worldwide, view movies and news, do business, and more. However, the benefits and drawbacks of social networking are numerous. Let's consider both:

Social Media's Benefits for Young Couples

1. It facilitates young couples' socialization.
2. Being in touch with someone whose contact information they've lost is helpful.
3. Catching up with old pals is helpful.
4. It facilitates a variety of transactions for them.
5. It enables them to stay current on various essential information.
6. It enables them to do less labour.
7. It adds interest to life.
8. It encourages them to share knowledge with someone nearby or close.
9. Empowerment.

Social Media's Negative Effects on Young Couples

1. It creates division within the family.
2. It interferes with couples' quality time spent together and talking.
3. It forces a pair to live in different realities.
4. It makes them aware of information that might endanger their homes.
5. It allows them to get in touch with their ex.
6. It results in addition.
7. It exposes kids to immoral websites.
8. It heightens scepticism, spying, and jealousy.
9. It allows internet affairs and infidelity.
10. Online teasing and harassment.

Methodology

Descriptive research design of the survey type formed the basis on which the research was anchored. The population of the study comprises all married Couples in Ekiti state. Simple random sampling techniques was used for the study. Simple random sampling techniques was used for the study. The sample of the study consisted of 150 couples comprises of 150 males and 150 females. The Instrument tag Social Media and Young Couples (SCMYC)) was used to collect relevant data for the study. A reliability coefficient of 0.75 was obtained using test re–test method. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics involving Pearson Product moment correlation to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance

Results

Research Question 1: What contribution does social media has on marital conflicts of young Christian couples

Table 1: Contribution of social media on marital conflicts of young marriage couples in Ekiti State

	Descriptions	Mean	SD	Rank
1	Do you notice any changes in the behaviour of your spouse since you have been using social media?	1.48	0.501	6th
2	Do you feel any changes in your relationship as a result of social media	1.49	0.501	7th
3	Does your spouse know your usernames and passwords on social media?	1.64	0.481	1 st
4	Do you have enough time for your children after work?	1.52	0.501	5th
5	Do you have enough time for your spouse after work?	1.55	0.499	4th
6	Do you discuss together with your spouse?	1.43	0.596	
7	Do you change your status when you have a quarrel with your spouse?	1.59	0.493	2 nd
8	Do you hide things from your spouse on social media?	1.57	0.496	3 rd

Table 1 above showed that one of the variables that might cause major conflict among young couples is the hiding of usernames and passwords of social media accounts by either spouse, with a mean of 1.64. With a mean of 1.59, the second rank indicates that spouses alter their status whenever there is a conflict between them. The factor was the lack of openness between spouses, which came in third with a mean of 1.57. The table also displays additional variables with their mean scores ranked by strength.

Research Question 2: Will the excessiveness of social media cause marriage conflicts of young couples in Ekiti Stater?

Table 2: Influence of Excessiveness of social media on marriage of young couples in Ekiti State

	Descriptions	N	Mean	SD	Rank
1	An excessive usage of social media can create misunderstanding among couples	200	1.48	0.501	4th
2	Excessive use of social media can lead to unfaithfulness	200	1.50	0.501	3rd
3	Excessive use of social media can lead to jealous	200	1.60	0.492	2nd
4	Misuse of social media can lead to unhappy relationship	200	1.46	0.500	5th
5	I spent much of my time on social media everyday	200	1.73	0.448	1 st
6	Social media can lead to separation and divorce in a family	200	1.46	0.500	5 th
7	Misuse of social media can lead to shambles of young marriages	200	1.45	0.499	6th

Table 2 above showed that with a mean of 1.73, spouses spent most of their daily time on social media instead of much time with the family. With a mean of 1.60, excessive social media usage that can cause jealousy came in second, and with a mean of 1.50, excessive social media use that can cause infidelity came in third. The table also displays other variables with their mean scores ranked by their strengths.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1: Social media will not significantly contribute to the conflicts of young Christian couples

Social Media Influence on Marriage of young couples	
Chi-square	228.050
Df	6
Asymp. Sig	.000*

*P<0.05

From the above table, the hypothesis which stated that social media will not significantly influence marriage of young couples was rejected (P<0.00). the p-value is 0.000 at 0.5 level of significant.

Since P-value is less than level of significant, the hypothesis is significant.

Hypothesis 2: An excessiveness of social media will not significantly influence marriage of young couples in Ekiti State.

Excessiveness of social media Influence on marriage of young couples	
Chi-square	308.480
Df	7
Asymp. Sig	.000

*P<0.05

Table 2 indicated that p-value (0.000) is less significant level at 0.05 level of significant. However, the hypothesis is significant since the p-value is less than level of significant at 0.05. therefore, since 0.000 p-value is less than 0.05 level of significant, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. Hence, social media will significantly influence marriage of young couple in Ekiti State.

Discussion

The study found that social media significantly influenced young married couples' disagreements in Ekiti State. The survey demonstrates that due to their involvement in social media, many young couples do not have enough time at home with their wives. Many young couples access Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, and WhatsApp as their go-to social media platforms. The findings support Hina and Sardar's (2019) conclusion that social media significantly negatively impacts couples' lives.

According to the study, social media significantly impacts young couples' marriages and might lead to conflict between spouses. The results also showed that overuse of social media significantly affects young couples getting married in Ekiti State. This supports Belle's

(2019) conclusion that excessive social media use might hurt marriage and can potentially trigger unfavourable outcomes. The study by Sokoya (2018) supported the finding of the survey, technology is a plus and an enemy; internet and mobile phones are inanimate things, if they are rightly used, they can add to the marriage, but if you used them wrongly they can destroy the marriage.

Conclusion

Based on the study's findings, social media contribute to the marriage conflict among young couples in Ekiti State. At the same time, the study concluded that social media's excess influence on young couples' marriage in Ekiti State.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Regular concentration of couples on mobile phones and social media should be discouraged base on the agreement between the duo.
2. Couples should be careful about the sites to be visited and spend most of their time together by limiting their time with social media.
3. Spouses should be open to each other and avoid posting the video that can create suspicion or confusion. However, there should be a time to communicate with each other over every issue they are having difficulty with.
4. Couples should avoid anything that might lead to arguments.
5. They should set a time limit for themselves and refrain from using social media to spend time with anyone or anything other than their spouse.
6. The couple needs to use social media carefully.

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